



**Australian Government**

**Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts**

**MEDIA RELEASE**

25 March 2009

**APPOINTMENT TO THE VISIONS OF AUSTRALIA COMMITTEE**

Minister for the Arts Peter Garrett has appointed Mr Stephen Bowers to the Visions of Australia Committee.

Visions of Australia supports not-for-profit organisations and public collecting institutions to develop and tour exhibitions of Australian cultural material across Australia.

The Visions of Australia Committee assesses applications and makes recommendations to the Minister.

Mr Bowers is an experienced arts administrator, educator and practising ceramic artist. He has extensive management experience in the visual arts and crafts environment. He was formerly a senior development officer at Arts SA, where he managed state government project assistance funding programs and initiatives.

He is managing director of JamFactory Contemporary Craft and Design in Adelaide. JamFactory fosters and develops contemporary Australian craft and design, and has helped launch the careers and work of many of Australia's leading craft practitioners.

Mr Bowers is an acclaimed ceramic artist, and his work is held in many public and private collections including the Powerhouse Museum, Sydney, the National Gallery of Australia, and the Los Angeles County Museum of Modern Art in the United States.

A former chair of the visual arts, craft and design advisory committee to the Government of South Australia, Mr Bowers is treasurer of the South Australian Living Artists Festival and a member of Craftsouth: Centre of Contemporary Craft and Design Inc.

He has extensive experience in exhibition development and management through Australian Contemporary, a series of international exhibitions of Australian craft and design developed through the Australia Council and JamFactory International Craft Initiative.

Visions of Australia makes a significant contribution to the cultural lives of Australians by providing them with high-quality cultural exhibitions, particularly in regional and remote areas. [www.arts.gov.au/visions](http://www.arts.gov.au/visions)