Some key events in Australia's early Art History

- 1820

1812 Absalom West, emancipated convict, set up business as **publisher of prints** in Sydney (commencing with a series of engravings of the infant colony).
1814 First art school established in Sydney by John William Lewin
1814 Richard Read senior, first portrait painter, opens art school in Sydney

1820 - 40

1821 Two lithographic presses set up at Parramatta Observatory
1826 Augustus Earle opens **gallery in Sydney**
1831 Thomas Bock (artist and engraver) opens **business in Hobart** while still assigned convict
1833 **Mechanics School of Arts opened in Sydney** to promote culture
1837 First art exhibition - held in Hobart

1840 - 50

1830s Wood engraving begin to be used instead of woodcuts for newspaper illustrations
1836 Possible first lithograph by woman artist, Maria Barney, NSW
1840 First volume of John Gould's **Birds of Australia published** (Elizabeth Gould major contributor to work.)
1844 National School of Art gives its first lecture
1844 Robin Vaughan Hood set up business as carver, gilder (picture framer), lithographer and dealer in fine arts in Hobart
1845 276 works displayed at the **first public exhibition of paintings in Australia** in Hobart's legislative chamber
1848 S.T. Gill organises an **Artists' Exhibition in Adelaide**
1949 Exhibition for the Society for the Promotion of Fine Arts in Australia in Sydney
1850 - 70

1853 First art exhibition in Melbourne
1855 First Art Society formed - The South Australian Society of Arts
1856 Earliest technical art school in Australia established - South Australian School of Arts and Crafts
1856 National Gallery of Victoria established
1861 Art Treasures Exhibition, Hobart
1867 National Gallery School of Art of Victoria established
1869 Artisans' Schools of Design established in Melbourne
1869 Melbourne Exhibition - **Ornamental and Decorative Art**

1870 - 90

1870 Sydney Intercolonial exhibition
1870 Victorian Artists Society formed
1870 The Academy of Art was founded - later to become AGNSW (1880)
1870 First exhibition of colonial art, under the auspices of the Academy, held at the Chamber
of Commerce,

*Apsley Falls* by Conrad Martens is the **first work on paper by an Australian artist to be acquired by the Art Gallery of NSW** - commissioned by the trustees and purchased for £50 out of the first government grant of £500.

*Mt Olympus*, Lake St Clair, Tasmania by WC Piguenit **first oil painting by an Australian artist to be acquired by AGNSW**

**Sydney International exhibition**

**Art Society of NSW** formed by Arthur and George Collingridge and other artists

**Art Gallery of South Australia** founded

**Society of Painters in Pastel** established

**First regional art gallery in Australia opens at Ballarat** in Victoria

**Beginnings of Heidelberg group**

**Travelling scholarship** established in Victoria - awarded to John Longstaff

**Melbourne Centennial Exhibition**

**First Australian magazine** devoted to art, *Australian Art* by George Collingridge

**9 x 5 Impressionist Exhibition** in Melbourne

**1890s**

**1890**

*Julian Ashton School of Arts/Sydney Art School* opens in Sydney 1890

**Art Gallery of Western Australia** opens

**Queensland National Art Gallery** opens

**National Society of Mural Painters** Established

**1898**

Queensland National Art Gallery **first Australian acquisition** - Josephine Muntz-Adams's *Care c.1893*

**1900**

**1908**

*The inaugural Wynne Prize* is awarded to Walter Withers for *The storm*

Constance Jenkyns **first woman to win travelling scholarship** in Australia

**1916 - 42**

Magazine *Art in Australia published* by Sydney Ure Smith

**1922**

*The inaugural Archibald Prize* is awarded to WB McInnes for *Desbrowe Annear.*

**1982**

*National Gallery of Australia* in Canberra opens

**Key Sources include:**


Australian Dictionary of Biography

National Library of Australia

Art Gallery of New South Wales

National Gallery of Victoria

National Gallery of Australia