

Australian Book Review's New Chair

Australian Book Review is delighted to announce that Sarah Holland-Batt is the new Chair of *ABR*. Sarah, who joined the Board in 2017, is the first Queenslanders to hold this position – and our youngest Chair to date. She succeeds Colin Golvan AM QC, who took over from Morag Fraser in 2015. (Colin Golvan remains on the Board, and former County Court Judge Graham Anderson has joined it.)



Peter Rose, Editor of *ABR*, commented:

‘I look forward to working even more closely with my fellow poet Sarah Holland-Batt, who has been a notable contributor to the magazine since 2013. These are challenging times for the arts, but *ABR* has the resolve, the experience, and the resources to advance the sixty-year-old work of this organisation.’

Here is a statement from Sarah Holland-Batt:

‘I am delighted to be stepping into the role of Chair of *ABR*, which plays an irreplaceable role in Australian cultural life. It is an honour and privilege to serve as its Chair. The magazine has long championed and celebrated Australian literature and the arts, offering its readers world-class criticism, commentary, and creative work of unrivalled depth and breadth. At a time when venues for criticism and reviews are contracting, *ABR's* role as an outlet that advocates for Australian literature and culture has never been more important – a fact recognised by the magazine’s thousands of enthusiastic subscribers and supporters.’

Like many other arts organisations, *ABR* is facing challenging and uncertain times – exacerbated by recent defunding by the Australia Council – but, driven by the unwavering dedication of its phenomenally hard-working staff, and buoyed by the generous support of its readers and patrons, *ABR* will survive these challenges stronger than ever. It will be a privilege to work alongside the magazine’s indefatigable editor, Peter Rose, its Board, and staff as we tackle these challenges together, and continue to deliver exceptional coverage to *ABR's* readers, who are turning to the magazine for pleasure, provocation, and intellectual succour more than ever.’

About Sarah Holland-Batt

Sarah Holland-Batt’s most recent book of poems is *The Hazards* (UQP, 2015), which received the 2016 Prime Minister’s Literary Award for Poetry. She is the recipient of a Sidney Myer Creative Fellowship, fellowships at MacDowell and Yaddo colonies in the United States, and an Australia Council Literature Residency at the B.R. Whiting Studio Library in Rome, among other honours. She presently works as an Associate Professor in the Creative Industries Faculty at QUT.

Further information

Sarah Holland-Batt is available for interviews. Please call the Editor: 0439 631 066.