

Subject: ABC and arts coverage
Date: Friday, 9 September 2011

I would like to convey my concern that the ABC does not value programmes about the arts sufficiently. I agree that programmes needn't stay forever and it is fair to change programmes and schedules; however the announcement about the axing of Art Nation was not accompanied by the news of any replacement programme or programming arrangement.

There is so much scope for terrific programmes that reflect and participate in the arts in Australia, and the ABC appears to take a very passive interest in this.

Why not a critical discussion programme? Why not decent coverage of the many writers and arts festivals taking place all round the country? Why not regular features on key arts creative people (not minor albeit colourful people, but individuals who are making serious and influential contributions to the arts in Australia)? Why no histories of painting in Australia? A 4 part series that could be fantastic viewing with a little imagination and effort? And why no documentation of major issues, eg space, place, head and heart?

Best wishes,

Jennifer Bowen