

GRAHAM FRANSELLA

Graham Fransella is a painter, printmaker and sculptor who works intuitively, allowing any perceived meaning to emerge after the work is completed. Strong black strokes trace the outlines of figures, so stripped of detail they become symbolic, reminiscent of pictograms or graffiti. His prints and paintings are richly layered gestural works that explore the relationship between presence and absence. They work on many levels without being contrived; they are spontaneous, with any interpretation left entirely up to the viewer. His charismatic mark-making is the distillation of several decades of draughtsmanship and what at first appear to be simple lines and primitive figures are also sophisticated, multi-layered abstractions. For Graham the creative process informs the conceptual content of his work, "I have always had a liking for images which engage the eye and drawings that are spontaneously arrived at rather than pre-ordained". Above all, these distinctive, powerful and occasionally playful works use the "presence of human form and the absence of personal identity" to portray the human condition.

Graham Fransella has had over fifty solo shows across Australia as well as in Europe. He has been exhibiting with Beaver Galleries since 1993, including seven solo exhibitions and representation at the Melbourne Art Fair. His work has been selected for the Archibald, Wynne, Sulman and Dobell Drawing Prizes at the Art Gallery of NSW and, in 2000, 2006, 2007, 2009 and 2011 he has won the Trustees Watercolour Prize. Graham's work is represented in numerous public collections including the National Gallery of Australia, National Gallery of Victoria, Queensland Art Gallery, Parliament House and Artbank.

BIOGRAPHY

- 1950 Born Harrow, England
- 1967-68 Foundation Year Studies, Isleworth Polytechnic, London, UK
- 1970-73 Printmaking Diploma (Distinction), Bradford School of Art, UK
- 1973 Set up Silkscreen Poster Workshop, Deptford, London, UK
- 1974-75 Lecturer in Silkscreen Printing, Bradford School of Art, UK
- 1975 Arrived in Australia
- 1976 Assisted Bea Maddock as Artist-in Residence at ANU, Canberra
- 1977 Conducted Print Workshop, Canberra
- 1977-81 Full-time Technician in Printmaking Dept, Vic College of the Arts 1980
Conducted Photographic Print Workshop, Rockhampton, Qld
- 1981-85 Part-time Lecturer, Victoria College and Victorian College of the Arts
- 1985-98 Full-time Lecturer in Printmaking, Victorian College of the Arts
- 1988 Judge, Printmaking Department Art Awards, Victoria College
Judge, Travelling Scholarship, Printmaking Department, RMIT
- 1993-94 Master of Fine Art, RMIT University
- 1994 Member, School Board, Victorian College of the Arts
- 1997 Board member, Australian Print Workshop, Melbourne
- 1999 Moved to studio in Melbourne
- 2000 Resigned lecturing position to concentrate full time on studio work
- 2001 Travelled in the Kimberley, WA
- 2002 Travelled to Arnhemland, NT
- 2004 Travelled to London, Paris and Spain
- 2006 Travelled to New York
- 2009 Travelled to Tuscany and London

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2011 Beaver Galleries, Canberra
- 2010 Australian Galleries, Melbourne
Heiser Gallery, Brisbane
- 2009 Stella Downer Fine Art, Sydney
- 2008 Beaver Galleries, Canberra
Australian Galleries, Melbourne
- 2007 Heiser Gallery, Brisbane
Stella Downer Fine Art, Sydney
- 2005 Port Jackson Press, Melbourne

- Greenaway Galleries, Adelaide
Heiser Gallery, Brisbane
Beaver Galleries, Canberra
2004 Grahame Galleries, Brisbane
Axia Modern Art, Melbourne
2003 Beaver Galleries, Canberra
Deakin University, Melbourne
Australian Art Resources, Sydney
2002 Axia Modern Art, Melbourne
2001 Greenaway Galleries, Adelaide
2000 Beaver Galleries, Canberra
Axia Modern Art, Melbourne
1999 Greenaway Galleries, Adelaide
Axia Modern Art, Melbourne
1998 Beaver Galleries, Canberra
Australian Galleries, Melbourne
1997 Greenaway Galleries, Adelaide
1996 Rebecca Hossack Gallery, London, UK
1995 Beaver Galleries, Canberra
Australian Galleries, Sydney
Australian Galleries, Melbourne
1993 Beaver Galleries, Canberra
Greenaway Galleries, Adelaide
Australian Galleries, Melbourne
Grahame Galleries, Brisbane
1992 Macquarie Galleries, Sydney
Australian Print Workshop, Melbourne
Rebecca Hossack Gallery, London, UK
1991 Macquarie Galleries, Sydney
1990 Grahame Galleries, Brisbane
Macquarie Galleries, Sydney
1989 Rebecca Hossack Gallery, London, UK
Macquarie Galleries, Sydney
1988 Anima Gallery, Adelaide
Macquarie Galleries, Sydney
1987 Gerstman Abdullah Fine Arts International, Cologne, Germany
1986 Gerstman Abdullah Fine Arts International, Melbourne
Alba Fine Art, Kew, London, UK
Macquarie Galleries, Sydney
1985 Gerstman Abdullah Fine Arts International, Cologne, Germany
1984 Macquarie Galleries, Sydney
Solander Gallery, Canberra
Gerstman Abdullah Fine Arts International, Melbourne
1983 Macquarie Galleries, Sydney
1982 Stuart Gerstman Galleries
1981 Stuart Gerstman Galleries
1978 Stuart Gerstman Galleries

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2011 Wynne Prize, Art Gallery of NSW, Sydney
2009 Lorne Foreshore Sculpture show, Victoria
"Stories of our making - contemporary prints from Australia", University West of England, Bristol, UK and Tweed River Regional Gallery, NSW
"Australian Prints", Southern Graphics Conference, Chicago, Illinois, USA

- Wynne Prize, Art Gallery of NSW, Sydney
Dobell Drawing Prize, Art Gallery of NSW, Sydney
- 2008 Wynne Prize, Art Gallery NSW, Sydney
Salon des Refuses Archibald - S. H. Ervin Gallery, Sydney
- 2007 Wynne Prize, Art Gallery of NSW, Sydney
- 2006 Archibald Prize, Art Gallery of NSW, Sydney
Melbourne Art Fair (Beaver Galleries)
- 2005 Artist's Artists-Axia Modern Art, Melbourne
Hibrida II - Gallery Bruno, Czech Republic and Bradford, UK
- 2004 Dobell Drawing Prize, Art Gallery of NSW, Sydney
"Surface Tension - 21 Contemporary Australian Printmakers", The New York Society of Etching, New York, USA
"Place Made, Work from the Australian Print Workshop", National Gallery of Australia, Canberra
"By Male Order", Wagga Wagga Regional Gallery, Wagga
Melbourne Art Fair 2004, (Beaver Galleries)
Fleurieu Peninsular Art Prize
Shanghai Arts Fair
- 2003 Dobell Drawing Prize, Art Gallery of NSW, Sydney
Blake Prize, University of Sydney
National Works on Paper, Mornington Peninsula Regional Gallery, VIC
Works on Paper Fair, Sydney
- 2001 "Figure and Landscape - Three artists, Graham Fransella, Idris Murphy & Guy Warren", Axia Modern Art, Melbourne
Wynne Prize, Art Gallery of NSW, Sydney
"Then and now", artists from Bradford Art School travelling show, UK
"Melbourne printmakers", Queensland Art Gallery and Museum of Modern Art at Heide, VIC
- 2000 Dobell Drawing Prize, Art Gallery of NSW, Sydney
Sulman Prize, Art Gallery of NSW, Sydney
Wynne Prize, Art Gallery of NSW, Sydney
"Works on paper", Rebecca Hossack Gallery, London, UK
London Art Fair, UK (Rebecca Hossack Gallery)
"People in a Landscape" Contemporary Australian Prints, Philippines
Contemporary Linocuts 1995-98 (touring exhibition)
Melbourne Art Fair (Beaver Galleries)
- 1999 Archibald Prize, Art Gallery of NSW, Sydney
Slovenian Biennale, Slovenia
Volvo Gallery, Sydney
- 1998 Sixth Australian Contemporary Art Fair, Melbourne (Beaver Galleries)
Archibald Prize, Art Gallery of NSW, Sydney
Amsterdam Art Fair, Holland
"Australian prints from the collection", Art Gallery of NSW, Sydney
"Works on paper from the collection", National Gallery of Australia, Canberra
- 1997 London International Art Fair, UK
Mornington Print Prize, Mornington Peninsula Arts Centre, VIC
Geelong Print Prize exhibition, VIC
Contemporary Art Fair, ANU Drill Hall Gallery, Canberra (Beaver Galleries)
Dobell Drawing Prize, Art Gallery of NSW, Sydney
International Works on Paper Fair, Sydney
- 1996 Fifth Australian Contemporary Art Fair, Melbourne (Beaver Galleries)
MS Macarthur Print Award, Sydney
- 1995 Mary McKillop Portrait Prize, Power House, Sydney
- 1994 Fremantle Print Award, Fremantle Arts Centre, WA
Dobell Drawing Prize, Art Gallery of NSW, Sydney
Osaka Triennale, Japan
Wynne Prize, Art Gallery of NSW, Sydney
- 1993 Fremantle Print Award, Fremantle Arts Centre, WA

- Maastricht Print Biennale, Holland
"Artist as Printmaker", Editions Gallery, Melbourne
Margaret Stewart Endowment Acquisition Exhibition, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne
Dobell Drawing Prize, Art Gallery of NSW, Sydney
Amsterdam Art Fair, Holland
- 1992 "Watercolour" Macquarie Gallery, Sydney
"Official Opening" Australian Print Workshop
Fremantle Print Award, Fremantle Arts Centre, WA
Amsterdam Art Fair, Holland
Mitchelton Print Exhibition, Melbourne
- 1991 "Opening", Macquarie Galleries, Sydney
Sulman Prize, Art Gallery of NSW, Sydney
"Prints from the Collection", Wollongong City Art Gallery, NSW
Aberdere Collieries Exhibition, Ipswich Regional Gallery, Qld
Fremantle Print Award, Fremantle Arts Centre, WA
Nuremberg International Art Fair, Germany
- 1989 Bath Contemporary Art Fair, Bath, UK
Chicago International Art Fair, USA
"Australian Prints", National Gallery of Australia, Canberra
"Recent Australian Print Acquisitions", National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne
"Painters' Visions", Macquarie Galleries, Sydney
- 1988 "Works from Australia", Houston International Fair, USA
"Woodcuts", Macquarie Galleries, Sydney
Los Angeles International Art Fair, USA
Nuremberg International Art Fair, Germany
- 1987 Invitation Purchase Exhibition, University of NSW, Sydney
"The Figure", Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane
"Prints and Printmakers", Ivan Dougherty Gallery, Sydney
Los Angeles International Art Fair, USA
"Painters' Visions", Macquarie Galleries, Sydney
- 1986 Melbourne Printmakers Travelling Show, NSW and VIC
- 1985 "The Beach", Macquarie Galleries, Sydney
"Retrospective '85", Gerstman Abdullah Fine Arts International, Melbourne
"The Nude", Gerstman Abdullah Fine Arts International, Melbourne
- 1984 "Gallery Artists", Gerstman Abdullah Fine Arts International, Melbourne
- 1983 "Review/Preview", Macquarie Galleries, Sydney
Henry Worland Print Prize, Warrnambool Art Gallery, VIC
- 1981 Henry Worland Print Prize, Warrnambool Art Gallery, VIC
- 1980 Henry Worland Print Prize, Warrnambool Art Gallery, VIC
- 1978 5th British Print Biennale, Bradford, UK
- 1972 2nd British Print Biennale, Bradford, UK

AWARDS/COMMISSIONS

- 2011 Trustees Watercolour Prize, Art Gallery of NSW, Sydney
- 2009 Trustees Watercolour Prize, Art Gallery of NSW, Sydney
- 2007 Trustees Watercolour Prize, Art Gallery of NSW, Sydney
- 2006 Trustees Watercolour Prize, Art Gallery of NSW, Sydney
- 2000 Trustees Watercolour Prize, Art Gallery of NSW, Sydney
- 1992 Australia Council Grant
Mitchelton Print Prize
Commissioned by Arthur Andersen and Co. to produce a suite of large scale etchings
- 1985 Maitland Print Prize
- 1972 Bradford School of Art Travelling Scholarship

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- 2008 "Strength and humour in prints", Sasha Grishin, *Canberra Times*, 13 May
2007 "Printmaker: Graham Fransella", Sasha Grishin, *Australian Art Collector*, #42 October-December
2005 "Striking and liquid lines", Sasha Grishin, *Canberra Times*, May
2003 "The simple things", Ron Cerabona, *The Canberra Times*, May 15
"Crowded, but with stunning images", Sasha Grishin, *The Canberra Times*, 26 May
2002 *Graham Fransella - Figures and Landscapes*, Macmillan Art Publishing, Australia
2000 "Life's transience", Sonia Barron, *Canberra Times*, 24 October
1998 "Exploring the human form", Sonia Barron, *Canberra Times*, 10 November
1995 "Strength in large assertive images", Sonia Barron, *The Canberra Times*, 3 March
"Eyes on the prizes", Elwyn Lynn, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 5 April
1993 "Sparse and uncluttered images", Sonia Barron, *The Canberra Times*, 22 May
1991 "Female mysteries add to the picture", Elwyn Lynn, *Australian*, 19 Oct
"Out of diversity, harmony", *Sydney Morning Herald*, 18 Oct
1990 "Much more than hamburger art", Christopher Allen, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 16 June
1988 *New Art Two*, Nevill Drury (ed), Craftsman House, Sydney
1987 "Graham Fransella from Australia", *Kolner Stadt-Anzeiger*, 4 May
1986 "Confidence versus caution", John McDonald, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 24 Jan
"Photos bridge great division", Elwyn Lynn, *The Australian*, 24 Jan

COLLECTIONS

National Gallery of Australia, Canberra; Queensland Art Gallery; National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne; Parliament House Art, Canberra; Artbank, Sydney; Queensland University of Technology; University of Southern Queensland; Deakin University, Melbourne; Footscray College of TAFE, Melbourne; Box Hill College of TAFE, Melbourne; Warrnambool City Art Gallery, Victoria; Geelong Art Gallery, Victoria; Print Council of Australia; Ballarat City Art Gallery, Victoria; Waverley City Council, Sydney; Australian Print Workshop, Melbourne; Wollongong City Gallery, NSW; Arthur Andersen & Co, Melbourne; Glaxo Australia; OTC Australia; Bristol-Myers Squibb Australia; Corrs Chambers Westgarth, Melbourne; Crown Casino, Melbourne; Maunsells Australia P/L; McKinsey & Co; Ove Arup & Partners; Southcorp Holdings; Saatchi & Saatchi, London, UK.