

## GRAEME TOWNSEND

*Wildlife has been an inspiration to Graeme Townsend for over two decades, and his paintings reflect his love of the natural world and the visual treasures he finds there. His recent work continues to explore the issues arising in the meeting of man and nature - man's impact on the environment and how nature has responded to that impact. Graeme draws on fantasy and surrealism in his paintings and takes inspiration from the works of Belgian surrealist, Rene Magritte, and German romantic and allegorical landscape painter, Caspar David Friedrich. A multitude of animals inhabit his landscapes of possibilities - each painting part of a bigger story - like illustrations accompanying a rare book of fables. The fine detail is mesmerising; a pigeon's wing feather, a water droplet on a leaf, a distant cloud. We are immediately drawn in by the pristine surfaces of the paintings, then compelled to weave the fragments of information into stories for ourselves.*

*Graeme Townsend was born in Sydney, and studied at both the Julian Ashton School and Alexander Mackie College. Since 1979, Graeme has undertaken painting and photographic expeditions to Borneo, Africa, Asia, America and outback Australia. In 1991, he was a lecturer in acrylic painting at the Julian Ashton school, and has had many solo exhibitions in Sydney, Melbourne and Perth as well as the USA, Japan and Hong Kong. His work has been hung in the Sulman and Wynne prize exhibitions at the Art Gallery of NSW.*

### BIOGRAPHY

- 1954 Born Sydney
- 1973-74 Julian Ashton School, Sydney
- 1977-79 Alexander Mackie College, Sydney
- 1979 Painting and photographic expedition, Africa  
Lecturer in Acrylic Painting, Drawing & Photography, Milperra C.A.E.
- 1982 Photographic expedition, Indonesia and Malaysia
- 1983 Photographic expedition to Kakadu National Park, NT
- 1984 Photographic expedition to Borneo
- 1987 Survey Tour USA, England, France, Italy and India
- 1989 Photographic Survey of Kakadu National Park, NT; Kimberley Coast and Ord River, WA  
Photographic Survey Broken Hill districts, NSW  
Photographic and Painting Survey of Western NSW
- 1991 Lecturer, Acrylic Painting, Julian Ashton School, Sydney

### SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2009 Beaver Galleries, Canberra
- 2007 Christopher Day Gallery, Sydney
- 2005 "The magic rabbit & other recent works", Christopher Day Gallery, Sydney
- 2004 "Painted Word", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
- 2003 Christopher Day Gallery, Sydney
- 2002 Port Jackson Fine Art, Laguna, USA
- 2001 Port Jackson Fine Art, Laguna, USA
- 2000 "Shoreline @ Tribe", Barry Stern Galleries, Sydney
- 1998 "Twenty five small paintings", Barry Stern Galleries, Sydney
- 1997 "Vatulele", Barry Stern Galleries, Sydney
- 1995 Works on paper, Eddie Glastra Galleries, Sydney  
Greythorn Galleries, Melbourne
- 1994 Sogo Chiba, Japan
- 1992 Barry Stern Galleries, Sydney
- 1990 Perth Galleries, Perth
- 1988 Works On Paper, Barry Stern Galleries, Sydney  
Barry Stern Galleries, Sydney
- 1985 Barry Stern Galleries, Sydney
- 1982 Barry Stern Galleries, Sydney
- 1981 Asian Art Gallery, Hong Kong
- 1980 Barry Stern Galleries, Sydney

- 1979 Barry Stern Galleries, Sydney
- 1976 Terry Divola Galleries, Sydney
- 1975 Terry Divola Galleries, Sydney
- 1974 Terry Divola Galleries, Sydney
- 1973 Terry Divola Galleries, Sydney

#### SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2009 Greythorn Galleries, Melbourne
- 2008 Christopher Day Gallery, Sydney  
Greythorn Galleries, Melbourne
- 2006 Melbourne Art Fair (Beaver Galleries)
- 2004 Melbourne Art Fair 2004 (Beaver Galleries)
- 2003 William Merrill Gallery, California, U.S.A.
- 2002 Melbourne Art Fair (Beaver Galleries)
- 1996 "Works on Paper", Barry Stern Galleries, Sydney
- 1995 "Palm Beach", Barry Stern Galleries, Sydney
- 1994 Tokyo Art Fair, Japan  
Greythorn Galleries, Melbourne  
Fourth Australian Contemporary Art Fair, Melbourne  
Shareart Galleries, Tokyo, Japan
- 1993 Greythorn Galleries, Melbourne  
"Julian Ashton Alumni", Julian Ashton School, Sydney  
Beaver Galleries, Canberra  
W.I.R.E.S, Museum of Natural History, Sydney  
"The Famous Five", Jill Richards Gallery, Sydney
- 1992 Alliance Francaise, Sydney  
W.I.R.E.S, Museum of Natural History, Sydney  
Survey exhibition, Contemporary Drawing, Julian Ashton School, Sydney  
The Rocks Centre, Sydney
- 1989 Barry Stern Galleries, Sydney  
Schubert Galleries, Brisbane  
Perth Galleries, Perth  
Dempster Galleries, Melbourne
- 1987 "New Horizons", Cultural Centre, Los Angeles USA  
Munson Galleries, Santa Fe, New Mexico, USA  
"Survey of Australian Contemporary Art", Hong Kong Cultural Centre, Hong Kong  
Munson Gallery, Cape Cod, Massachusetts, USA
- 1985 Crispo Galleries, New York, USA  
Sulman Prize, Art Gallery of NSW
- 1983 Barry Stern Galleries, Sydney
- 1982 Wynne Prize, Art Gallery of NSW
- 1981 Sulman Prize, Art Gallery of NSW  
Wynne Prize, Art Gallery of NSW
- 1979 Contemporary survey of Australian Artists, Adelaide Festival of Arts
- 1978 Selected Student Work, Alexander Mackie College, Sydney  
Hogarth Galleries, Sydney  
The Sydney Gallery, Sydney
- 1972 Willoughby Galleries, Sydney.

#### AWARDS / COMMISSIONS

- 1986 40 Works on paper commissioned by Ansett Airlines of Australia for Hayman Island Resort  
Major work and print series based on the America's Cup Challenge, Perth commissioned by IMG (USA)
- 1981 Nine murals commissioned by M.E.P.C for the foyer of the Sydney Stock Exchange



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#### PUBLICATIONS

- 2009 "Disturbing surrealism", Sasha Grishin, *Canberra Times*, 12 November  
2004 "Graeme Townsend - Local Artist", Colleen Duncan, *South Coast and Country*, Summer edition  
"Work leaves beholders perplexed and amused", Sasha Grishin, *The Canberra Times*, May 14  
1997 "Wildlife inspires artist to defy blindness", Tony Stephens, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 18 October  
1987 *New Art One*, Nevill Drury, Craftsman House  
1982 front cover of *The Bulletin*

#### COLLECTIONS

Benalla Regional Gallery Vic; Milperra C.A.E, NSW; M.E.P.C., Sydney; QANTAS, Sydney; TCN Nine, Sydney; Mobil, Sydney; Taffs; Peko Wallsend; Barkus Pearson; Wesfarmers, WA; Kerry Stokes, WA; Kennedy Miller Productions; Covers Collection; Agha Kahn, Paris, France; Bunker Hunt, USA; Matrix, Canada; Rose Corp; Mirvac, Sydney; Hayman Island Resort, Qld; Ansett Airlines Aust; James Hardie; Bell Group, WA; Morgan & Banks; Hanna Match; Bensons; Key West; J. Brenda Collection; Crown Casino, Melbourne; Lord McAlpine, United Kingdom