

THORNTON WALKER

Despite the diversity of Thornton Walker's subject matter and technique, his interest in the dynamics of composition, perspective and spatial depth remains constant. While maintaining a focus on formal painterly concerns, Thornton incorporates subject matter recalled from dreams and personal memories, conferring an ethereal, meditative quality to the work. Thornton's recent works explore the 'frozen moments' captured by photography and film. Stills from black and white films, photographs taken by his father in Canada in the 1930s, along with his own archive of photographic images have been Thornton's inspiration. Each work portrays a snapshot in time, a single moment in a detailed narrative, full of animation and life but left to the viewer's imagination to complete. His works include pastels on prepared watercolour paper and a new technique of mixing oil paint with different alkyd mediums to create a very thin paint, with virtually no viscosity, allowing Thornton to produce a painterly effect that is fluid and unpredictable. Demonstrating a masterful and sensitive handling of surfaces, Thornton's works enchant us with their combination of unique material and spiritual qualities. He says of his work, "I have always struggled with a work until a certain quality emerges that can often surprise me. It seems like the painting then starts speaking for itself."

Thornton Walker studied printmaking at the Prahran College of Advanced Education and Victorian College of the Arts in Melbourne. After graduating in 1977, Thornton spent the next eight years travelling extensively throughout Europe and the United States and later undertook studio residencies in Spain and Malaysia. In 2007 Thornton was awarded a Printmaking Fellowship with the Australian Print Workshop in Melbourne. With over forty solo exhibitions to his name, Thornton has become one of Australia's most successful and renowned figurative tonal painters. His work is represented in many collections including the National Gallery of Australia, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Art Gallery of Western Australia, Artbank, Parliament House and the British Museum.

BIOGRAPHY

- 1953 Born, New Zealand
- 1965 Arrived in Australia
- 1974-76 Diploma of Art (Printmaking), Prahran College of Advanced Education
- 1977 Commenced Post Graduate Diploma (Printmaking), Victorian College of the Arts, Melbourne
- 1977-85 Lived and worked in Europe and USA

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2011 "The stillness in movement", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
- 2010 Dallas Art Fair, San Francisco, USA, (Dolby Chadwick Gallery)
Bett Gallery, Hobart
- 2009 Beaver Galleries, Canberra
Heiser Gallery, Brisbane
- 2008 Tim Olsen Gallery, Sydney
- 2007 Beaver Galleries, Canberra
Christine Abrahams Gallery, Melbourne
Heiser Gallery, Brisbane
- 2006 "Watercolours", Christine Abrahams Gallery, Melbourne
Tim Olsen Gallery, Sydney
- 2005 Christine Abrahams Gallery, Melbourne
- 2004 Tim Olsen Gallery, Sydney
"La flûte de Pan", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
- 2003 Christine Abrahams Gallery, Melbourne
- 2002 Christine Abrahams Gallery, Melbourne
Christine Abrahams Gallery at Mary Place Gallery, Sydney
- 2001 Milford Art Gallery, Auckland, New Zealand
Christine Abrahams Gallery, Melbourne
- 2000 Christine Abrahams Gallery at Mary Place Gallery, Sydney
- 1999 Beaver Galleries, Canberra
Christine Abrahams Gallery, Melbourne
- 1998 Rex Irwin Art Dealer, Sydney
Christine Abrahams Gallery, Melbourne
- 1997 Rimbun Dahan Residency, Kuang, Malaysia

- 1996 Philip Bacon Gallery, Brisbane
Beaver Galleries, Canberra
- 1995 Philip Bacon Gallery, Brisbane
Christine Abrahams Gallery, Melbourne
Rex Irwin Art Dealer, Sydney
- 1994 Rex Irwin Art Dealer, Sydney
- 1993 Christine Abrahams Gallery, Melbourne
Rex Irwin Art Dealer, Sydney
- 1992 Perth Galleries, Perth
Ben Grady Gallery, Canberra
- 1991 Garry Anderson Gallery, Sydney
- 1990 "Thornton Walker: Recent Paintings", Deutscher Fine Art, Melbourne
Ben Grady Gallery, Canberra
- 1989 "Recent Paintings", Cafe Maximus, Melbourne
Ben Grady Gallery, Canberra
- 1987 "Vital Functions and Mythography", United Artists Gallery, Melbourne
- 1986 United Artists Gallery, Melbourne
- 1984 Leveson Street Gallery, Melbourne
- 1982 Paul Craft Gallery, Melbourne
- 1980 Drummond Art Gallery, Melbourne

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2010 Kedumba Drawing Prize, Kedumba Gallery, Wentworth Falls, NSW
Paul Guest Prize, Bendigo Art Gallery
Melbourne Art Fair (Beaver Galleries, Canberra)
Dallas Art Fair, USA (Dolby Chadwick Gallery, San Francisco)
- 2009 'The Still Life', Gold Coast City Art Gallery, Qld
'Here, Now', Mossgreen Gallery, Melbourne
- 2007 Wynne Prize, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
Redcliffe Art Prize, Redcliffe Art Gallery, Qld
- 2006 Australian Print Workshop, Melbourne
- 2004 Melbourne Art Fair (Christine Abrahams Gallery, Melbourne)
Melbourne Art Fair (Beaver Galleries, Canberra)
- 2003 "Changing Surfaces", Shepparton Art Gallery, Vic
- 2002 Melbourne Art Fair (Christine Abrahams Gallery, Melbourne)
- 2000 Melbourne Art Fair (Christine Abrahams Gallery, Melbourne)
- 1999 "Important works on Paper", Rex Irwin Art Dealer, Sydney
- 1998 Sixth Australian Contemporary Art Fair, Melbourne (Beaver Galleries)
"Important works on Paper", Rex Irwin Art Dealer, Sydney
- 1997 Contemporary Art Fair, Canberra (Beaver Galleries)
"Mulch and Metaphor: the garden in contemporary art", Mornington Peninsula Regional Art Gallery, Vic
- 1996 Fifth Australian Contemporary Art Fair, Melbourne (Beaver Galleries)
"Still Life", Rex Irwin Art Dealer, Sydney
Gallery Two, Launceston, Tas
"Food in Art", Mornington Peninsula Regional Art Gallery, Vic
- 1995 "Blake Prize National Touring Exhibition", Australia
"Works on Paper - A Selection", Christine Abrahams Gallery
"Herald Sun Art Prize Exhibition", Melbourne
- 1994 "Works on Paper", Rex Irwin Art Dealer, Sydney
Melbourne Contemporary Art Fair
"Art Asia", Hong Kong
- 1993 "Works on Paper", Rex Irwin, Sydney
"Art Asia", Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre
- 1992 Melbourne International Contemporary Art Fair, Melbourne

- "Works on Paper", Rex Irwin, Sydney
- 1991 "Recent Australian Painting", Deutscher Gallery, Melbourne
- 1988 "St Kilda One", Linden Gallery, Melbourne
- "100 x 100 Print Exhibition", Arden Street Gallery
- "Fifty Fine Artists", Bi-centennial Exhibition, Melbourne
- "A New Generation 1983 -1988: The Philip Morris Arts Grant Purchases", National Gallery of Australia, Canberra
- 1987 Moët and Chandon Australian Art Foundation Touring Exhibition, Australian State Galleries
- "United Artists at Mori", Mori Gallery, Sydney
- "Art Now - Painting in the Eighties", Ben Grady Gallery, Canberra
- 1986 "A First Look: The Philip Morris Arts Grant Purchases", National Gallery of Australia at the ANU Drill Hall, Canberra
- "Melbourne Painters", Ben Grady Gallery, Canberra
- 1985 St Kilda Acquisitive Exhibition, Linden Gallery, Melbourne
- 1984 St Kilda Acquisitive Exhibition, Linden Gallery, Melbourne
- 1982 St Kilda Acquisitive Exhibition, Linden Gallery, Melbourne
- 1976 Travelling Exhibition: Australian Prints to France, Print Council of Australia
Prahran College of Advanced Education Graduate Exhibition

AWARDS

- 2010 Finalist, Paul Guest Art Prize, Bendigo Art Gallery
Finalist, Kedumba Drawing Prize
- 2007 Printmaking Fellowship, Australian Print Workshop, Melbourne
- 2006 Master class in printmaking, Australian Print Workshop, Melbourne
- 1997 Studio Residency, Rimbun Dahan, Malaysia
- 1994 Ansett Drawing Prize, Australia
Australia Council Studio Residency, Barcelona, Spain

PUBLICATIONS

- 2011 "The framing of dreams", Sasha Grishin, *Canberra Times*, 2 April
- 2010 "Zen in a teacup", Annemarie Lopez, *Australian Art Review*, May - July
'What now', Interview, Sasha Grishin, *Art Collector*, Jan - March
- 2009 "Challenging path flows in rewards", Sasha Grishin, *Canberra Times*, 12 May
- 2007 "Meditations on eternity", Sasha Grishin, *The Canberra Times*, 15 May
"Of Possibility and Paradox", Patrick Hutchings, *The Age*, 15 September
"No Logo, Just a Mystery to Bowl US Over", Jeff Makin, *Herald Sun*, 24 September
"Mood Painting", Sasha Grishin, *The Australian Art Collector*, October - December
- 2006 "Critic's Choice", Jeff Makin, *Herald Sun*, 10 April
- 2005 "Little bowls for the soul", Jeff Makin, *Herald Sun*, 18 July
- 2004 "Creating dream-like space for meditation", Sonia Barron, *Canberra Times*, 15 November
- 2001 "In Sync with Simplicity of Bowls", TJ McNamara, *NZ Herald*, 26 November
- 1999 "Bowl a personal trademark", Sonia Barron, *Canberra Times*, 8 May
- 1998 "A residency in Malaysia inspires new landscapes", Kate Herbert, *Melbourne Times*, April
"In the frame", Jeff Makin, *Herald Sun*, 18 May
"Art holds key to landscape", Peter Timms, *The Age*, 17 June
"The year in review", Peter Timms, *The Age*, 30 December
- 1997 "Haunted by melancholic images", Sam Christudas, *Sunday Star*, Malaysia, 14 December
"When institution meets serendipity", Sue Smith, *Courier Mail*, May
"Zen pal", Phil Brown, *Brisbane News*, May
Catalogue - *Rimbun Dahan Residency*, text by Guy Abrahams
"Strong and Contemplative", Leone Stanford, *Brisbane Review*, May
- 1996 "Mood painting with a sense of enigma", Sasha Grishin, *Canberra Times*, 18 May
"Maker of sonnets in paint", Helen Musa, *Canberra Times*, 26 May
"Residential coup", Zelda Cawthorne, *Herald Sun*, 28 December
- 1995 "A local talent bowls 'em over", Gerard Whateley, *Herald Sun*, 26 September
"Melbourne Art", Robert Rooney, *The Australian*, 15 September

- 1994 *The Encyclopedia of Australian Art*, A & S McCulloch , Allen & Unwin NSW, p733
- 1992 Sasha Grishin, *Canberra Times*, 20 May
- 1991 "Children of the cosmos", Elwyn Lynn, *The Australian*, 14 April
- 1990 "Reserves of precious virtue", Sasha Grishin, *Canberra Times*, 14 November
- 1988 *A New Generation 1983-1988: The Philip Morris Arts Grant*, Australian National Gallery exhibition catalogue
- "Flash and feisty", Peter Ward, *The Weekend Australian*, 11-12 June
- "Taking a risk on art", Joanna Mendelssohn, *The Bulletin*, 14 June
- "Walker heightens our experience of the real", Sonia Barron, *Canberra Times*, 20 June
- 1987 "Exhibition Commentary", *Art and Australia*, Vol 25, No 1
- Sasha Grishin, *The Canberra Times*, 20 September
- Moët and Chandon Catalogue '87*
- 1986 Gary Catalano, *The Age*, 19 February
- Robert Rooney, *The Australian*, 22 February

REPRESENTED

National Gallery of Australia, Canberra; Art Gallery of New South Wales; Sydney; Art Gallery of Western Australia; Perth, Parliament House, Canberra; Artbank, Sydney; University of New South Wales, Sydney; Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane; Deakin University, Melbourne; Commonwealth Government Offices, Canberra; AXA Australia, Melbourne; Macquarie Bank, Sydney; British Museum, London, UK