

CRISPIN AKERMAN

Crispin Akerman has earned a significant reputation for the elegant simplicity and fine balance he achieves within his favoured genre of still life painting. He uses a timeless vocabulary of domestic items such as ceramics, fruit, drapery and enamelware as well as native Australian flora to capture a sense of quiet contemplation, history and beauty. While the works are largely observational, the arrangement of the objects is highly constructed over underlying geometries, allowing for the exploration of harmony, balance, tension, light and atmosphere. His paintings explore their intimate nature in a non-specific location. The elements of this genre that Crispin finds so interesting are "the contemplative potential in it, the suggestion of the kinetic in the static, the metaphysical promise present in the very words, still life".

Now residing in Tasmania, Crispin Akerman was born in England and came to Australia with his family in 1966, where they settled in Western Australia. He grew up in the Perth where he spent his spare time drawing, painting and playing music. Crispin spent many years in the music industry as member of Perth band Eurogliders before pursuing his lifelong interest in the visual arts. Following a period of study at Julian Ashton in Sydney, he received a Bachelor of Visual Arts from the Canberra School of Art in 1992. Crispin's first solo exhibition was held at Beaver Galleries in 1995 and his popularity has gone from strength to strength with each exhibition. Crispin's paintings are represented in collections including Artbank, Parliament House, BHP Billiton, the Australian National University, Canberra Eye Hospital and the City of Bunbury.

BIOGRAPHY

- 1960 Born Dorset, UK
- 1966 Emigrated to Australia (WA)
- 1980-88 Professional musician (founding member of the Eurogliders)
- 1990 Technical Assistant to Mandy Martin, Canberra
- 1992 Bachelor of Visual Arts, Canberra School of Art
- 1993 Technical Assistant to Robert Boynes, Canberra
- 1994 Prop maker for Comedy Capers Theatre Group
- 1999 Artist in residence, Northern Territory University

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2024 Beaver Galleries, Canberra
- 2022 Beaver Galleries, Canberra
- 2019 Beaver Galleries, Canberra
Gallows Gallery, Perth
- 2017 Gallows Gallery, Perth
Gallery One, Gold Coast, Qld
- 2016 Beaver Galleries, Canberra
Gallows Gallery, Perth
- 2015 Gallery One, Gold Coast, Qld
- 2014 Gallows Gallery, Perth
- 2013 Beaver Galleries, Canberra
- 2010 Beaver Galleries, Canberra
Greenhill Galleries, Perth
- 2009 Jan Murphy Gallery, Brisbane
Hill Smith Fine Art Gallery, Adelaide
- 2008 "This is a good moment", Michael Reid Gallery, Murrurundi, NSW
Greenhill Galleries, Perth
- 2007 Beaver Galleries, Canberra
Jan Murphy Gallery, Brisbane
Greenhill Galleries, Perth
- 2006 Greenhill Gallery, Perth
Hill Smith Gallery, Adelaide
Michael Carr Art Dealer, Sydney
- 2005 Jan Murphy Gallery, Brisbane
Michael Carr Art Dealer, Sydney
Beaver Galleries, Canberra
- 2004 Beaver Galleries, Canberra
Greenhill Galleries, Perth

- 2003 Gallery 460, Sydney
Hill Smith Fine Art Gallery, Adelaide
Jan Murphy Gallery, Brisbane
Greenhill Galleries, Perth
- 2002 Gunyulgup Galleries, Yallingup, WA
Gallery 460, Gosford, NSW
Beaver Galleries, Canberra
- 2001 Gunyulgup Galleries, Yallingup, WA
Beaver Galleries, Canberra
- 2000 Gunyulgup Galleries, Yallingup, WA
Jan Murphy Gallery, Brisbane
Gallery 460, Gosford, NSW
- 1999 Jan Murphy Gallery, Brisbane
"Still Life Paintings", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
Libby Edwards Galleries, Melbourne
- 1998 "Paintings from the story *Picnic at Hanging Rock*", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
Jan Murphy Gallery, Brisbane
Gallery 460, Gosford, NSW
Libby Edwards Galleries, Melbourne
- 1995 "28 degs. 15 mins. south", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
"Still Life", Collette Dinnigan Studio, Sydney
- 1993 "Cafe au Gough-Gough", The Gods Cafe, ANU Canberra

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2022 "Small works 2022", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
- 2020 "Small works 2020", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
"SWAN Exhibition", Bunbury Regional Art Gallery, Bunbury
- 2018 "Small works 2018", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
"Summer Show", Yallingup Galleries, Yallingup, WA
"Christmas Exhibition", Gallows Gallery, Perth, WA
"SWAN Exhibition", Bunbury Regional Art Gallery, Bunbury
- 2016 "Art from the Heart: The Private Collection of Viola Nicolson and Colin Fitzgerald", Toowoomba Regional Art Gallery, Qld
- 2015 "Christmas Show", Gallows Gallery, Perth
- 2014 "Christmas Show", The Studio Gallery, Yallingup, WA
- 2013 "Small Works 2013", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
"Bunbury Biennale", Bunbury Regional Art Gallery
"South Western Times Survey", Bunbury Regional Art Galleries
- 2012 12 Studio Artists, The Studio Gallery, Yallingup, WA
"Greenhill Galleries 40th Birthday Exhibition", Greenhill Galleries, Perth
"South Western Times Survey", Bunbury Regional Art Galleries
- 2011 Bassendean Visual Art Awards, Cyril Jackson Recreation Centre, Perth
"Small Works", Jan Murphy Gallery, Brisbane
"Home grown", Greenhill Galleries, Perth
"Squared", Greenhill Galleries, Perth
"Lust", Brenda May Gallery, Sydney
- 2010 Stanthorpe Art Festival, Stanthorpe Regional Gallery, NSW
- 2009 "Squared", Greenhill Galleries, Perth
"Sketched", Greenhill Galleries, Perth
- 2008 "Squared", Greenhill Galleries, Perth
"Small Works", Jan Murphy Gallery, Brisbane
"Greenhill Galleries Opening Exhibition", Greenhill Galleries, Perth
"Christmas Exhibition", Greenhill Galleries, Perth
Eutick Memorial Still Life Award, Coffs Harbour Regional Gallery
- 2007 "Squared", Greenhill Galleries, Perth
"Small Works", Jan Murphy Gallery, Brisbane
- 2006 Gallery 460, Sydney
"Squared", Greenhill Galleries, Perth

- Melbourne Art Fair (Beaver Galleries)
"Small Works", Jan Murphy Gallery, Brisbane
2005 "Squared", Greenhill Galleries, Perth
10th Anniversary Exhibition, Jan Murphy Gallery, Brisbane
2004 "Fresh Paint", Greenhill Galleries, Perth
Perth International Art Fair, Perth
Melbourne Art Fair, Royal Exhibition Building, Melbourne (Beaver Galleries)
2003 "Changing Surfaces", Shepparton Art Gallery, Victoria
2002 Melbourne Art Fair, Royal Exhibition Building, Melbourne (Beaver Galleries)
2001 Nicola Townsend, Tokyo, Japan
"The Hungry Man's Exhibition", Manning Regional Art Gallery, Taree, NSW; Touring to Grafton Regional Gallery, Orange
Regional Gallery, Hastings Regional Gallery - Port Macquarie and Gloucester Regional Gallery
2000 Melbourne Art Fair, Royal Exhibition Building, Melbourne (Beaver Galleries)
Nicola Townsend, Tokyo, Japan
1998 6th Australian Contemporary Art Fair, Melbourne (Beaver Galleries)
Zonta, Perth
1997 Contemporary Art Fair, ANU Drill Hall Gallery, Canberra (Beaver Galleries)
"The Summer Exhibition", Libby Edwards Galleries, Melbourne
"Musicians and Musical Instruments", Gallery 460, Gosford, NSW
1996 "Imagining the Real: Recent Acquisitions from the Parliament House Art Collection", Parliament House, Canberra
"Christmas Collection '96", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
1994 "Picture Writing", Jardine St Gallery, Canberra
1993 "Every Day", Spiral Arm Gallery, Canberra

AWARDS / COMMISSIONS

- 2011 Town of Bassendean Acquisitive Award
1994 ACT Cultural Council Grant
Maitland Art Award

PUBLICATIONS

- 2022 "Pleasing paintings, lovingly observed", Sasha Grishin, *Canberra Times*, 4 April
2019 "Beautifully observed oils refreshing", Sasha Grishin, *Canberra Times*, 26 June
2016 "Hitting high note with jewel-like precision", Sasha Grishin, *Canberra Times*, 5 September
2013 "Balance a fine line", Sasha Grishin, *Canberra Times*, 15 February
2010 "The eduring power of still life", Sasha Grishin, *Canberra Times*, 17 February
2007 Review, Sasha Grishin, *Canberra Times*, 21 March
2005 "Fragile beauty unfolds", Sonia Barron, *Canberra Times*, 8 December
2004 "Still-lifes show virtuosity", Sonia Barron, *Canberra Times*, 5 April
2002 "Beautifully composed pictures of fruit", Sonia Barron, *Canberra Times*, 9 Dec
1999 "Simplicity core of appeal", Sonia Barron, *Canberra Times*, 22 November
1996 "The peoples' house of art", Sasha Grishin, *Canberra Times*, 26 June
1995 "From rock to art and the Batavia", Helen Musa, *Canberra Times*, 25 August
"A shipwreck as inspiration", Sonia Barron, *Canberra Times*, 1 September
"Crispin Akerman" (reviews), Kate Civil, *Muse*, September

COLLECTIONS

Parliament House, Canberra; Artbank, Sydney; Australian National University, Canberra; BHP Billiton, Sydney; St John of God Hospital Murdoch, WA; Canberra Eye Hospital; City of Bunbury, WA