

# bevergalleries

## Artists in lockdown series

### At home with Graeme Drendel



“In Melbourne we got used to being in lockdown during last year and I guess we have been able to adapt reasonably well during this one. Being a painter and working from my studio, which fortunately is in our backyard, has made me feel somewhat privileged in that not a whole lot has changed for me.

“What has changed is that a couple of exhibitions have been hung and immediately closed down, and as is the case for all of us, nothing is certain anymore. As much as getting one's work out there is disappointing and inconvenient, it just does not compare with the many people who have jobs and businesses out there that are clearly under threat.

“Essentially it is being able to keep working in the studio that is getting me through this period. It has also been a time for going through the studio and sometimes reworking paintings or throwing work out if required.

“I have also, probably more often than usual, mixed things up by moving from oils to watercolour, then to drawing, and very regularly working in my various sketchbooks. To lighten the mood I have been enjoying drawing caricatures of various characters partaking in those daily turgid bad news press conferences on TV.

“These I have been putting on social media to just hopefully give people a laugh. As far as this period having an impact on my paintings, I think that will only become apparent in retrospect. As it is, my work has always veered towards a sense of physical and psychological isolation, which probably fits, maybe a little too comfortably, with our current situation in the middle of a pandemic”.