

ROBERT BOYNES

Robert Boynes is a consummate master of both technique and observation. Consisting largely of studies of the human figure located within unspecified urban environments, his work focuses on the anonymity of much contemporary social interaction. He explores the sounds, codes and cultural bonds found in our shared spaces and streetscapes. Rather than taking a moral perspective on this condition, Robert consciously maintains a critical distance from his subjects. As a result, his images incorporate a multiplicity of references to cinema, televised news coverage and closed circuit TV footage. Robert transposes this raw material into exhilarating paintings which remind us that modernity is an amalgam of the impersonal and the intimate. These paintings stay with us as flashes of memory, like rapid bursts of light that resonate after the eyes are closed. Peter Haynes, art consultant, critic and former Director of the Canberra Museum and Gallery, writes of Boynes' work: "Robert is a painter of ideas. He constantly scrutinises his world – poetry, pictures, politics, sex, the attitudes of people and the auras those people carry within themselves – in order to decipher the cryptogram that is this world. That he has found a deeply compatible visual language to give voice to his scrutinies places him at the forefront of Australian art."

Born in Adelaide, Robert studied at the South Australian School of Art in the early 1960s and began teaching in 1964. He was Head of Painting at the Canberra School of Art for 27 years and is currently Adjunct Associate Professor at the ANU School of Art. Robert has an extensive exhibition history and has had over 60 solo shows across Australia, the UK and USA. In 2017, the Drill Hall Gallery at the Australian National University held an extensive survey show of his work displaying the expanse of his practice. In 2018, Robert was awarded, Canberra Visual Artist of the Year and in 2012 he received the Capital Arts Patrons' Organisation (CAPO) Fellowship award. His work is represented in the collections of the National Gallery of Australia as well as all Australian State Galleries, Parliament House, Artbank, Canberra Museum & Gallery and the ACT Legislative Assembly.

BIOGRAPHY

- 1942 Born Adelaide, SA
- 1959-64 Studied, South Australian School of Art, Adelaide
- 1964-77 Lecturer, Wattle Park Teachers' College & SA School of Art, Adelaide; Maidstone College of Art & Basingstoke Technical College, UK; Wattle Park Teachers' College & Murray Park CAE, Adelaide
- 1974-75 Studied Film, Flinders University, Adelaide
- 1978-06 Senior Lecturer, Head of Painting, Australian National University, ANU School of Art
- 1998 Artist in Residence, Artspace, Sydney
- 2002 Artist in Residence, Chur, Switzerland
- 2006 - Adjunct Associate Professor, Australian National University, ANU School of Art
- 2015 Artist in Residence, Fremantle Arts Centre, WA

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2023 "Silver Thread", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
- 2022 "Pacific drift", Belconnen Arts Centre, Canberra
- 2019 "A Whole Life in a Passing Moment", May Space, Sydney
- 2018 "Small reflections: public and private", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
- 2017 "Modern Times", Drill Hall Gallery, Canberra
"Five Decades – From the Studio", May Space, Sydney
- 2015 "In Plain Sight", Brenda May Gallery, Sydney
"Long Take – Slow Dissolve", Art Stage Singapore, Marina Bay Sands
- 2014 "Traffic", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
- 2013 "Crowd Energy", Blockprojects, Melbourne
"Translations", Brenda May Gallery, Sydney
- 2012 "Robert Boynes 2007 to 2012", Harvison Gallery, Perth
"Language of the Street", Brenda May Gallery, Sydney
- 2011 "In the light of day", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
- 2010 "Short Stories", Brenda May Gallery, Sydney
"Postscript", Karen Woodbury Gallery, Melbourne
- 2009 "CCTV", The Depot Gallery, Sydney
- 2008 "Afterimage", Brenda May Gallery, Sydney
- 2007 "Street Stories", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
George Petelin Gallery, Southport QLD
- 2006 "In Real Time", Survey Show, Manly Art Gallery & Museum

- “New Painting”, Brenda May Gallery, Sydney
Karen Woodbury Gallery, Melbourne
George Petelin Gallery, Southport, QLD
- 2005 “True Fictions”, Retrospective at Canberra Museum and Gallery
“Electricity”, Brenda May Gallery, Waterloo, NSW
- 2004 Brenda May Gallery, Sydney
“Night Visions”, Beaver Galleries, Canberra
- 2003 Brenda May Gallery, Sydney
William Mora Galleries, Melbourne
- 2002 Beaver Galleries, Canberra
- 2001 William Mora Galleries, Melbourne
- 2000 Access Contemporary Art Gallery, Sydney
- 1999 “In the street”, Beaver Galleries, Canberra
Greenaway Art Gallery, Adelaide
Austral Gallery, St Louis, USA
- 1998 Access Contemporary Art, Sydney
- 1996 Access Contemporary Art, Sydney
- 1995 “Robert Boynes: 3 Decades”, Nolan Gallery, Canberra
New England Art Museum, Armidale, NSW
Newcastle Region Art Gallery, NSW
“Paintings 1979-1995”, William Mora Galleries, Melbourne
“Urban Simulations”, University of Melbourne Museum of Art, Ian Potter Gallery
- 1994 Greenaway Art Gallery, Adelaide
Austral Gallery, St. Louis, USA
- 1993 Ben Grady Gallery, Canberra
Macquarie Galleries, Sydney
- 1992 Macquarie Galleries, Sydney
Austral Gallery, St. Louis, USA
- 1991 Austral Gallery, St. Louis, USA
- 1990 “Selected Works 1979-1990”, Canberra Contemporary Art Space
Second Australian Contemporary Art Fair, (Macquarie Galleries), Melbourne
- 1989 Robert Steele Gallery, Adelaide
Austral Gallery, St. Louis, USA
- 1988 Niagara Gallery, Melbourne
Macquarie Galleries, Sydney
- 1987 Michael Milburn Galleries, Brisbane
Macquarie Galleries, Sydney
- 1986 Bonython-Meadmore Gallery, Adelaide
Solander Gallery, Canberra
- 1985 Michael Milburn Galleries, Brisbane
Macquarie Galleries, Sydney
- 1984 Powell Street Gallery, Melbourne
- 1983 Gallery A, Sydney
- 1982 Powell Street Gallery, Melbourne
- 1981 Gallery A, Sydney
Solander Gallery, Canberra
- 1980 Phillip Bacon Galleries, Brisbane
Bonython Art Gallery, Adelaide
- 1979 “Survey 7”, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne
Realities, Melbourne
Gallery A, Sydney
- 1978 Realities, Melbourne
- 1972 Realities, Melbourne
- 1970 Bonython Art Gallery, Adelaide
- 1969 Arts Council of GB, Bear Lane Gallery, Oxford, UK
- 1967 Australian Galleries, Melbourne
Hungry Horse Art Gallery, Sydney

- 1966 Bonython Art Gallery, Adelaide
1964 Clune Galleries, Sydney

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2022 "The Personal is Political", Geelong Art Gallery, Vic
2019 Sydney Contemporary 2019, Carriageworks, Sydney
2018 "Contour 556", East Space Gallery, Canberra
2017 "10 Years of Collecting at the ANU", Drill Hall Gallery, Canberra
"May Space Forteen", May Space, Canberra
2016 "Contour 556", Public Art Festival, Canberra
2015 "Small works", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
"30 Years/ 30 Artists/ 30 Works", Brenda May Gallery, Sydney
"Untitled Show", Brenda May Gallery, Sydney
2014 "Velocity", Drill Hall Gallery, Canberra
"Pop to Popism", Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
"PULSE: Reflections on the body", Canberra Museum and Gallery
"Collectors: An excerpt from the private collection of Jeff Hinch", Brenda May Gallery, Sydney
"RIGHTNOW", Boomalli Gallery, Sydney
"Landscape", Brenda May Gallery, Sydney
2013 "The rug project", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
"The Triangle – Political Art in Canberra", Canberra Contemporary Art Space, Canberra
"Mighty Small", Brenda May Gallery, Sydney
"Undertone", The Front Gallery, Canberra
2012 "Small works", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
"Big Scope: Painting and Place", Lake Macquarie City Art Gallery
"In the Mirror", Brenda May Gallery, Sydney
2011 "Body language", Brenda May Gallery, Sydney
"The futile city", Heide Museum of Modern Art, Melbourne
2010 "Print Big", Megalo, Canberra
"Embody-meant", University of South Australia, Adelaide
"Retroactive", Canberra Contemporary Art Space, Canberra
2009 "Cache", Blackfriar's off Broadway, Sydney
2008 "Still Life", Brenda May Gallery, Sydney
Melbourne Art Fair (Beaver Galleries)
2007 Arthur Guy Memorial Painting Prize
2006 Melbourne Art Fair (Beaver Galleries)
George Petelin Gallery, Southport, QLD
Conrad Jupiters Art Prize, QLD
"Japan Links", Drill Hall Gallery, Canberra
2005 Arthur Guy Memorial Art Prize, Bendigo Art Gallery, VIC
"Interesting Times - Focus on Contemporary Australian Artists", Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney
"Retroactive", Canberra Contemporary Art Space, Manuka
2004 The Frank Saxby Bequest Invitation Art Acquisitions Prize, Manning Regional Art Gallery, Taree, NSW
"Ian Chandler and his contemporaries", Riddoch Art Gallery, Mt Gambier, SA
"Place face down to copy", ANU Art Gallery, in conjunction with the Australian Print Symposium, National Gallery of Australia, Canberra
Melbourne Art Fair (Beaver Galleries)
2003 Clemenger Art Prize, Invitational Exhibition, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne
"Permanent Visions", Canberra Museum and Gallery
2002 SNAP, ANU Gallery, Canberra
Tales of the Unexpected, Invitational Exhibition, National Gallery of Australia, Canberra
Melbourne Art Fair (Beaver Galleries)
"Field works", National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne
2000 "Project 2/2000", Sir Hermann Black Gallery, Sydney
"Metropolis", Museum of Sydney
Artfair (Beaver Galleries), Melbourne
1999 "What John Berger Saw", Canberra School of Art Gallery, University of South Australia, Adelaide

- 1998 Sixth Australian Contemporary Art Fair (Beaver Galleries), Melbourne
"Collected wisdom", Canberra Museum and Gallery, Canberra
- 1997 "Lawyers, guns and money", Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide
Chicago International Art Fair, USA
"AAAR!", Australian Artists Against Racism, Canberra School of Art
Contemporary Art Fair, ANU Drill Hall Gallery (Beaver Galleries), Canberra
- 1996 "City Remix", Manly Art Gallery
- 1995 ANU Art Collection, ANU Drill Hall Gallery, Canberra
"Capital Works", ANU Drill Hall Gallery, Canberra; Takashimaya Gallery, Singapore; Hong Kong
- 1994 Twentieth Anniversary, Solander Gallery, Canberra
- 1993 Chicago International Art Fair, USA
- 1992 "Contemporary Australian Drawing", Art Gallery of NSW
- 1991 "The Doors Show", Gold Coast City Art Gallery
- 1990 Festival of Birmingham, Alabama, USA
"Canbrart", ANU Drill Hall Gallery, Canberra
"Visual instincts", Holdsworth Gallery, Sydney
- 1989 "Australian Prints Pre-Settlement to Present", National Gallery of Australia, Canberra
International Art Exposition, Chicago, USA
- 1988 Houston Art Fair, Texas, USA
- 1987 "Field to Figuration", National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne
"Painters' Vision", Macquarie Galleries, Sydney
- 1986 Michael Milburn Gallery, Brisbane
"Oz Drawing Now", Holdsworth Gallery, 6th Biennale of Sydney
- 1983 "Perspecta", Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
"Recent Australian Painting", Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide
Mattara Invitational, Newcastle Regional Art Gallery
- 1982 "Structures", Newcastle Regional Art Gallery
"Urban Images", Ivan Dougherty Gallery, Sydney
- 1981 "Survey 81", Powell Street Gallery, Melbourne
"Spectres of our Time", Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide
- 1980 Summer Exhibition, Gallery A, Sydney
- 1978 "Australian Realist Painters", Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide
- 1977 "Treasures from South Australia", Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
"Recent Art from Adelaide", Project 18, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
- 1974 Painting Survey, Realities, Melbourne
- 1973 Drawing Survey, Realities, Melbourne
"Recent Australian Art", Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
- 1972 "Australian Paintings and Tapestries of the Last Twenty Years", NSW House, London, UK
Georges Invitation Art Prize, Melbourne
- 1971 Georges Invitation Art Prize, Melbourne
- 1967 Harold Mertz Collection of Australian Painting, USA
- 1966 Hungry Horse Art Gallery, Sydney
Daily Mirror Invitation Prize, Sydney
Perth Festival Invitation Exhibition, WA

AWARDS / COMMISSIONS

- 2018 Canberra Critics Circle Award (for 'Modern Times' exhibition at Drill Hall Gallery)
- 2012 CAPO Fellowship Award, Canberra
- 2007 Arthur Guy Memorial Art Prize, Bendigo, VIC
ARIA Living Artist Award, Gold Coast, QLD
- 2006 Canberra Times Artist of the Year
- 2001-02 RAAF Memorial, Anzac Parade, Canberra
- 2001 Canberra Art Prize
- 2000 Federal Court of Australia Commission, ACT
Finger Wharf, Woolloomooloo Bay, Sydney
- 1999 Legislative Assembly Commission, ACT Government
Finger Wharf, Woolloomooloo Bay, Sydney

- 1996 Project Grant, ACT Cultural Council
- 1993 Project Grant, ACT Cultural Council
- 1983 Mattara Invitation Purchase Prize, Newcastle Regional Art Gallery
- 1981 Purchase Award, Gold Coast Art Prize
- 1976-77 Mural, Adelaide Festival Centre
- 1975 Alice Springs Art Award
- 1973 Project Grant, VISUAL ARTS BOARD, Australia Council
- 1971 Barossa Festival Art Prize
- 1964 Ether Barringer Memorial Prize for Etching

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- 2023 "The colour beyond the surface", Sally Pryor, *Canberra Times*, 20 August
- "Boynes brings the everyday into focus", Ron Kennedy, *www.citynews.com.au*, 18 August
- 2017 "Review: Robert Boynes, Modern Times, ANU Drill Hall Gallery", Sasha Grishin, *Canberra Times*, 1 July
Robert Boynes Modern Times, Terence Malloon, ANU Drill Hall Gallery Publishing
- 2015 "Art Stage Singapore", Beatrice Spence, *Art Collector*, issue 71, p. 40
- 2014 "Pop to Popism" catalogue, Art Gallery of New South Wales
- "Pop Rocks", T.Clement, *Art Guide*, Nov-Dec, p 77-81
- "Pop art", W. Tunncliffe, *Look*, Oct, p 24-29
- "Robert Boynes: Eternal observer turns to human race", Sally Pryor, *Canberra Times*, 10 May
- "Collectors take centre stage", J. O'Sullivan, *Art Collector*, April p.47
- 2012 "Open Gallery", Lynne Dwyer, *Sydney Morning Herald Spectrum*, June 30
- 2011 *Australian Art Collector*, issue 58, Sasha Grishin
Art and Australia, vol. 49, no. 1
- 2008 *Capital Magazine*, July/August, Helen Musa
- 2007 "Successful Art Story", Kathleen Fisher, *Art Hub*, July, Aug 07
Art Collector, issue 41, Sasha Grishin
- 2006 "In Real Time", Manly Museum & Art Gallery, Therese Kenyon
- 2005 "Eye for urban visions", Sasha Grishin, *Canberra Times*, June
Australian Art Review, #7, Mar-Jun
- "Robert Boynes: True Fictions", Deborah Hart, *Art Monthly*, July
- 2004 *The Sydney Magazine*, SMH, Victoria Hynes, issue 14, June, p 102
Sydney Top Art & Food, Bois de Chesne, p. 51
- "Urban enigma, strong voice", Sasha Grishin, *Canberra Times*, Oct 25
- 2003 SMH Metro, Exhibitions, Peter Hill, March 23 - April 3, 2003, p.23
Human Rights Defender, vol 12, issue 3, cover image & p. 8
- 2002 *Muse*, Canberra Art Monthly, August No. 220
Tales of the Unexpected, National Gallery of Australia
Points of View, University of Technology Sydney Art Collection
- 2001 *Art & Australia*, Vol. 39, No. 2
- 2000 *Robert Boynes, The Woolloomooloo*, Peter Haynes
Olympic Arts Festival, Reproduced, Catalogue
Out of this World, Bruce James, *Spectrum*, *Sydney Morning Herald*, September 23
- 1999 "Moments captured", *Muse*, Louise Dauth, July, p 13
Australian Painting Now, Laura Murray-Cree / Nevill Drury, Craftsman House
"Robert Boynes 1996 - 1999", Louise Dauth
- 1998 *Images 3*, Neville Drury, Craftsman House
"Extracting the digital", Metro, Sebastian Smee, *Sydney Morning Herald*, April 10
Galleries, Bruce James, *Sydney Morning Herald*, April 14
Artlink, Vol. 18, No. 4
- 1995 *Capital Works*, Cultural Industry Development Program of the Dept of Communications and the Arts
Robert Boynes - 3 Decades, A survey of the Artist's works from the 1960's to the 1990's, Peter Haynes, Nolan Gallery, ACT
Robert Boynes, Urban Simulations, Merryn Gates, University of Melbourne Museum of Art, Ian Potter Gallery
- 1994 *Love in the Ruins - the Recent Work of Robert Boynes*, M Desmond, St. Louis, USA
- 1993/94 *The Art of Robert Boynes*, M Denholm
- 1993 *Robert Boynes, "The City of Angels" and the CBD series*, Peter Haynes

- 1992 *Crossroads*, Julie Ewington, St Louis, USA
1991 *Contemporary Australian Images in Australian Art*, Neville Drury
1990 *Contemporary Australian Painting*, Eileen Channin, Craftsman House
1989 *Robert Boynes 1986-1989*, Bernard Smith, ed. Peter Haynes
1988 *Death of the Artist as Hero*, Bernard Smith, Oxford University Press
Contemporary Australian Drawing, Arthur McIntyre, Boolarong Publications
1985 *Artists and Galleries of Australia and New Zealand*, Max Germaine, Landsdowne
Robert Boynes: New Work, Peter Haynes, Michael Milburn Galleries, Brisbane
1984/94 *Encyclopaedia of Australian Art*, Alan McCulloch
1983 *Art and Australia*, Vol 21/2, Vol 23/3, Vol 26/3
Australian Perspecta, Bernice Murphy, Art Gallery of New South Wales
1981 *Aspects of New Realism*, Ann Toy, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne
The Years of Hope: Australian Art and Criticism 1959-1968, Gary Catalano, Oxford University Press
1980 *Modern Australian Painting, 1975-1980*, Kim Bonython, Rigby
1979 *Survey 7: Robert Boynes*, Robert Lindsay, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne
1978 *Australian Painting 1788-1970*, Bernard Smith, Oxford University Press
1976 *Modern Australian Painting 1970-1975*, Kim Bonython
1974 "Robert Boynes", *Art International*, Ian North, Vol.28/2
1973 *Recent Australian Art*, D Thomas/F McCarthy, Art Gallery of New South Wales
1971 *Modern Australian Painting 1960-70*, Kim Bonython, Rigby
1969 *Art & Artists of SA*, Nancy Benko, Lidums
1968 *The Australian Painter 1964-1968*, Ross K Luck
1967 *Contemporary Australian Painting from the Mertz Collection*, Griffin Press/Corcoran Gallery of Art

COLLECTIONS

National Gallery of Australia; National Gallery of Victoria; Art Gallery of South Australia; Art Gallery of Western Australia; Art Gallery of NSW; Queensland Art Gallery; Canberra Museum and Gallery, Canberra; Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, Hobart; Parliament House, Canberra; Australian War Memorial, Canberra; Australian National University, Canberra; ACT Legislative Assembly, Canberra; Latrobe University, Melbourne; Flinders University, Adelaide; University of Qld, Brisbane; University of Canberra; Araluen Arts Centre, Alice Springs, NT; Mildura Arts Centre, Vic; Castlemaine Art Gallery, Vic; Newcastle Region Art Gallery, NSW; Gold Coast City Art Gallery, Qld; Tarrawarra Museum of Art, Vic; Festival Theatre, Adelaide; Wollongong City Gallery, NSW; Australia Council, Sydney; Artbank; BHP Billiton; IBM; Mertz Collection, Texas, USA; Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, USA; The Raymond Burr Collection, California, USA; Westpac Collection, New York, USA; Sears Roebuck Collection, California, USA