

AGNETA EKHOLM

Agneta Ekholm's abstract paintings are built entirely from imagination and engagement with her technical process. Each pristine composition evolves on the canvas: no working drawings exist. The viewer is immersed in the luxurious ebb and flow of paint and mysterious forms which might be suggestive of, landscapes, light-play, water flow, radiological images or movement. The paintings result from the exploration and discovery inherent in a technique honed over the last number of years. Her work is paradoxical, at first glance simple and immediate, while actually created over weeks and months. Working with fast-drying acrylic and water, Agneta uses a sponge to apply layer upon layer of shapes and gestures with solid pigment and transparent washes, while continually washing and rubbing sections away until the final image is built. It is an obsessive and fastidious process and the work travels a complex journey of twists and turns before the painting's final incarnation is revealed.

Agneta was born in Helsinki, Finland where she undertook visual art training at the College of Fine Arts, Västra Nylands College and Swedish Art School of Nykarleby. In 1994 she received a grant from the Swedish Cultural Foundation for further research at RMIT in Melbourne where she completed a Bachelor of Fine Art with Honours (Painting). Agneta has been a finalist in the Ravenswood Art Prize (2020, 2018), Muswellbrook Art Prize (2020) and the Calleen Art Award (2016, 2015, 2014, 2013 and 2012). Her work is in collections including Artbank; Embassy of Finland, Australia; Google, San Francisco, USA; Goya Collection; Rydges Hotel Group; Scarpi Collection; Sony Music Corporation and Val Morgan Collection.

BIOGRAPHY

- 1966 Born, Helsinki, Finland
- 1984-85 Creative Development certificate, College of Fine Arts, Helsinki, Finland
- 1988-89 Art Certificate, Västra Nylands College, Finland
- 1991-94 Bachelor of Visual Arts, The Swedish Art School of Nykarleby, Finland
- 1994-96 Bachelor of Arts in Fine Art with Honours (Painting), RMIT, Melbourne

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2020 "New Paintings", M Contemporary, Sydney
- 2019 "Levitate", Flinders Lane Gallery, Melbourne
- 2018 "Recent Paintings", M Contemporary, Sydney
- 2017 "Figment", Flinders Lane Gallery, Melbourne
- 2015 "Unfold", Flinders Lane Gallery, Melbourne
- 2013 "Elements", Flinders Lane Gallery, Melbourne
- 2011 Arthouse Gallery, Christchurch, New Zealand
Nordens Hus, Reykjavik, Iceland
- 2009 "Recent Work", Koru Gallery, Hong Kong
"Trace", Gallery 101, Melbourne
- 2008 "Orbit", Gallery O, Perth
"Orbit", Whitespace, Auckland, New Zealand
- 2006 "arcana", Gallery 101, Melbourne
"arcana 2", Whitespace, Auckland, New Zealand
- 2004 Whitespace, Auckland, New Zealand
- 2003 "Reflections", Whitespace, Auckland, New Zealand
Embassy of Finland, Canberra
- 2002 J Space Contemporary Art Centre, Dandenong, VIC
- 2002 Goya Galleries, Melbourne
tmp.worldwide, 333 Collins Street, Melbourne, VIC
- 2000 Hotel Sofitel, Melbourne
- 1999 "Iridescence", West Space, Melbourne
Soho Galleries, Sydney
The Yellow House Gallery, Castlemaine, VIC
- 1998 Gallery High 445, Melbourne
Chiara Goya Gallery, Melbourne
- 1996 "Impulsions", RMIT First Site Gallery, Melbourne

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2020 "Of Colour and Light – Biennial", West End Art Space, Melbourne, VIC
- 2019 "30 x 30", Flinders Lane Gallery, Melbourne
Sydney Contemporary Art Fair, Carriageworks, Sydney

- 2018 Art Central Hong Kong, M Contemporary, Hong Kong
Sydney Contemporary, M Contemporary, Sydney
"Subterrain", FLG at Collins Place, Melbourne Art Week
- 2017 "The Winter Collection: Three Painters", Gallery Thirty Three, Wanaka, NZ
- 2016 "FUSE", Flinders Lane Gallery, VIC
"Denfair", Flinders Lane Gallery Stall, Melbourne
"Painting and Platter", Koru Contemporary Art, Hong Kong
"Of Colour and Light", Yarra Sculpture Gallery, Melbourne
- 2015 Gallery Thirty Three, Wanaka, New Zealand
Aptos Cruz Galleries, Stirling, SA
- 2014 "25th Anniversary Exhibition", Flinders Lane Gallery, Melbourne, VIC
Melbourne Art Fair, Royal Exhibition Building, Melbourne, VIC
"Energy Continuum", Gallery Thirty Three, Wanaka, New Zealand
"The Portrait Show", Flinders Lane Gallery, Melbourne, VIC
- 2013 "Dawn & Dusk", Olsen Irwin Gallery, Sydney, NSW
"East Meets West", Koru Contemporary Art, Hong Kong
Gallery Thirty Three, Wanaka, New Zealand
- 2012 "Space", Flinders Lane Gallery, Melbourne, VIC
"Laisee Koru -10 Years of Art in Hong Kong", Koru Contemporary Art, Hong Kong, China
"AuCourant", Tim Olsen Gallery, Sydney, NSW
"The Studio Show II", Flinders Lane Gallery, Melbourne, VIC
- 2011 "Laisee Koru -10 Years of Art in Hong Kong", Koru Contemporary Art, Hong Kong, China
Art Fair Copenhagen '11, Represented by Ama Galleria, Helsinki, Finland
Art Fair Helsinki '11, Represented by Ama Galleria, Helsinki, Finland
- 2010 "Autumn Collection", James Makin Gallery, Melbourne, VIC
"Fine Art Asia 2010", Hong Kong International Art, Koru Gallery, Hong Kong
- 2009 Australian Contemporary Art 2009, Koru Gallery, Hong Kong
- 2008 Singapore Art Fair, Singapore
"A month of Sundays", Sunday & Rex, London, UK
- 2007 "Koru Spring Show", Koru Gallery, Hong Kong
Auckland Art Fair, represented by Whitespace, Auckland, New Zealand
- 2006 "Group Show", Dagmar Art Consultants, Melbourne, VIC
- 2005 "Three abstract painters", Whitespace, Auckland, New Zealand
Essoign Club, courtesy of Gallery 101, Melbourne, VIC
Auckland Art Fair, Whitespace, New Zealand
- 2004 Melbourne Art Fair, Gallery 101, Melbourne, VIC
"Harmony and Counterpoint", Gallery 101, Melbourne, VIC
- 2003 "Sceggs Art Show, Sydney, NSW
- 2002 South - Sur: Group collaboration with artists in Bogota, Colombia
Canberra Contemporary Art Space, Canberra, ACT
Melbourne Art Fair, Royal Exhibition Building, Melbourne, VIC
- 2001 Morgan & Banks, Melbourne, VIC
Ansett Golden Wing Lounge - Sydney Airport, NSW
Glass Exposed, Goya Galleries, Melbourne, VIC
Sceggs Art Show, Sydney, NSW
Pushing Paint, Glass Street Gallery, Melbourne, VIC
- 2000 Goya Galleries, Melbourne, VIC
The Exquisite Corpse, Bendigo Art Gallery, (toured Victoria 2001)
Hi/Lo Exotico, Espacio Alterno, Bogota, Colombia
14 GO: Emerging artists make their mark, Bendigo Art Gallery, VIC
- 1999 The Post-Postcard Show, Linden Gallery, St. Kilda, VIC
Coalesce, Dianne Tanzer Gallery, Melbourne, VIC
Goya Galleries, Melbourne, VIC
- 1998 Hi/Lo Exotico: Group collaboration with artists in Bogota, Colombia
- 1996 RMIT Honours Graduate exhibition, Melbourne, VIC
- 1995 Seinajoen Taidehalli, Finland
Context, Perception, Readings, RMIT City Campus, Graduate Painting Exhibition, VIC

- 1994 Gallery Victor, Nykarleby, Finland
Gallery Victor, Nykarleby, Finland
1993 Swedish Art School of Nykarleby, Spring exhibition, Umeå, Sweden
1992 Swedish Art School of Nykarleby, Spring exhibition, Umeå, Sweden
1989 Karis, Finland

AWARDS / COMMISSIONS

- 2020 Finalist, Ravenswood Art Prize, NSW
Finalist, 47th Muswellbrook Art Prize, NSW
Commission, Ritz Carlton Yacht Collection, The Netherlands
2018 Finalist, Ravenswood Art Prize, NSW
Commission, Novotel Hotel, Melbourne
2017 Winner, Best Art Award in Denfair, Melbourne
Commission, The Cosmopolitan, Las Vegas, USA
2016 Finalist, Calleen Art Award, Cowra Regional Art Gallery, NSW
Commission, The Parisian, Macau, China
2015 Finalist, Calleen Art Award, Cowra Regional Art Gallery, NSW
2014 Finalist, Calleen Art Award, Cowra Regional Art Gallery, NSW
2013 Finalist, Calleen Art Award, Cowra Regional Art Gallery, NSW
Finalist, Fleurieu Art Prize, South Australia
Finalist, Wilson Visual Art Award, Lismore, NSW
2012 Finalist, Mount Eyre Art Prize 2012, Rex Livingston, Sydney
Finalist, Calleen Art Award, Cowra Regional Art Gallery, NSW
Finalist, Redland Art Award, Cleveland, QLD
Finalist, Fisher's Ghost Art Award, Campbelltown Arts Centre, NSW
Commission, Mandarin Oriental Hotel, Guangzhou, China
2010 Finalist, Calleen Art Award, Cowra Regional Art Gallery, NSW
2009 Finalist, Prometheus Visual Arts Award, Gold Coast, QLD
Finalist, Mount Eyre Art Prize 2009, Rex Livingston, Sydney
Finalist, DLAP 2009, Bundoora Homestead Art Centre, Melbourne
2005 Commission, George Freeman Collection, Melbourne, Australia
2003 Arts Victoria Grant, Australia
Commission, Alan Wilson Consulting, Melbourne, Australia
2002 Embassy of Finland Grant, Australia
2000 Commission, Book cover collaboration with Nina Sederholm, Berenikes Hår, Schildts, Helsinki, Finland
1999 Pat Corrigan Artist Grant, Australia
1993 Swedish cultural foundation, Finland grant towards studies at RMIT
1992 Scholarship, Swedish Art School of Nykarleby, Finland

PUBLICATIONS

- 2019 *Levitate*, Christopher Heathcote, Flinders Lane Gallery, Melbourne
Sydney Contemporary Special Edition, Courtney Kidd, Art Collector, p.72
2017 *Figment*, Christopher Heathcote, Flinders Lane Gallery, Melbourne
2016 "Top 6 Summer 2016 Shows on Hong Kong's Cultural South Side", Claire Bouchara, *Blouinartinfo HK*, 18 July
2015 "Artist Profile, Agneta Ekholm", *Daily Imprint (online)*, 14 April
Unfold, Andrew Gaynor, Flinders Lane Gallery, Melbourne
2014 "Taiteilijaksi Pajalahdentieltä Melbourne", Anni Kotkamaa, *Lauttasaari*, 19 December
"Taiteilija lähti maailmalle uudenkarlepyyn eväin", Anni Kotkamaa, *Pietarsaaren Sanomat*, 16 February
Modern Vagabond minns somrarna i Nagu, Anni Kotkamaa, Åbo Underrättelser, 12 July
2013 *Elements*, Phe Luxford, Flinders Lane Gallery, Melbourne
2012 *Space*, Phe Luxford, Flinders Lane Gallery, Melbourne
"Space exhibition", Phe Luxford, *The Melbourne review*, August
"Art/The here and now", *Financial Review*, 5 July
2011 *Laisee: 10 years of Koru Contemporary Art*, John Batten, *Koru Contemporary Art*, Hong Kong
2009 "Agneta Ekholm at Koru Contemporary Art", Marguerite Brown, *Asian Art News*, March/April
"Art Notes", *Art Monthly*, September issue
2008 "Abstract fascination", Claire Halliday, *Insite Homes Antiques Art*, Autumn issue

- Orbit, Marguerite Brown, Gallery O, Perth.
- 2006 "The galleries: Hooked by lustre of our heritage", T.J. McNamara, *The New Zealand Herald*, 5 July
101 Collins Quarterly, Gallery 101, Melbourne
- 2005 *arcana*, Christopher Heathcote, Gallery 101, Melbourne
101 Collins Quarterly, 101 Collins Street, Melbourne
- 2004 "Harmony & Counterpoint", Art Monthly Australia, November
Harmony & Counterpoint, Emma Gill, Gallery 101, Melbourne
"Abstract Patterns", Megan Backhouse, *The Age*, 30 October
"Scandinavian snow and Bondi beach", Derek Cheng, *The New Zealand Herald*, 3 November
"Imagination takes wing", T. J. McNamara, *The New Zealand Herald*, 3 November
- 2003 *CityScene*, Auckland City, 23 March
Worldview, SBS radio interview
- 2002 "Galleries And Eclectic Furniture", *The Melbourne Times*, 22 May
Melbourne Art Fair 2002 Catalogue, Melbourne
- 2001 "Consulting the key to a super purchase", *The Age*, 18 June
"Glass Exposed", Jeff Makin, *Herald-Sun*, 18 June
- 2000 *The Arts Show*, presented by Jill Singer, ABC-TV, 22 May
- 1999 "Rhythm of color", Trish Satori, *Bendigo Advertiser*, 27 November
"Exhibition at Yellow House Gallery", *Castlemaine Mail*, 3 December
- 1998 *Melbourne Fringe Visual Arts catalogue*, Melbourne
- 1996 *RMIT Department of Fine Art Graduate catalogue*, Melbourne
- 1995 *RMIT Department of Fine Art Graduate catalogue*
- 1994 "Review", *Vasa Bladet*, 19 January
"Review", *Keski Pohjanmaa*, 20 January
- 1993 *1993 Year Report*, Swedish Art School of Nykarleby, Finland

COLLECTIONS

Artbank; Alan Wilson Collection; Art Associates, Auckland, New Zealand; Brandt Revisionspartnerselskab, Denmark; Dagmar Art Consultants; Elio Sarpi Collection; Embassy of Finland, Australia; George Freeman Collection; Google, San Francisco, USA; Goya Collection; Heidrick & Struggles; JW Marriott Hotel, Miami, FL, USA; Hyatt Tysons Corner, Virginia, USA; LK Mur & Platt Ab, Sweden; Mandarin Oriental Hotel, Guangzhou, China; Manson Group, Auckland, New Zealand; Marriott Hotel, Beijing, China; Orix, Australia; Novotel Hotel, South Wharf, Melbourne; Rydges Hotel Group; Sioma Wajchman Collection; Scarpi Collection; S. Keable & Co. Pty. Ltd; Sony Music Corporation; Taylors Group, Australia; Val Morgan Collection; The Cosmopolitan, Las Vegas, USA; The Parisian, Macau, China; Washington Court Hotel, Washington DC, USA; Wyatt Alexander & Koistinen; Ritz Carlton Yacht Collection, The Netherlands.