

## AGNETA EKHOLM

*Agneta Ekholm's abstract paintings explore forces of energy and immortality, her soft, flowing organic shapes encompassing the perpetual motion of life. By way of imagined imagery and technical process, mysterious forms and colours emerge. Conscious and unconscious forces direct her intuitive process, her memories and emotions influencing the colour and tone of works that might suggest the ice landscapes of her Finnish childhood, the play of light and the flow of water. Agneta's work is paradoxical: at first glance simple and immediate, it is in fact created over weeks and months, the result of exploration and discovery inherent in a technique honed over a number of years. Working with fast-drying acrylic and water, she uses a sponge to apply shapes and gestures in layers of solid pigment and transparent washes, continually rinsing and rubbing sections away until the final image is built. It is an obsessive and fastidious process and the work travels a complex journey before its 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), the 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

- 2023 "Confluence", Flinders Lane Gallery, Melbourne  
"Where the light gets in", M Contemporary, Sydney
- 2022 "Continuum", Beaver Galleries, Canberra  
"Holding Space", Flinders Lane Gallery, Melbourne
- 2021 "New Paintings", M Contemporary, Sydney
- 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**

- 2023 "Small works", Beaver Galleries, Canberra  
Sydney Contemporary Art Fair, Carriageworks, Sydney (M Contemporary)
- 2022 Sydney Contemporary Art Fair, Carriageworks, Sydney (M Contemporary)
- 2021 "8 Year Anniversary Group Show", M Contemporary, Sydney  
Sydney Contemporary Art Fair, Carriageworks, Sydney
- 2020 "Of Colour and Light – Biennial", West End Art Space, Melbourne, VIC
- 2019 "30 x 30", Flinders Lane Gallery, Melbourne  
Sydney Contemporary Art Fair, represented by M Contemporary, Carriageworks, Sydney  
Art Central Hong Kong, M Contemporary, Hong Kong
- 2018 Sydney Contemporary Art Fair, represented by M Contemporary, Carriageworks, 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, Melbourne  
"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  
Melbourne Art Fair, Royal Exhibition Building, Melbourne  
"Energy Continuum", Gallery Thirty Three, Wanaka, New Zealand  
"The Portrait Show", Flinders Lane Gallery, Melbourne
- 2013 "Dawn & Dusk", Olsen Irwin Gallery, Sydney  
"East Meets West", Koru Contemporary Art, Hong Kong  
Gallery Thirty Three, Wanaka, New Zealand
- 2012 "Space", Flinders Lane Gallery, Melbourne  
"Laisee Koru -10 Years of Art in Hong Kong", Koru Contemporary Art, Hong Kong, China  
"AuCourant", Tim Olsen Gallery, Sydney  
"The Studio Show II", Flinders Lane Gallery, Melbourne
- 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  
"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  
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**

- 2023 "Confluence", catalogue essay, Sasha Grishin, Flinders Lane Gallery  
"Agneta Ekholm, Confluence", *Art Guide Australia*, September/October  
*Art Almanac* cover, October
- 2022 "In slow art refined elegance prevails", Sasha Grishin, *Canberra Times*, 12 September  
"Void House Duo: Hide and Seek", *InsideOut Magazine*, July
- 2021 Richard Morecroft "Exhibition" interview [https://youtu.be/c8W7e\\_d3CSc](https://youtu.be/c8W7e_d3CSc)

- 2019 *Levitate*, Christopher Heathcote, catalogue essay, Flinders Lane Gallery, Melbourne  
Courtney Kidd, *Art Collector* Sydney Contemporary 2019 Special Edition
- 2017 *Figment*, Christopher Heathcote, catalogue essay, 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 "Taitelijaksi Pajalahdentieltä Melbourne", Anni Kotkamaa, *Lauttasaari*, 19 December  
"Taitelija 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.  
"The galleries: Hooked by lustre of our heritage", T.J. McNamara, *The New Zealand Herald*, 5 July
- 2006 *101 Collins Quarterly*, Gallery 101, Melbourne  
*arcana*, Christopher Heathcote, Gallery 101, Melbourne
- 2005 *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  
*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.