

KIRRILY HUMPHRIES

Kirrily Humphries is an emerging artist based in Canberra whose exquisitely detailed paintings and drawings depict desolate scenes from within contemporary ruins. Her paintings, often taking months to render are created using multiple layers of translucent oil glazes applied over time resulting in luminous surfaces with soft detail and subtle variations of light, shadow and colour. In a similar vein, Kirrily builds up her pencil compositions over many layers, allowing the drawing to emerge in intricate detail over time. The negative space of the paper becomes part of the power of the drawing, heightening the immersive experience of the composition. She says of her work; "I become quietly absorbed in the solitary exploration of architectural space. In my isolation I feel a heightened sense of physical presence, an amplified sensory awareness. The excited terror of exploring space forbidden or unknown intensifies this experience, presenting a realm for fantasy, anticipation and unfolding narrative. Based on my expeditions within contemporary ruins, I paint moments of sublime revelation, found in their distinct phenomenological and physiological experience. Informed by a single location, in these desolate interiors I confront my anxieties, my fears of destruction, and the transience and brevity of human legacy." By working at a small scale, Kirrily encourages a similar immersive experience for viewers, impelling quiet contemplation.

Kirrily graduated with a Bachelor of Visual Arts (Honours) from the Australian National University in 2016, having studied on exchange at the École Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts, Paris in 2014. Since her graduation, her works have been exhibited in Canberra, New South Wales and the Northern Territory with successful shows at Sydney Contemporary with Beaver Galleries in 2017, 2018, 2021 and 2022. Kirrily was a finalist in the 2019 and 2023 Hazelhurst Art on Paper Awards.

BIOGRAPHY

- 1987 Born Newcastle, NSW
- 2006 Diploma of Fine Arts, Newcastle Art School, NSW
- 2014 Exchange Program, École Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts, Paris, France
- 2016 Bachelor of Visual Arts (Honours), Australian National University, Canberra

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2024 "Colossal wreck", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
- 2020 "A fundamental pause", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
- 2019 "Extravagant Charm" (with Jonathan Crowther), M Contemporary, Sydney
- 2017 "DROSS", Form Studio and Gallery, Queanbeyan, NSW

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2023 Hazelhurst Art on Paper Award, Hazelhurst Art Centre, NSW
- 2022 Sydney Contemporary 2022, Carriageworks, Sydney (Beaver Galleries)
- 2021 Explore Sydney Contemporary 2021, online exhibition (Beaver Galleries)
- 2018 Sydney Contemporary 2018, Carriageworks, Sydney (Beaver Galleries)
- 2019 Hazelhurst Art on Paper Award, Hazelhurst Art Centre, NSW
 - "At the End of the World", M Contemporary, Sydney
- 2017 Sydney Contemporary 2017, Carriageworks, Sydney (Beaver Galleries)
- 2016 "Small Works 2016", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
 - Graduating exhibition 2016, Australian National University School of Art, Canberra
 - "Love is in the Air", Canberra Contemporary Art Space, Gorman House, Canberra
 - "That's What She Said", Godinymayin Yijard Rivers Arts and Cultural Centre, Katherine, NT
 - EASS Strathnairn Arts Exhibition Awards 2016, Strathnairn Arts, Canberra
 - EASS Form Studio and Gallery Awards 2016, Form Studio and Gallery, Queanbeyan, NSW
- 2015 "ANU School of Art Graduating Exhibition 2015", Australian National University, Canberra
 - "Friday On My Wall", Australian National University, Canberra
 - "Painting in Paris: Works by Yioryios Papayioryiou and Kirrily Humphries", CCAS Manuka, Canberra
 - "ANU Drawing Prize 2015", Australian National University Gallery, Canberra
 - "Random 2015", Australian National University Gallery, Canberra
 - "sPIN", Australian National Capital Artists (ANCA), Canberra
- 2014 "Thirddness", Galleries Droite/Gauche, École Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts, Paris, France

AWARDS / COMMISSIONS

- 2023 Finalist, Hazelhurst Art on Paper Award, NSW
- 2019 Finalist, Hazelhurst Art on Paper Award, NSW
- 2016 M Contemporary Emerging Artist Award

- Australian National University EASS - Acquisition Award
Sir Geoffrey Yeend Honours Scholarship
- 2015 Australian National University EASS - Acquisition Award (x3)
Australian National University EASS - Strathnairn Arts Exhibition Award
Australian National University EASS - Form Studio and Gallery Exhibition Award
Australian National University EASS - ACT Legislative Assembly Prize (Highly Commended)
- 2014 Westende Travelling Scholarship

PUBLICATIONS

- 2024 "Local ways of looking..." Sasha Grishin, *the-Riotact.com*, 5 April
"Small drawings of intensity and power", Kerry-Anne Cousins, *citynews.com.au*, 28 March
- 2020 "Solo debut is brooding and nostalgic", Sasha Grishin, *Canberra Times*, 26 October
- 2017 "Dross" at Form Studio and Gallery, Peter Haynes, *Canberra Times*, 16 November