

MELINDA SCHAWEL

Melinda Schawel is an artist who has always been drawn to the physicality of the creative process. Known predominantly for her highly textured works on paper, Melinda captures the grandeur and minutiae of the natural world in her abstracted compositions. Micro and macro details emerge from the paper through her intense manipulation of the base material, often a thick and heavy paper, using a myriad of techniques. Drilling, tearing, scoring and perforating, in combination with inks and fluid acrylic, creates interplays between colour, form and texture. Melinda has explored metal, continuing to develop the push-pull tension within her work but in a more three-dimensional realm. "Regardless of the medium, the physicality of the process is extremely cathartic and allows me time to process some of the harsh realities of life but also more importantly to recognise the beautiful, delicate moments that appear in the most unexpected places." As independent arts writer and curator Marguerite Brown writes, "Schawel's forms hover on the surface, occasionally collide into one another, and act in dynamic tandem.From aqueous stains to areas of hard-edged mineral density, the artist adapts her methods of application in search of a visual equilibrium within each image, and notes the importance of knowing when to hold back. This awareness translates in the successful and subtle evocation of atmospheric space."

Born in Illinois, USA, Melinda Schawel received a Bachelor in Fine Art and Communication from the University of California Santa Barbara in 1993 and a Postgraduate Degree in Printmaking from RMIT, Melbourne in 1996. She was recently commissioned by the City of Casey (Vic) to create a large-scale, integrated public art project, and has been a finalist in numerous art prizes including the Nillumbik Prize, Fisher's Ghost Art Award & Adelaide Perry Drawing Prize (People's Choice Award Winner in 2017). She has been featured in a variety of art publications including Art Collector, Art Guide and Artist Profile. Melinda has exhibited nationally and internationally since 1995 and her work is represented in many collections including the National Gallery of Australia, the City of Whitehorse (Vic) and Geelong Regional Gallery (Vic).

BIOGRAPHY

- 1970 Born, Illinois, USA
- 1993 Bachelor in Fine Arts and Communication Studies (Honours), University of California, Santa Barbara, USA
- 1996 Postgraduate Degree, Fine Arts (Honours), RMIT, Melbourne
- 2004 Residency, Frans Masereel Centre, Kasterlee, Belgium
- 2012 Residency, Whitsunday Anglican School, Mackay
- 2015 Residency, Chiang Mai Art on Paper workshop, Thailand
- 2016 Residency, The Art Vault, Mildura, Vic

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2022 "Restraint", Flinders Lane Gallery, Melbourne
- 2020 "Unravelling", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
"The flip side", Flinders Lane Gallery, Melbourne
- 2019 "Solitude", Wagner Contemporary, Sydney
"Summertime in the Mountains", Hill Smith Gallery, Adelaide
- 2018 "Boundless", Sydney Contemporary, Carriageworks, Sydney (Wagner Contemporary)
"Second Chances", Flinders Lane Gallery, Melbourne
- 2017 "Silver lining", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
"Higher Ground", Wagner Contemporary, Sydney
"Higher Ground II", Hill Smith Gallery, Adelaide
- 2016 "Protected", Flinders Lane Gallery, Melbourne
- 2015 "Out from under me", Hill Smith Gallery, Adelaide
"Roots and Wings" (with Belinda Fox), Beaver Galleries, Canberra
"Out from under me", Hill Smith Gallery, Adelaide
- 2014 "Traverse", Flinders Lane Gallery, Melbourne
"Traverse", Artspace, Mackay Regional Gallery, Qld
- 2012 "Torn", Flinders Lane Gallery, Melbourne
- 2009 "Full Circle", Flinders Lane Gallery, Melbourne
- 2006 "Out of Touch", Flinders Lane Gallery, Melbourne
- 2005 "Up to speed", with Belinda Fox, Beaver Galleries, Canberra
- 2003 "Ligua Franca", Global Art Source, Zurich, Switzerland
- 2002 "Sojourn", with Belinda Fox, Beaver Galleries, Canberra
- 2000 "Recent Works", Flinders Lane Gallery, Melbourne
- 1999 "Etched", Helengory Galerie, Melbourne

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2022 "Small works", Beaver Galleries
Omni Art Prize, St Kevin's College, Toorak, VIC
- 2021 Nillumbik Prize for Contemporary Art, Montsalvat, VIC
- 2020 Adelaide Perry Prize for Drawing, Presbyterian Ladies' College, Sydney
- 2019 "Paper: cut, stain, fold, press", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
- 2018 "Subterrain, The Organic Sublime", FLG POPup, Collins Place, Melbourne
Art Central Art Fair (Hill Smith Gallery), Central, Hong Kong
Collins Place Summer Prize, Melbourne
- 2017 Whyalla Art Prize, Country Arts SA, Port Adelaide, SA
Denfair, Melbourne (Flinders Lane Gallery),
Adelaide Perry Drawing Prize, Presbyterian Ladies' College, Sydney
- 2016 "Works on paper", Hill Smith Gallery, Adelaide
"Of Colour and Light", Yarra Sculpture Gallery, Abbotsford, Vic
"The Nillumbik Prize", Montsalvat, Eltham, Vic
- 2015 "Small works", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
"Magical", Neospace, Collingwood, Vic
"Fisher's Ghost Art Award", Campbelltown Arts Centre, NSW
"Drawing: A Fundamental Liberation V", Wagner Gallery, Sydney
"The Nillumbik Prize", Montsalvat, Melbourne
"Direction now", Wagner Gallery, Sydney
- 2014 "The Portrait Show", Flinders Lane Gallery, Sydney
- 2013 "The Nillumbik Prize", Montsalvat, Melbourne
"Grounded", Australian High Commission, Singapore
- 2012 "Fisher's Ghost Art Award", Campbelltown Art Centre
- 2010 "Four Squared", Gallery SPACE, Savanna, GA, USA
- 2009 "Obra Grafica Murta Edicions", Collegi d'Aparelladors, Barcelona, Spain
"Four Squared", University Gallery, UNF, USA
"20Plus", Flinders Lane Gallery, Melbourne
"Paper works", Gallery RFD, Swainsboro, GA
- 2008 "Surface Tension", Flinders Lane Gallery, Melbourne
"The Perfumed Collection", Flinders Lane Gallery, Melbourne
- 2007 "Christmas Collection", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
"50", Exchange Folio, Geelong Gallery, VIC
"Pure", Flinders Lane Gallery, Melbourne
- 2006 "Treasures", Flinders Lane Gallery
"Melbourne Art Fair", with Flinders Lane Gallery
"Meeting Place, Keeping Place", George Adams Gallery, Arts Centre, Melbourne
"Slowly, Slowly", Kudos Gallery, Sydney
- 2005 "Art Sydney 05", Sydney
- 2004 "Ausstellung in der Kupferdruckwerkstatt, Zurich, Germany
- 2003 "Del Mar", Uliturburo Schaufensterprogramm, Bern, Switzerland
"Grafik und mehr", Galerie Vostry, Erfurt, Germany
- 2002 "Works on paper", Global Art Source, Zurich, Switzerland
"Land-line", Port Jackson Press Australia, Melbourne
"Crossroads", Broken Hill Regional Gallery, VIC
"Confluence", Warnambool Regional Gallery, VIC

AWARDS / COMMISSIONS

- 2020 Finalist, Adelaide Perry Prize for Drawing, Presbyterian Ladies' College, Sydney
- 2017 Finalist and People's Choice award, Adelaide Perry Drawing Prize, Presbyterian Ladies' College, Sydney
Finalist, Whyalla Art Prize, Country Arts South Australia, Port Adelaide
- 2016 Finalist, The Nillumbik Prize, Montsalvat, Melbourne
- 2013 Finalist, The Nillumbik Prize, Montsalvat, Melbourne
- 2012 Finalist, Fisher's Ghost Art Award, Campbelltown Arts Centre, NSW
- 2002 Pat Corrigan Artist's Grant (NAVA)

PUBLICATIONS

- 2020 "Scratching beneath the surface", Sasha Grishin, *Canberra Times*, 22 August
- 2019 "Many magical ways to use paper", Kerry-Anne Cousins, *Canberra Times*, 16 August
"Do More Art. INK", Bridget Davies, Laurence King Publishing Limited, London, UK
- 2018 "Under 10K", Helen McKenzie, Sydney Contemporary special edition, *Art Collector Magazine*
- 2017 "Melinda Schawel's Silver Lining exhibition at Beaver Galleries is attractive & charming", Sasha Grishin, *Canberra Times*, 13 November
"Higher Ground II", Anna Dunnill, *Art Guide*, May/June Issue
The Arts Show, Alex McCulloch, *100.7 FM radio* program & podcast, 9 March
"Exhibitions Not to Be Missed", Naomi Gall, *Art Collector Magazine*, Jan-Mar Issue 79
- 2016 *The Jealous Curator* blog by Danielle Krysa, July
- 2015 Sara Sweet, *Artist Profile Magazine*, Issue 33
"Two Unique Responses to Nature at Beaver", Sasha Grishin, *Canberra Times*, 5 June
- 2014 "Traverse", Marguerite Brown, *Artshub*
- 2012 Natalie Walton, *Daily Imprint*
- 2010 "Artists and Mothers Unite", Alison Hersh, *Savannanow*
- 2009 "Mothers Nurture Artwork", Emily Hartford, Spinnaker online
- 2006 *McColloch Encyclopedia of Australian Art*, 4th Edition
"Sign Language", Sean Payne, Sunbury Arts Blogspot
- 2003 "Lingua Franca – Kunst der Symbolik", Zurichsee Zeitung
- 2002 "Confluence and Crossroads", Di Waite, *Imprint*
"Shared Themes in Works on the Landscape", Sonia Barron, *Canberra Times*
- 1999 "Choice Views", Jeff Makin, *Herald Sun*

COLLECTIONS

National Gallery of Australia, Canberra; Artbank; Charles Sturt University, NSW; Geelong Regional Gallery, Vic; City of Whitehorse, Vic; City of Casey, Vic; Charles Sturt University, Wagga Wagga, NSW; Royal Museum of Fine Art, Antwerp, Belgium; Frans Masereel Centre of Graphic Arts, Belgium