

SARAH TOMASETTI

Sarah Tomasetti's work is distinguished by luminous fresco paintings that deal with glacial and mountainous landscapes in states of rapid change. She has gained substantial knowledge and training in the traditional methods of fresco, using materials that have been employed since antiquity. The fresco surfaces that form the basis of her work are made on a wall constructed with lime mortar and then detached by means of a cloth embedded early in the process. On these surfaces she paints landscapes, rendered through successive transparent layers of staining and encaustic wax. These landscapes seek to explore our shifting relationship with the natural world in an atmosphere of contemporary unease, and are at once both fragile and contemplative. "My relationship to landscape is an emotional one. I seek out locations and subjects that have traditionally been the vector of romantic longings and re-examine them through a lens inevitably loaded with dread of the rapid melt". The cracking within the surface of the paintings alludes to the process of "continual disintegration and reformation in nature" and is caused by the slow movement of moisture from the curing surface into the mass of the lime mortar wall. As Sarah explains, "Each work is an exploration of the complex interplay between the painted landscape and the fractal patterning that emerges randomly within the fresco skin."

In 2020 Sarah Tomasetti was awarded the prestigious John Leslie Art Prize for her painting of a Tibetan Mountain – 'Kailash from the Air' and was described by Gippsland Art Gallery director Simon Gregg as "a dazzling tour-de-force that draws you in". Sarah Tomasetti graduated from RMIT University and La Trobe University, Melbourne with a graduate diploma in Fine Art and Italian Studies in 1994. After graduating, Sarah undertook an internship in fresco painting at the Laboratorio per Affresco di Vainella in Italy and, on returning to Australia, completed a Masters in Fine Art at RMIT University. She has undertaken further residencies in China, Fiji, Italy and the USA and has numerous solo and group exhibitions to her name. Sarah also has work represented in a number of private and public collections including Artbank, Macquarie Bank, BHP Billiton and National Australia Bank.

BIOGRAPHY

- 1968 Born, Melbourne
- 1988 Bachelor of Fine Art, Drawing Major, Victoria College
- 1990 Independent Study at the University per Stranieri, Perugia, Italy
Bookbinding internship, Book Conservation Department, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, USA
6 month Artist-in-Residency in Fiji, Sociology Department, Monash University
- 1994 Graduate Diploma in Fine Art, RMIT University
Graduate Diploma in Italian Studies, La Trobe University
- 1994 6 month Fresco Painting internship, Laboratorio per Affresco di Vainella, Prato, Italy
- 1995 Professional Qualification in 'Tecnica Pittura Murale' at the Laboratorio per Affresco di Vainella, Prato, Italy
- 1999 Master of Arts in Fine Art, RMIT University
- 2012 Travel to China
- 2013 Travel to New Zealand
- 2018 Residency and Exhibition, The Art Vault, Mildura, Victoria
- 2018- Doctoral research project, RMIT University, Melbourne

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2022 "Celestial ground", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
- 2019 "Wayfaring", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
- 2018 "Postcard from the Roof of the World", Australian Galleries, Melbourne
"Silver Mountain", The Art Vault, Mildura, Vic
- 2016 "Influxus", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
- 2015 "Traverse", Janet Clayton Gallery, Sydney
- 2014 "Quiet/Disquiet", Australian Galleries, Melbourne
- 2013 "Surface of Last Scattering", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
- 2011 "At the Edge of the Known World", Wilson St Gallery at Danks, Sydney
- 2009 "Liminal", Wilson St Gallery, Sydney
- 2008 "Penumbra", Christine Abrahams Gallery, Melbourne
- 2006 "Between Worlds", Christine Abrahams Gallery, Melbourne
- 2004 "Nostalgia", Wagga Wagga Regional Art Gallery & Grafton Regional Gallery, NSW
- 2003 "Temporality", Christine Abrahams Gallery, Melbourne
- 2001 Christine Abrahams Gallery, Melbourne
- 1999 "Iconic Imprints", La Trobe Street Gallery, Melbourne
- 1996 "The Love and Water Series", BMG Art, Adelaide
- 1994 The Women's Gallery, Melbourne
- 1991 Dianne Tanzer Gallery, Melbourne

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2023 "Small works 2023", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
- 2022 "Birrarung: On the river", Chapman & Bailey, Melbourne
- 2020 "Groupings great and small", Australian Galleries, Melbourne
- 2019 "Paper walls", Glen Eira City Council Gallery, Melbourne
- 2018 "Small works", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
John Leslie Art Prize, Gippsland Art Gallery, Gippsland, VIC
"Herbaceous Borders", Curated by Kate Mizrahi Block Projects Melbourne
"Edge, An exhibition of Drawings", Langford 120, North Melbourne
- 2017 "Small works 2017", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
"Flow", Counihan Gallery, Melbourne
- 2016 "John Leslie Prize for Landscape", Gippsland Regional Art Gallery, Vic
"Three women went to China", Muswellbrook Regional Art Gallery, NSW
- 2015 "The Warming", art+climate=change event, Australian Galleries, Melbourne
- 2014 "Small works", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
"Transforming", Meijiang Gallery, Tianjin, China
John Leslie Prize for Landscape, Gippsland Art Gallery, Vic
Paul Guest Prize for Drawing, Bendigo Art Gallery, Vic
Melbourne Art Fair, Royal Exhibition Building, Melbourne (Beaver Galleries)
"Three women go to China", with Hanna Kay and Suzanne Archer, Muswellbrook Regional Arts Centre, NSW
"one of each", Australian Galleries, Melbourne
- 2013 "Fleurieu Prize for Landscape", Fleurieu, SA
The 42nd Muswellbrook Art Prize, Muswellbrook Regional Gallery, NSW
- 2012 "From Paper", Jane Clayton Gallery at Beijing, China
"Contemporary Australian Drawing 2: Drawing as notation, text and discovery", University for the Arts, London
"The Lure of the Landscape", Wilson St Gallery, Sydney
- 2011 "Salon des Refuses", S.H. Erwin Gallery, Sydney
"Intimate", Wilson St Gallery at Danks, Sydney
- 2010 "Something in the Air", 27 Gipps Street Richmond, Melbourne
"Contemporary Australian Drawings I", RMIT Gallery, Melbourne
"Magnetic Islands", Project Space RMIT University, Melbourne
"Salon des Refuses", S.H. Erwin Gallery, Sydney
- 2009 "Text", Wilson St Gallery, Sydney
"Same, same, but different", Kristian Pithie Gallery, Melbourne
- 2005 "ABN AMRO Emerging Artist Award Exhibition"
- 2003 "SixPlusOne", Chapel off Chapel, Melbourne Nillumbik Art Prize, Vic
- 2002 "Drawings from the Collection", Grafton Regional Gallery, NSW
- 2001 "INSAP III", Palermo, Italy
- 1999 "Jacaranda Acquisitive Drawing Award, Grafton Regional Gallery, NSW
"Retrospecta III", Pallas Society, Melbourne
- 1998 "RMIT Fine Art", Hong Kong Arts Centre, Hong Kong
"Hi/lo Exotico, Columbian Collaboration", Stop 22, Melbourne
"Le Panto", Chapel off Chapel, Melbourne
- 1997 "Retrospecta II", Pallas Society, Melbourne
- 1996 "Galleria de Commune, Monterchi, Italy
- 1995 "The Last Show", The Women's Gallery, Melbourne
- 1994 "Postgraduate Exhibition", Pitspace, RMIT University, Melbourne
"ACAF 4", Exhibition Buildings Melbourne
"Indwelling", Temple Studio, Melbourne
- 1990 "The Drawing Show", Reflections Gallery, Melbourne
"Open Door Exhibition: 52 Australian Painters", Sotheby's Australia
"Crowful", The Dianne Tanzer Gallery, Melbourne
- 1988 "York Street Print-makers", The York Street Gallery, Melbourne

AWARDS/COMMISSIONS

- 2020 Winner, John Leslie Art Prize, Gippsland Art Gallery, Vic
Finalist, Jacaranda Acquisitive Drawing Award, Grafton Regional Gallery, NSW
- 2018 Finalist, John Leslie Art Prize, Gippsland Art Gallery, Vic

- Shortlisted, Fleurieu Prize for Landscape, South Australia
2017 Invited, The Kedumba Drawing Award Orange Regional Gallery, NSW
2016 Shortlisted, John Leslie Prize for Landscape, Gippsland Art Gallery
2014 Shortlisted, Paul Guest Prize for Drawing, Bendigo Art Gallery
Shortlisted, John Leslie Prize for Landscape, Gippsland Art Gallery
2013 Shortlisted, Fleurieu Prize for Landscape, South Australia
The 42nd Muswellbrook Art Prize, Muswellbrook Regional Arts Centre NSW
2011 Selected, Salon des Refuses, SH Erwin Gallery, Sydney
Shortlisted, Tattersalls Landscape Prize, Brisbane
2010 Selected, Salon des Refuses, SH Erwin Gallery, Sydney
2009 Shortlisted The Heysen Prize, The Hahndorf Academy, Hahndorf, SA
2005 Shortlisted ABN AMRO Emerging Artist Award Exhibition
2003 Shortlisted, Nillumbik Art Prize, Nillumbik, VIC
1999 Acquired, Jacaranda Acquisitive Drawing Award, Grafton Regional Gallery, NSW

PUBLICATIONS

- 2022 "Be transported to a celestial realm", Sasha Grishin, *Canberra Times*, 19 February
2019 "Artist uses fresco technique for images of the sublime", Sasha Grishin, *Canberra Times*, 10 September
2018 Gorringe Smith, Kate. *Fragile Grandeur*, Catalogue Essay, May
2017 Gorringe Smith, Kate. *Review of Flow*. Imprint magazine May
2016 Art +Climate=Change Edited by Guy Abrahams, Bronwyn Johnson and Kelly Gellatly, Melbourne University Press
Catalogue Essay, Three women went to China, Luise Guest
"Plea to save the natural world", Sasha Grishin, *Canberra Times*, 14 May
2015 "Traverse" review, Louise Guest, *The Art Life*, November
2013 "It's all in the technique", Sasha Grishin, *The Canberra Times*, 1 April
2012 "Contemporary Australian Drawings", Janet McKenzie, McMillan
2010 "Around the Galleries", Dan Rule, *The Age*, 17 April
2008 "Heather Ellyard, On Sarah Tomasetti", *Wilson St Gallery magazine*, Summer issue 08/09
"Penumbra", Catalogue essay, Rachel Power
"The Divided Heart: Art and Motherhood", Rachel Power, Red Dog Books, Melbourne
2006 "Atmospheric pressure", Penny Webb, *The Age*, 13 November
"Between Worlds", Catalogue essay, Maurizio Toscano
2003 Review, Jeffrey Makin, *Herald Sun*, 15 February
2001 "Frescoes", Catalogue essay, Heather Ellyard
"Dealer's Shows: Melbourne", *The Art Newspaper*, Issue 116, July - August
1999 "Iconic Imprints", Catalogue essay, Heather Ellyard

COLLECTIONS

Artbank; Chartered Secretaries Australia; BHP Billiton; Macquarie Bank; National Australia Bank; Gippsland Art Gallery, Vic; Grafton Regional Gallery, NSW; Newcastle Regional Art Gallery, NSW; Sir Moses Montefiore Jewish Home, NSW; Muswellbrook Regional Arts Centre, NSW; Tamworth Regional Gallery, NSW.