

GRAEME TOWNSEND

Wildlife has been an inspiration to Graeme Townsend for over two decades, and his paintings and drawings reflect his love of the natural world and the visual treasures he finds there. His recent work continues to explore the issues arising in the meeting of man and nature - man's impact on the environment and how nature has responded to that impact. "My current work depicts how we have harnessed various animals over the years to do our bidding. Other works depict the mythology that we assigned to certain animals. There are references to where we came from such as the primates dreaming of reaching the stars and man's deep desire to fly, surely a desire we must have had as far back as mankind was able to wonder at the freedom of a bird." Graeme draws on fantasy and surrealism and takes inspiration from the works of Belgian surrealist, Rene Magritte, and German romantic and allegorical landscape painter, Caspar David Friedrich. A multitude of animals inhabit his landscapes of possibilities - each work a part of a bigger story - like illustrations accompanying a rare book of fables. The fine detail is mesmerising; a pigeon's wing feather, a water droplet on a leaf, a distant cloud. We are immediately drawn in by the pristine surfaces of the paintings, then compelled to weave the fragments of information into stories for ourselves.

Graeme Townsend was born in Sydney, and studied at both the Julian Ashton School and Alexander Mackie College. Since 1979, Graeme has undertaken painting and photographic expeditions to Borneo, Africa, Asia, America and outback Australia. In 1991, he was a lecturer in acrylic painting at the Julian Ashton school and has had many solo exhibitions in Sydney, Melbourne and Perth as well as the USA, Japan and Hong Kong. His work has been hung in the Sulman and Wynne prize exhibitions at the Art Gallery of NSW.

BIOGRAPHY

- 1954 Born Sydney
- 1973-74 Julian Ashton School, Sydney
- 1977-79 Alexander Mackie College, Sydney
- 1979 Painting and photographic expedition, Africa
Lecturer in Acrylic Painting, Drawing & Photography, Milperra C.A.E.
- 1982 Photographic expedition, Indonesia and Malaysia
- 1983 Photographic expedition to Kakadu National Park, NT
- 1984 Photographic expedition to Borneo
- 1987 Survey Tour USA, England, France, Italy and India
- 1989 Photographic Survey of Kakadu National Park, NT; Kimberley Coast and Ord River, WA
Photographic Survey Broken Hill districts, NSW
Photographic and Painting Survey of Western NSW
- 1991 Lecturer, Acrylic Painting, Julian Ashton School, Sydney

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2015 "Enjoy the silence", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
BMG Gallery, Adelaide
- 2010 Christopher Day Gallery, Sydney
- 2009 Beaver Galleries, Canberra
- 2007 Christopher Day Gallery, Sydney
- 2005 "The magic rabbit & other recent works", Christopher Day Gallery, Sydney
- 2004 "Painted Word", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
- 2003 Christopher Day Gallery, Sydney
- 2002 Port Jackson Fine Art, Laguna, USA
- 2001 Port Jackson Fine Art, Laguna, USA
- 2000 "Shoreline @ Tribe", Barry Stern Galleries, Sydney
- 1998 "Twenty five small paintings", Barry Stern Galleries, Sydney
- 1997 "Vatulele", Barry Stern Galleries, Sydney
- 1995 Works on paper, Eddie Glastra Galleries, Sydney
Greythorn Galleries, Melbourne
- 1994 Sogo Chiba, Japan
- 1992 Barry Stern Galleries, Sydney
- 1990 Perth Galleries, Perth
- 1988 Works On Paper, Barry Stern Galleries, Sydney
Barry Stern Galleries, Sydney
- 1985 Barry Stern Galleries, Sydney
- 1982 Barry Stern Galleries, Sydney

- 1981 Asian Art Gallery, Hong Kong
1980 Barr Stern Galleries, Sydney
1979 Barry Stern Galleries, Sydney
1976 Terry Divola Galleries, Sydney
1975 Terry Divola Galleries, Sydney
1974 Terry Divola Galleries, Sydney
1973 Terry Divola Galleries, Sydney

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2018 South Australian Living Artists (SALA) Exhibition, Artworx Gallery, Goolwa, SA
Christopher Day Gallery, Sydney
- 2017 "Small works 2017", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
BMG Gallery, Adelaide
- 2016 BMG Gallery, Adelaide
Christopher Day Gallery, Sydney
- 2014 "Small works", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
"Through the mirror ball", BMG Gallery, Adelaide
Christopher Day Gallery, Sydney
- 2013 Christopher Day Gallery, Sydney
- 2012 "Small Works", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
- 2011 Christopher Day Gallery, Sydney
- 2009 Greythorn Galleries, Melbourne
- 2008 Christopher Day Gallery, Sydney
Greythorn Galleries, Melbourne
- 2006 Melbourne Art Fair (Beaver Galleries)
- 2004 Melbourne Art Fair 2004 (Beaver Galleries)
- 2003 William Merrill Gallery, California, U.S.A.
- 2002 Melbourne Art Fair (Beaver Galleries)
- 1996 "Works on Paper", Barry Stern Galleries, Sydney
- 1995 "Palm Beach", Barry Stern Galleries, Sydney
- 1994 Tokyo Art Fair, Japan
Greythorn Galleries, Melbourne
Fourth Australian Contemporary Art Fair, Melbourne
Shareart Galleries, Tokyo, Japan
- 1993 Greythorn Galleries, Melbourne
"Julian Ashton Alumni", Julian Ashton School, Sydney
Beaver Galleries, Canberra
W.I.R.E.S, Museum of Natural History, Sydney
"The Famous Five", Jill Richards Gallery, Sydney
- 1992 Alliance Francaise, Sydney
W.I.R.E.S, Museum of Natural History, Sydney
Survey exhibition, Contemporary Drawing, Julian Ashton School, Sydney
The Rocks Centre, Sydney
- 1989 Barry Stern Galleries, Sydney
Schubert Galleries, Brisbane
Perth Galleries, Perth
Dempster Galleries, Melbourne
- 1987 "New Horizons", Cultural Centre, Los Angeles USA
Munson Galleries, Santa Fe, New Mexico, USA
"Survey of Australian Contemporary Art", Hong Kong Cultural Centre, Hong Kong
Munson Gallery, Cape Cod, Massachusetts, USA
- 1985 Crispo Galleries, New York, USA
Sulman Prize, Art Gallery of NSW
- 1983 Barry Stern Galleries, Sydney
- 1982 Wynne Prize, Art Gallery of NSW
- 1981 Sulman Prize, Art Gallery of NSW
Wynne Prize, Art Gallery of NSW

- 1979 Contemporary survey of Australian Artists, Adelaide Festival of Arts
1978 Selected Student Work, Alexander Mackie College, Sydney
Hogarth Galleries, Sydney
The Sydney Gallery, Sydney
1972 Willoughby Galleries, Sydney.

AWARDS / COMMISSIONS

- 1986 40 Works on paper commissioned by Ansett Airlines of Australia for Hayman Island Resort
Major work and print series based on the America's Cup Challenge, Perth commissioned by IMG (USA)
1981 Nine murals commissioned by M.E.P.C for the foyer of the Sydney Stock Exchange

PUBLICATIONS

- 2009 "Disturbing surrealism", Sasha Grishin, *Canberra Times*, 12 November
2004 "Graeme Townsend - Local Artist", Colleen Duncan, *South Coast and Country*, Summer edition
"Work leaves beholders perplexed and amused", Sasha Grishin, *The Canberra Times*, May 14
1997 "Wildlife inspires artist to defy blindness", Tony Stephens, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 18 October
1987 *New Art One*, Nevill Drury, Craftsman House
1982 front cover of *The Bulletin*

COLLECTIONS

Benalla Regional Gallery Vic; Milperra C.A.E, NSW; M.E.P.C., Sydney; QANTAS, Sydney; TCN Nine, Sydney; Mobil, Sydney; Taffs; Peko Wallsend; Barkus Pearson; Wesfarmers, WA; Kerry Stokes, WA; Kennedy Miller Productions; Covers Collection; Agha Kahn, Paris, France; Bunker Hunt, USA; Matrix, Canada; Rose Corp; Mirvac, Sydney; Hayman Island Resort, Qld; Ansett Airlines Aust; James Hardie; Bell Group, WA; Morgan & Banks; Hanna Match; Bensons; Key West; J. Brenda Collection; Crown Casino, Melbourne; Lord McAlpine, United Kingdom