

PETER VANDERMARK

Peter Vandermark is a Canberra based artist whose practice explores the interplay between function and form. Interested in the way in which life and art integrate both on the domestic and public level, Peter's work incorporates elements inspired by architecture, furnishings, models, maquettes and design. His carefully constructed pieces are created through the repurposing of found objects resulting in both recognisable and abstract forms. Old chairs, wooden toys, signage and ducting, amongst other remnants of our daily lives, are broken down and reassembled, painted and transformed. As he says "my practice is devoted to exploring the implications of the designed environment on human spatial ecology, that is, the scale, dimensions and textures of inhabitation. Sculpture is always a study in proxemics, human proxemics." Art critic Professor Sasha Grishin says of his work "...Vandermark has established for himself a reputation as one of the most provocative, inventive, witty, cerebral yet challenging sculptors of his time. There is a refined elegance in his creations while beneath the immaculate façade there is a certain toughness tinged with the feeling of unease. While it is fashionable amongst a generation of younger sculptors to create objects which achieve a high level of fidelity to natural appearances in unusual materials, Vandermark is not primarily concerned with such trompe l'oeil strategies. In his work it is more important to seduce the eye then trick the mind into discovering a new and quite often troubling social reality."

Peter Vandermark graduated with a Bachelor of Visual Arts from the Australian National University, School of Art in 1989. He has exhibited widely since graduating and his works are in several major collections including the National Gallery of Australia, ACT Legislative Assembly, Australian National University and the Canberra Museum and Gallery. Peter's sculpture has been included in the Canberra Art Biennial (formerly Contour 556) in 2016, 2020 and 2022. He worked as a studio assistant to Rosalie Gascoigne for many years and continues to work professionally in several areas of the arts. Peter will have his first solo exhibition with Beaver Galleries in March 2023.

BIOGRAPHY

- 1960 Born, Melbourne
1989 Bachelor of Visual Art, Honours, School of Art, Australian National University

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2023 "Bricolage", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
2019 "Peter Vandermark", Olsen Gruin, New York
2015 "Peter Vandermark" Pop Up: Drill Hall Gallery ANU, Canberra
2014 "Modulation", Canberra Contemporary Art Space, Canberra
"New Work", Tim Olsen Gallery, Sydney
2011/12 "Conversation Piece", Canberra Museum & Gallery, Canberra
2008 "New Work", Tim Olsen Gallery, Sydney
2007 "Babble", Helen Maxwell Gallery, Canberra
2004 "Recent Past", Tim Olsen Gallery, Sydney
"Future Perfect", Canberra Museum & Gallery, Canberra
2000 "Peter Vandermark - New Work", Ben Grady Gallery, Canberra
1998 "Cold Comfort", C M & Shopfront (Selected Project, Canberra National Sculpture Forum), Canberra
1996 "Riven Skin", Ether Ohne Titel, Melbourne
1995 "Chamber", Galerie Fred (Selected Project, Canberra National Sculpture Forum), Canberra

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2023 "Small works 2023", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
2022 Deakin University Contemporary Small Sculpture Award, Melbourne
Canberra Art Biennial, Canberra
2021 Lethbridge 20000 Small Scale Art Award; Lethbridge Gallery, Brisbane
2020 "Contour 556", Canberra
2019 "3 Sculptors 3 Rooms", Straithnairn Woolshed Gallery
2018 "Small works", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
"The Point", Nishi Gallery, Canberra
2017 Woollahra Small Sculpture Prize, Woollahra Council Chambers, Sydney
"Sydney Contemporary", Olsen Gallery, Sydney
CGS Harris Hobbs Outdoor Sculpture Prize, Canberra Grammar School (Winning entry), Canberra
"Guirguis New Art Prize17", The Art Gallery Ballarat, Ballarat VIC
"10 Years Collecting at the ANU", ANU Drill Hall Gallery, Canberra
Deakin University Contemporary Small Sculpture Award, Deakin University, Melbourne

- 2016 "Contour 556", Canberra
"602 Melbourne Art Fair", Olsen Irwin Gallery, Melbourne
Deakin University Contemporary Small Sculpture Award, Deakin University, Melbourne
- 2015 "Space: Peter Vandermark & Kael Stasce", The Garage, Canberra
Deakin University Contemporary Small Sculpture Award, Deakin University, Melbourne
- 2014 "2x4 Canberra Mentorship Exhibition", ANU School of Art Foyer Gallery, Canberra
Woollahra Small Sculpture Prize, Woollahra Council Chambers, Sydney
CGS Small Sculpture Prize, Canberra Grammar School, Canberra
- 2013 Deakin University Contemporary Small Sculpture Award, Deakin University, Melbourne
"Making Tracks, School of Art Alumni exhibition", School of Art Gallery, Canberra
"Festival of the Word", Canberra Centenary Event, Canberra
- 2012 Deakin University Contemporary Small Sculpture Award, Deakin University, Melbourne
- 2011 Deakin University Contemporary Small Sculpture Award, Deakin University, Melbourne
"A Gleam of Light", Helen Maxwell Gallery @ M16, Canberra
- 2010 "Something in the air: Collage and assemblage in Canberra region art", Canberra Museum & Gallery, Canberra
Woollahra Small Sculpture Prize, Woollahra Council Chambers, Sydney
"Sculpture 2010", Tim Olsen Gallery, Sydney
- 2009 "Soft Sculpture", National Gallery of Australia, Canberra
- 2008 Woollahra Small Sculpture Prize, Woollahra Council Chambers, Sydney
- 2007 "Domain 07: Public Art Project", Canberra
- 2006 "Selekta", West Space, Melbourne
"Someone Shows Something to Someone", Canberra Contemporary Art Space, Canberra
- 2005 "Dimensions Variable", Canberra Contemporary Art Space, Canberra
"Into the Quadrangle", RMIT Project Space & Spare Room, Melbourne
- 2004 CCAS Contemporary Art Award, Canberra Contemporary Art Space, Canberra
- 2003 Woollahra Small Sculpture Prize, Woollahra Council Chambers, Sydney
- 2001 "Desire", R.M.I.T Gallery, Melbourne

AWARDS / COMMISSIONS

- 2017 CGS Harris Hobbs Outdoor Sculpture Prize, Canberra Grammar School, Canberra

PUBLICATIONS

- 2023 "Unlikely, curious and immaculate", Sasha Grishin, *Canberra Times*, 11 March 2023
- 2016 "At home with Peter Vandermark", Ashley Feraude, *This is Canberra*, 24 July 2016 <https://thisiscanberra.com/at-home-with-peter-vandermark/4975/>,
- 2011 "Peter Vandermark", Sasha Grishin, *Australian Art Review*, issue 29, Sep-Oct 2011

COLLECTIONS

ACT Legislative Assembly, Canberra; Allied Group, Melbourne; Artbank; Australian National University, Canberra; Canberra Museum & Gallery, Canberra; National Gallery of Australia, Canberra.