

May 2019

## Amy Dynan

Water' is a solo exhibition of drawings inspired by Dynan's recent art residencies in France, Iceland and Norway. Venturing deep into these dramatic landscapes Dynan explores the movement of water as a symbol for who and what we are. In this series, the dynamics of light and shade are a metaphor for the opposites in nature and in ourselves, resulting in landscapes that hover between real and surreal, material and ethereal.

*"My charcoal drawing practice merges photorealism with abstract sensibilities to explore the beauty of being alive. For me, the dynamics of light and shade in my drawings are a metaphor for the opposites in nature. Light and darkness are interdependent – one unfolds ceaselessly out of the other.*

*The basis for my practice is drawing as a meditative and experiential state of Being. I feel most alive when drawing. For me, the drawing process is deeply calming. The repetitive, labour intensive and time-consuming method forces me to be still—a repetition of tiny movements through which the pace of my mind slows to meet the rhythm of my body.*

*My practice currently centres on the still life, one of the most enduring forms in art that typically depicts objects carrying symbolic and allegorical themes that poignantly speak to the transience of life. Of particular enamour is Vanitas painting—a visual commentary of motifs that capture the fragility and fullness of being alive. Of fascination to me is the performative level to which the message is inverted through the symbolism. I endeavour to bring the vanitas still life into the contemporary through a sumptuous feast of imagery, merging abstract sensibilities with photorealism—the intention for my work is always a celebration of the everyday majesty around us."*

- Amy Dynan, 2019.

## Bio

Dynan, an award-winning early-career artist, has been recognised for her nuanced balance between conceptual rigour and classical drawing skills. Following a "tree-change" to Wagga Wagga in 2012, Dynan pursued her love of drawing and held her first exhibition, an experience which gave her the push to take things further.

Upon returning to Sydney, Dynan pursued a [Master of Contemporary Art](#) and [Master of Fine Arts](#) at Sydney College of the Arts to develop the conceptual undercurrent of her practice.

*"As a visual artist, research can offer a deeper, more profound connection to the significance of one's own art practice in a field beyond the studio. I knew that my passion for drawing, combined with rigorous institutional and art world scrutiny and support would provide the necessary framework to further my aesthetic."*

Amy Dynan sees drawing as a fundamental means of expression that is often overlooked as a preparatory stage in lieu of master artworks and is driven to continue to contribute to contemporary drawing in Australia.

*"For me, it is the most intuitive stage of the creative process and I want to continue to bring awareness to drawing as the veritable art form that it is. My charcoal drawing practice merges photorealism with abstract sensibilities and explores the beauty of being alive."*

# Stanley Street gallery

Most recently Dynan has exhibited at Sydney Contemporary Art Fair and was this year was selected as finalist in the Dobell Drawing Prize 2019, an acquisitive award and major exhibition that explores the enduring importance of drawing within contemporary art practice.

Amy Dynan's solo exhibition *Water*, is on display at Stanley Street Gallery from 26 June – 20 July 2019.

## CV

### EDUCATION

- 2017 Master of Fine Arts, Sydney College of the Arts , University of Sydney
- 2014 Master of Contemporary Art, Sydney College of the Arts, University of Sydney
- 2008 Bachelor of Arts - Art History & Theory, University of Sydney

### SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2019 Water Solo Exhibition, Stanley Street Gallery (forthcoming 26 June -13 July 2019)
- 2017 Draw the Light, Solo Exhibition, Bondi Pavilion Gallery
- 2013 Displacement Wagga Wagga Art Gallery
- 2012 Solitude, Docker Street Gallery, Wagga Wagga

### GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2019 Séance, Stanley Street Gallery, curated by Sean Morris (March 2020)
- 2019 Dobell Drawing Prize, exhibition of finalists (28 March-25 May)
- 2019 Adelaide Perry Drawing Prize, exhibition of finalists (1-29 March)
- 2018 Sgraffito, Saint Cloche Gallery (14-25 November 2018)
- 2018 Lifeblood Square1 Studios, Grace Cossington Gallery
- 2018 Sydney Contemporary Art Fair, Carriageworks (12-16 Sept 2018)
- 2018 Adelaide Perry Drawing Prize, exhibition of finalists
- 2017 Ravenswood Australian Women's Art Prize, exhibition of finalists
- 2017 Stanley Street Gallery, group exhibition
- 2017 SCA Postgraduate Degree Exhibition, MFA, Sydney College of the Arts
- 2016 Myself Art Prize, exhibition of finalists Jugglers Art Space QLD
- 2016 Hornsby Art Prize, exhibition of finalists
- 2016 Marie Ellis OAM Prize for Drawing, Jugglers Art Space QLD
- 2016 Warringah Art Prize, exhibition of finalists
- 2016 Salon of Infectious Ideas, Stanley Street Gallery
- 2016 Swan Hill Print & Drawing Acquisitive Awards, Swan Hill Regional Art Gallery
- 2015 Portraits, Stanley Street Gallery, Darlinghurst
- 2015 We Get By, Cooks Hill Gallery, Newcastle
- 2015 Inspired, HVGS Art Prize Exhibition
- 2014 Works on Paper, Stanley Street Gallery, Darlinghurst
- 2014 St George Art Awards, exhibition of finalists
- 2014 SCA Postgraduate Degree Exhibition, Sydney College of the Arts
- 2013 Black Swan Prize for Portraiture Linton & Kay Gallery, Perth
- 2013 Mortimore Art Prize, exhibition of finalists
- 2013 Wagga Wagga Art Prize
- 2012 Mortimore Art Prize, exhibition of finalists
- 2012 Wagga Wagga Art Prize
- 2012 Raw, Art Lounge Gallery, Wagga Wagga

**RESIDENCIES & SCHOLARSHIPS & GRANTS**

- 2018 Recipient CREATENSW Professional Development Grant
- 2018 KUNSTNARHUSET MESSEN Artist in Residence, ÅLVIK, Norway, July 2018
- 2018 DRAWInternational Artist in Residence, Caylus, France, May 2018
- 2017 Hill End Artist in Residence Program, December 2017
- 2016 Winner, Zelda Stedman Young Artist Scholarship 2016, University of Sydney
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**AWARDS & PRIZES**

- 2019 Finalist, Dobell Drawing Prize
- 2019 Finalist, Adelaide Perry Drawing Prize
- 2018 Finalist, Adelaide Perry Drawing Prize
- 2017 Finalist, Ravenswood Australian Women's Art Prize
- 2016 Winner, Myself Art Prize, Jugglers Art Space
- 2016 Finalist Hornsby Art Prize
- 2016 Finalist, Marie Ellis OAM Prize for Drawing
- 2016 Finalist, Swan Hill Print & Drawing Acquisitive Awards
- 2014 Finalist St George Art Awards
- 2013 Semi-Finalist, Doug Moran National Portrait Prize
- 2013 Finalist, Black Swan Prize for Portraiture
- 2013 Finalist, Mortimore Art Prize
- 2012 Winner, Wagga Wagga Art Prize
- 2012 Winner, Drawing Section, Wagga Wagga Art Prize
- 2012 Finalist, Mortimore Art Prize