

February 2019

Denis Clarke

Artist Statement

This Exhibition involves my ongoing dialogue with drawing and painting from nature and the urban environment. Active engagement with a process of looking, through drawing, illuminates the inherent potential for inventing compositions in colour.

I am interested in looking at reality and nature through the act of drawing as a way of engaging and understanding the unique characteristics that nature holds. The most unexpected insights and even inspiration can spring from the seemingly everyday....Colours, tones, shapes and form, previously unseen or imagined maybe there, waiting to be activated.

Intuition and the 'composition of one's self', such as, moods, feelings and ideas surely play an important part in informing my work.

Bio

Denis was awarded The NSW Travelling Art Scholarship, while studying at the Alexander Mackie CAE and National Art School in Sydney, 1974. He was invited to participate in the 90th Birthday Exhibition for Desiderius Orban at The Bondi Pavilion Gallery and was also included in The Macquarie Galleries annual Young Painters exhibitions 1973/74. He proceeded to London to study painting at Saint Martins School of Art in 1975 and was also awarded The Cite International des Arts studio in Paris.

From 1983 he set up a studio in North West London for 15 years, teaching at the Camden School of Art and exhibiting notably in '50 years of British Drawing', Gillian Jason Gallery 1986, The Boundary Gallery, 1988/94, London, James Colman Fine Art, 95/2000 London and Gallerie Ursula Wiedenkeller, Zurich as well as creating set designs and costumes for the experimental Opera Factory, in Zurich and London.

He has exhibited widely both in Australia and internationally and has been represented in numerous Art Fairs including 'Line Art, Ghent', The Brussels Art Fair, The 20th Century British Art Fair, Royal College of Art, and The Islington Art Fair.

On his return to Australia in 1998 he became a sessional lecturer in Drawing at the National Art School until 2010. Since then he has been engaged on the Dobell School.

He is represented by The Stanley Street Gallery, Sydney and James Colman in the UK. exhibiting 'The Force of Nature' Stanley Street Gallery- 2015 and painting and exhibiting at James Colman's Core Event 'Paint Out' Festival Norwich, UK. In 2015. He was also invited to exhibit at 'In The Field', Macquarie University Gallery, 2016.

Since returning to Sydney in 1998 Denis has been an active exhibitor with the Australian Watercolour Institute at The Gosford Regional Gallery and Juniper Hall, Sydney

Collections include: The Art Gallery of NSW, Lloyds of London, The Fitzwilliam College Cambridge, UK

Stanley Street gallery

CV

After completing a Diploma in Art Education at the National Art School and Alexander Mackie College in Sydney in 1975, Denis Clarke was awarded the NSW Travelling Art Scholarship and Moya Dyring residency at the Cite International des Arts in Paris. He progressed to postgraduate studies in London at the St Martins School of Art, Byam Shaw and Morley College and set up a studio in north London. From 1975 to 1998, Denis lived and exhibited in London and Switzerland, teaching at the Camden School of Art and the Hamptead School of Art, London and exhibiting most notably in London at Gillian Jason Gallery, Boundary Gallery and three one-man shows at James Colman Gallery, Knightsbridge.

In 1998 Denis returned to live and paint in Sydney and exhibited regularly at the Harris Courtin Gallery. He is currently represented by the Stanley Street Gallery. In 2003 Denis was awarded the Blackfriars Drawing Acquisitive. He has collaborated with several premier arts organizations such as Opera Factory in London and Switzerland, Warwickshire Arts Festival in the UK, and most recently as the artist in residence at Wollombi Valley Arts Council.

Denis has been a sessional lecturer at the National Art School, Sydney, from 1999-2010 and tutored the Dobell School at the NAS from 2011-18. He runs master classes and schools at the Mitchell School of Art, Charles Sturt University, Bathurst, the McGregor School, University of Southern Queensland, Cooe Bay Artists Camp, Yagoon, Queensland. He is represented in private and public collections in Europe and Australia, including The Art Gallery of New South Wales, Fitzwilliam College Cambridge and Lloyds of London.

Solo Exhibitions

- 2015 Stanley Street Gallery, Sydney
- 2011 Wollombi Valley Arts Council, residency and exhibition 'City Full Stop Bush'
- 2008 Harris Courtin Gallery, Sydney.
- 2004 Harris Courtin Gallery, Sydney.
- 2002 Harris Courtin Gallery, Sydney
- 2001 Harris Courtin Gallery, Sydney.
- 2000 James Colman Fine Art, 'In Colour', London.
- 1997 James Colman Fine Art, 'New Work', London.
- 1995 James Colman Fine Art, 'Old Lands New Visions', London.
- 1991 The Tan Galerie, Zurich, Switzerland.
- 1989 Galerie Ursula Wieden Keller, Zurich, Switzerland.
- 1986 DM Gallery, Dover Street, London.
- 1984 Mini Galerie, Schaffhausen, Switzerland.
- 1983 The New South Wales House Gallery, London.
The Klein Theatre, 'Stage and Costume Drawings', Lucerne, Switzerland.
- 1981 The Holdsworth Galleries, Sydney.
- 1978 The New South Wales House Gallery, London.

Selected Group Exhibitions

- 2016 'In the Field', Drawings and Field Notes, Macquarie University Art Gallery.
- 2016/18 92nd Exhibition of The AWI, Goford Regional Gallery, NSW.
- 2015 'Paint Out' Norwich, U.K.
- 2015 91st Exhibition of The AWI, Juniper Hall, Paddington Sydney.
- 2014 Stanley Street Gallery 'Works on Paper'
- 2013 The Gosford Regional Gallery, NSW AWI 90th Anniversary Exhibition.
- 2013 Stanley Street Gallery, Christmas Exhibition, Gallery Artists.
- 2013 Artsite Gallery, Salon Christmas Exhibition.
- 2013 The Stanley Street Gallery 'Works on Paper' 3 Artists
- 2012 Artsite Gallery, Sydney. 'Stilled Life'
- Artsite Gallery, Sydney. 'Sydney Mix'
- Taiwan Academy of Art, Australian Watercolour Exchange Exhibition
- Gosford Regional Gallery, Australian Watercolour Institute Anniversary Exhibition
- 2011 Mosman Art Gallery, Australian Watercolour Institute, 88th Anniversary Exhibition
- 2010 Wollongong Regional Art Gallery, Australian Watercolour Institute.
- 2009 Gosford Regional Art Gallery, Australian Watercolour Institute.
- Eastgate and Holst, Gallery Artists, Melbourne.
- 2008 Mosman Art Gallery, Australian Watercolour Institute, 85th Anniversary Exhibition.
- 2007 The Salthouse, 'Spirit of The Times', Norfolk, UK.
- 2006 Charles Sturt University, Visiting Tutors Summer School Exhibition.
- James Colman Gallery, Group Eight, Norwich, UK.
- 2005 Harris Courtin Gallery, 'Gallery Artists', Sydney.
- National Art School, 'Walking the Line', National Art School Academic Staff.
- 2004 Melbourne Art Fair by Dagmar Art Consultants.
- 2003 2003 Blackfriars Acquisitive Drawing Award touring exhibition.
- 2002 Harris Courtin Gallery, 'Gallery Artists', Sydney.
- 2001 Harris Courtin Gallery, 'Gallery Artists', Sydney.
- 2000 National Art School, Exhibition of Lecturers, Sydney.
- 1999 Brussels Art Fair, James Colman Fine Art.
- 1998 James Colman Fine Art, 'Along the Line: A Drawing Inquiry', London.
- 1995-8 Line Art, Ghent, James Colman Fine Art, Belgium.
- 1995-7 Art 95, Art 96, Art 97, James Colman Fine Art, Islington, London.
- 1995 20th Century British Art Fair, James Colman Fine Art, London.
- 1994 Alexandra Palace, Exhibition of Judges Work, London.
- 1993 Boundary Gallery, 'Winter Exhibition - Four Painters', London.
- Art 93, Boundary Gallery, London.
- 1992 Gallery Savah, 'Three Australian Painters', Sydney.
- 1990 Boundary Gallery, 'Gallery Artists', London.
- International Contemporary Art Fair, Olympia, London.
- 1989 Boundary Gallery, 'Gallery Artists', London.

Stanley Street gallery

- International Contemporary Art Fair, Olympia, London.
- 1988 'Australia Observed' Three person show The Boundary Gallery, London.
- 1986 Gillian Jason Gallery, '50 Years of British Drawing', London.
- 1980 New South Wales House Gallery, 'Australian Artists of Fame and Promise', London.
- 1979 9th International Exhibition, Art Actuel, Belgium.
- 1978 Morley Gallery, Annual Exhibition, London.
- 1974 Macquarie Galleries, 'Young Painters', Sydney.
Bondi Pavillion Gallery, Desiderius Orban: Commemorative Exhibition.
- 1973 Macquarie Galleries, 'Young Painters', Sydney.

Selected Bibliography

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