

Curriculum Vitae

JAMES DRINKWATER

Lives and works in Newcastle, NSW, Australia

EDUCATION

Fine Arts, National Art School in Darlinghurst, Sydney, Australia 2003
Ron Hartree Art School, Newcastle, Australia 1992-2002

HIGHLIGHTS

Winner

Brett Whiteley Traveling Scholarship (2014)
Marten Bequest Traveling Scholarship (2011)
John Olsen National Art School Life Drawing Prize (2002)

Finalist

Wynne Prize (2018, 2014-15)
Sulman Prize (2016)
Dobell Drawing Prize (2011)

Collections

Thyssen-Bornemisza National Museum, Madrid, Spain

Solo Exhibitions

2023 At Mid Career, Survey Exhibition, The Drill Hall Gallery, Australian National University, Canberra
2019 The Sea Calls Me by Name, 10 year survey, Newcastle Art Gallery

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2025 Anchored by the Sun, Nanda\Hobbs, Sydney
Kick Hard off the Ocean Floor, Edwina Corlette Gallery

2024 Child at the Met and other Journals, Nicholas Thompson Gallery at Melbourne Art Fair

2024 École des Arts - Somewhere just outside Toulouse, Nanda\Hobbs, Sydney
Somewhere Between the Sea and the Table, Vigo Gallery, Wellington Arch Museum, London
Fronte Oceano, Aotearoa Art Fair, New Zealand, (Nanda\Hobbs, Sydney)

2023 AMERICAN SALT – Montauk to the Bowery, Nanda\Hobbs, Sydney

2023 At Mid Career, Survey Exhibition, The Drill Hall Gallery, Australian National University, Canberra

2023 At Mid Career, Survey Exhibition, The Drill Hall Gallery, Australian National University, Canberra

2023 Dobell's storm, an exhibition of Sets, Costumes and media from the ballet, MAC Museum, Lake Macquarie

2023 Passage, Survey Exhibition, NCCA Northern Centre for Contemporary Art, Darwin

2023 You could just make a painting and write it all in there, Edwina Corlette, Brisbane

- 2022 Sand drawings and other tropes, Nicholas Thompson Gallery, Melbourne
- 2022 Tesoro Mio, Nanda/Hobbs, Sydney
- 2022 The Boxer, round 2 / Old photos make me cry, Newcastle University Gallery, Newcastle
- 2021 I love you so much I can't stop saying goodbye, Nicholas Thompson Gallery, Melbourne
- 2021 The Boxer/When I was younger I said my prayers, Nanda/Hobbs, Sydney
- 2020 I love you more than paintings, Nicholas Thompson Gallery, Melbourne
- 2020 A day by the sea, Informality - Henley on Thames, Oxfordshire, UK
- 2019 I love you to pieces then back together again, Nanda/Hobbs, Sydney Contemporary
- 2019 The Sea Calls Me by Name, 10 year survey, Newcastle Art Gallery
- 2018 Looking for Urchins and Louis Ferrari, Nanda/Hobbs, Sydney
- 2017 In the Halls of my Youth, The LockUp, Newcastle
- 2017 Rungli Rungliot, Australian High Commission, Singapore
- 2016 An entire life, from the interior, NKN Gallery, Melbourne
- 2016 We are clumsy now on this Southern Beach, New works from the South of France, Nanda\Hobbs, Sydney
- 2015 Every Pigeon in Paris became a Dove, New work from Paris, Peta O'Brien Contemporary Art, London
- 2015 In the Arms of Moreton Figs, Gallery 9, Sydney
- 2014 The boy cried STORM!!! NKN Gallery, Melbourne
- 2014 The boy and the ballet, Damien Minton Gallery, Sydney
- 2012 The Ocean Parade, Damien Minton Gallery, Sydney
- 2012 Home Stretch, Cooks Hill Galleries, Newcastle
- 2011 Nostalgia for Nothing, Damien Minton Gallery, Sydney
- 2010 Brooding Town, Iain Dawson Gallery, Sydney
- Postage Paid Australia, Berlin, Cooks Hill Galleries, Newcastle
- 2009 Poor Boy, Fortyfive Downstairs, Melbourne
- 2004 New Paintings, Maunsell Wickes, Sydney
- Vintage, Damien Minton Gallery, Newcastle

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2026 Sulman Prize, Art Gallery of NSW [finalist]
Aotearoa Art Fair, New Zealand, Nanda\Hobbs
- 2025 Stab a Painting with a Sculpture, Braddon Snape Collaboration, Straightjacket Artspace, Newcastle, NSW
- 2024 Armory Show, New York, Vigo Gallery (London, UK)
Rue de Fleurus, George Benias Gallery, Athens, Greece
A Dream about a Horse, Vito Gallery, London, UK
Sydney Contemporary, Carriageworks, Sydney, Nanda\Hobbs
Mastering Disorder, Cadet Capela, Paris, France (with Bill Saylor, Jordy Kerwick, Umut Yasat and Humberto Poblete-Bustamante
New Abstractions, Fred Levine Gallery, London, UK
In the Parlour Room, Lottie and James, Turn, New York
- 2023 Untitled Miami, Vigo Gallery (London, UK)
- 2022 Singing in unison - Curated by Phong H. Bui and Cal McKeever. Brooklyn, New York.
- 2019 Post cards from twin peaks, Paul Ryan and James Drinkwater
- 2018 Black Diamond Money, Byron School of Arts
Couplings, Dominik Mersch Gallery, Sydney
Sweetness of The New, The Yellow House Gallery, curated by Stepping into Tomorrow
- 2017 Works on paper, Beers Gallery London
Sydney Contemporary, Nanda\Hobbs

- Spring Art fair 1883, NKN Gallery
 Into Abstraction II, Macquarie University Gallery
 2014 Paperweight, Newcastle Art Gallery
 2013 Sydney Contemporary Art Fair, Damien Minton Gallery
 Working Newcastle, University of Newcastle
 Marked, Cessnock Regional Art Gallery
 2012 Young Collectors, John Buckley Gallery Melbourne
 Traces, Leipzig Art Fair, Germany
 The Great Australian Landscape, Tim Olsen Gallery
 2010 A Perfect Day to Chase Tornados (White), Berlin

SELECTED COLLECTIONS

Artbank
 Art Gallery of New South Wales
 Allens Law Firm
 Bendigo Art Gallery
 HOTA Gold Coast
 MRAG
 Macquarie Bank
 Macquarie University
 Monash University
 Newcastle Art Gallery
 Schnable Collection New York
 Thyssen-Bornemisza National Museum, Madrid, Spain
 University of Newcastle
 Warner Music Australia

COMMISSIONS / COLLABORATIVE WORKS

- 2022 Storm approaching Wangi - and other desires. A new ballet. Lake Mac Arts Pavilion
 MAP MIMA
 2016 - 2017 Walking With Giants - Monash University sculpture, Clayton campus, Melbourne
 2017 Alpha60 x James Drinkwater, Capsule Collection

RESIDENCIES

- 2023 DESA, Ubud, Indonesia
 2018 Newington Boys College, Artist in residence
 2017 Tahiti (self directed)
 2015 Brett Whiteley travelling scholarship, Cité Internationale des Arts Paris
 2014 HMRI Artist in resident
 2013 Lake Macquarie City Gallery, in conjunction with Christo: John Kaldor Family collection
 artist rooms
 2012 Titjikala Art Centre NT (National art School)
 2012 Freestone print studio, Gippsland, Victoria
 2012 Familia Moja Children's Home, Mangu, Kenya
 2011 Leipzig International Art Programme (LIA), Leipzig, Germany

AWARDS / ART PRIZES

- 2025 Mosman Art Prize [finalist]
 2018 Kilgour Art Prize [finalist]

2018	John Glover Art Prize [finalist]
2018	Wynne Prize, Art Gallery of NSW [finalist]
2017	John Glover Art Prize [finalist]
2017	Wynne Prize, Art Gallery of NSW [finalist]
2017	Paddington Art Prize [finalist]
2016	Paddington Art Prize [finalist]
2016	Sulman Prize, Art Gallery of NSW [finalist]
2015	Wynne Prize, Art Gallery of NSW [finalist]
2014	Paddington Art Prize [finalist]
2014	Brett Whiteley traveling scholarship [winner]
2014	Wynne Prize, Art Gallery of NSW [finalist]
2014	King School prize [finalist]
2014	Newcastle University Prize [finalist]
2013	Doug Moran portrait prize [semi-finalist]
2013	Brett Whiteley traveling scholarship [finalist, highly commended]
2012	King School prize [finalist]
2012	Brett Whiteley traveling scholarship [finalist]
2011	Dobell drawing Prize [finalist]
2011	Brett Whiteley traveling scholarship [finalist, highly commended]
2011	Marten Bequest traveling scholarship [winner]
2011	Salon Des Refuses [finalist]
2002	John Olsen National Art School Life Drawing Prize [winner]

BIOGRAPHY

James Drinkwater is a Newcastle based painter and sculptor. He studied at the National Art School, Sydney (2001) and has held 30 solo exhibitions since 2004. A major survey exhibition, 'The Sea Calls me by Name', was held in 2019 at the Newcastle Art Gallery. In 2016, Monash University's engineering faculty commissioned a major sculpture / relief from the artist which spans fifteen metres, hanging permanently at Monash University's Clayton Campus. In 2017 Drinkwater collaborated with iconic Australian fashion house ALPHA60 to produce a capsule collection. In 2022 Drinkwater was included in the seminal exhibition 'Singing In Unison - artist's need to create on the same scale that society has the capacity to destroy' curated by Phong H. Bui and Cal Mckeever from The Brooklyn Rail along side Sean Scully, Julian Schnabel, Lauren Bon, Ron Gorchov and Dorothea Rockburne. The same year saw the artist collaborating on a new Ballet 'Storm Approaching Wangi - and other desires' with choreographers Skip Willcox, Belle Beasley and composer Joseph Franklin, commissioned by Multi Arts Pavilion, MIMA Lake Macquarie where Drinkwater designed the sets and costumes and performed in the final scene. 2023 will see two major surveys of the artists work; 'Passage' at the NCCA, Darwin and 'At Mid Career' in Canberra, at the The Drill Hall Gallery, Australian National University, curated by Terance Maloon.

James Drinkwater's work has been included in group exhibitions throughout Australia and internationally in Berlin, Leipzig, New York and London. He has been awarded the Marten Bequest Scholarship (2011), the Brett Whiteley Travelling Scholarship (2014), the John Olsen National Art School Life Drawing Prize (2002) and has been a finalist in many prizes including the Wynne Prize three times, Sulman Prize and the Dobell Drawing Prize.

James Drinkwater has undertaken international residencies in Leipzig, Titjikala, Kenya, Paris, Tahiti and Ubud. His work is held in the collections of the Art Gallery of New South Wales, HOTA Gallery, Bendigo Art Gallery, Newcastle Art Gallery, Maitland Regional Art Gallery, Artbank, Macquarie Bank, Macquarie University, Newcastle University, Schnabel Collection, New York, Monash University, Allens Law firm and significant private collections both in Australia and overseas. In 2025, a major work

titled 'Sunday in Albi' was acquired by The Blanca and Borja Thyssen-Bornemisza collection for the Thyssen-Bornemisza National Museum.