

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

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

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 Nanda\Hobbs, Sydney Contemporary, Carriageworks, Sydney 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 Art Fair, Nanda Hobbs Gallery 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 International 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 alongside 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 Beasely 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 artist's 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.