

## Anthony Pelchen

### Bio

Born in 1960 in Horsham in North West Victoria, Australia, Anthony Pelchen studied Economics at Monash University and a decade later painting at the Victorian College of the Arts, graduating in 1991. Throughout the 1990's he lived in Melbourne and exhibited widely in artist-run, institutional and alternative spaces, including 200 Gertrude Street, RMIT's Project Space and St Stephan's Anglican Church. He has exhibited three times in Japan and in 2005 and 2007 undertook residencies in Nou Machi, Nigata prefecture, conducting over 30 drawing/painting workshops. In 2003, he began a biennial use of the Natimuk Lutheran Church as an installation space and in 2007 led a collaborative installation involving 222 children in Nou machi and the Wimmera. In 2006/2007 he returned to painting and drawing, resulting in cycles of work in the Wimmera (231 paintings) and Japan. IN 2008 he participated in Drought-Cross Cultural Collaborations, curated by Lella Caridi and presented at Federation Square, ACMI and the NGV (installations and collaborations for film, performance and an Artist's Book).

In 2009 he has been invited to participate in Palimpsest 07, Mildura (with Lauren Berkowitz, Domenico De Clario and Elizabeth Preza).

Common to all work is an overriding interest in the fine lines and shifts between physical and psychological states and how a dominance of one inevitably points to the absence and potential of another. This has involved work across various media - painting, drawing, photography, sculpture and installation - all incorporating elements of repetition, austerity and subtle shifts within a finite structure.

A considerable aspect of his practice has been works on paper, both in drawing and the use of cutting and weaving, extending his interest in the power of austere, textured surfaces to evoke notions of the body and landscape. This work has appeared in numerous national surveys of works on paper over the last ten years. Since 1988, he has been involved in collaborative projects with Melbourne-based Butoh performers Yumi Umiumare and Tony Yap in gallery, church and landscape environments. These include *3492 poly bags and a ploughed path*, a two square kilometre land installation at the base of Mt Arapiles in the Wimmera, 5 at Mass Gallery, Melbourne and *Inori-in-visible* in Japan and Copenhagen. In 2001 he was nominated for a Green Room Award for Design for Dance and between 1999 and 2007, jointly conducted 5 Butoh/drawing workshops at his base on the Wimmera River, west of Horsham.

In 1999 he was artist in residence at Gertrude Contemporary Art Spaces in Melbourne and was granted Bundanon Trust residencies in 2001 and 2003 and a Parks Victoria Residency in 2002.

His work is represented in collections including the National Gallery of Victoria, the Australian Print Workshop, Artbank and the John McBride Collection, as well as private collections in Australia, New Zealand, England and Japan.

Website: [www.anthonypelchen.com](http://www.anthonypelchen.com)

### Education

1989-91 - Bachelor of Fine Arts (Painting), Victorian College of the Arts, Melbourne

1979-81 - Bachelor of Economics, Monash University, Melbourne

### Solo Exhibitions

2009

planned: *Difficult Majesty*, *Palimpsest 07*, Mildura

2006

*231 Paintings*, Goat Gallery, Natimuk

2005

*Church and Landscape (twelve times towards the cross)*, Natimuk Lutheran Church, Wimmera

2003

*Looking forwards/walking backwards*, Natimuk Lutheran Church, Wimmera

*Looking forwards/walking backwards*, Gallery Chayamachi, Osaka

2001

*3,492 poly bags and a ploughed path*, Wimmera land installation

1999

*14,171 days (God knows how many breaths)*, St Stephen's Anglican Church, Richmond  
*Cover me in mud, bury me in wheat (throw me in the river)*, Temple Studios, Melbourne  
*Vectis*, talk artists initiative, Melbourne

1997

*Looking with mouth open, singing with eyes closed*, The Project Space, RMIT, Melbourne  
*Cover me in mud, bury me in wheat (throw me in the river)*, Temple Studios, Melbourne

1996

Slide Installation, 200 Gertrude Street, Melbourne / Canberra School of Art  
*Vectis*, Studio 12 at 200 Gertrude Street, Melbourne

1995

*I Lay Me Down*, Studio 12 at 200 Gertrude Street, Melbourne

### Group Exhibitions (selected)

2008

*Drought - Cross Cultural Collaborations*, Federation Square / ACMI / NGV - installation/artists book/film

2006

*Being at Bundanon*, touring Victoria/NSW

2004

*The Alice Prize*, Araluen Centre, Alice Springs  
*The Spirit of Football*, National Gallery of Victoria  
*National Works on Paper* survey, Mornington Peninsular Regional Gallery

2001

*Australian Paper Art Awards*: Vic Arts Centre, Melbourne; Festival Centre, Adelaide; UTS Gallery, Sydney

2000

*National Works on Paper*, Mornington Peninsular Regional Gallery  
*Anthony Pelchen, Hisako Tsuzuku and Shukou Tsuchiya*, Takarazuka Cultural Centre, Japan

1998

*Finale 1998*, Renard Wardell Gallery, Richmond  
*National Works on Paper*, Mornington Peninsular Regional Gallery

1997

*The Alice Prize*, Araluen Centre, Alice Springs  
*New Acquisitions of Contemporary Australian Art*, National Gallery of Victoria

1996

*Distance*, Watch This Space Gallery, Alice Springs  
*12th Biennial Prints Acquisitive Exhibition*, Mornington Peninsula Regional Gallery

1995

*1031 kilograms*, 200 Gertrude Street, Melbourne  
*Keith and Elizabeth Murdoch Travelling Fellowship*, Victorian College of the Arts

1994

*John Doe*, 200 Gertrude Street, Melbourne

## Collaborations

2008 - Installation with Tony Yap, *The Drought Within*, Punctum, Bendigo  
2007 - Installation, *Troubled Nature*, Natimuk Lutheran Church, with 222 children (Japan/Wimmera)  
2005 - Installation, *100 years*, Natimuk Lutheran Church (with community x 100)  
2003 - Installation, for *Inori-invisible* with Yumi Umiuimare, Copenhagen  
2002 - 5, installation/perf'ce with Hisako Tsuzuku, Yumi Umiuimare & Tony Yap, Mass Gallery, Melbourne  
2001 - Land installation, foreground Mt Arapiles, Wimmera: *3,492 poly bags...* (performance: Yumi Umiuimare, Cape Kennedy, Jillian Pearce & Tony Yap)  
2000 - Installation for *Inori-invisible* with Yumi Uminumare, Dancehouse, Melbourne  
2000 - Installation for *Inori-invisible* with Yumi Uminumare, Takarazka City, Japan  
1999 - Installation for *How could you even begin to understand (version 5)*, with Yumi Uminmare & Tony Yap, St Stephen's Anglican Church, Melbourne

## Awards, Grants & Residencies

2008 - Arts Victoria - Arts Development Grant - Presentation  
2007 - Regional Arts Victoria - Arts Development (Japan Residency)  
2005 - Regional Arts Victoria grants - Japan Residency / New York  
2003 - Bundanon Trust residency - Nowra, NSW  
2003 - Arts Victoria - Cultural Exchange Program Grant (Denmark)  
2002 - Parks Victoria residency - Warrandyte, Victoria  
2001 - Bundanon Trust Residency - Nowra, NSW  
2001 - Green Room Award Nomination - Design for Dance (*Inori-in-visible*)  
2001 - Arts Victoria - Regional Arts Development Grant  
2001 - Arts Victoria - Arts Development: New Work - Presentation  
1999 - Arts Victoria - Cultural Exchange Program Grant (Japan)  
1999 - Arts Victoria - Arts Development Program Grant  
1999 - 200 Gertrude Street, Melbourne - Studio 18 live-in residency  
1994-96 - 200 Gertrude Street, Melbourne - studio residency  
1990 - Victorian College of the Arts - Theodore Urbach Award for Painting

## Collections

National Gallery of Victoria - Margaret Stewart Endowment  
Horsham Regional Art Gallery  
John McBride Collection - Sydney  
Australian Print Workshop  
Wimmera College of TAFE  
Artbank  
Australian Institute of Management  
Melbourne Airport  
Private - Australia, New Zealand, England and Japan