

Robert Watson

Bio

'In 2002 Mildura based artist Robert Watson completed the Bachelor of Visual Art (Fine Art) at La Trobe University Visual Arts Graduate Studio Access Grant (VAGSAG) for 2003.

Feeling "quite humbled, but elated" at being selected for the award, Watson saw it as recognition that he was "on the right track" artistically.

It dispelled any doubts that he may have had about his practice and also marked a new era in that he was the first printmaking major to have been awarded the VAGSAG.'

Taken from 'Sunraysia Daily, Sept 7, 2004'.

Artist Statement

Anatomy and the composition of the body play a major role in my prints and drawings.

The surface that the figures inhabit are observations of skin. I use these figures to describe myself and express a social commentary. Our skin can be looked on as an area or space for observation or self-portraiture - as an emblem of curiosity or candid revelation.

This observation is ongoing.

Statement regarding Robert's "Spoon" series

The surface of the local landscape and our relationship with it is rather unique. Verdant close to town. Barren and unfruitful, beyond the narrow movement of the river. This surface or exterior layer of soil is what we use - it is the outside face of the land. The visible side or skin. Our continual or prolonged use of the land gives way to visual signs of damage.

Everything we use as a community, in the production of food comes from that damaged surface.

As a reflection of this we dine with cutlery - a refined item of politeness and civility. And while we dine, comments about the land are often not a topic of discourse. After we are gone and the damage done, others may find in this surface - our small utensil's. Like remains or traces as a memorial or memento.

And the land may be our last supper.

Robert Watson, 2006.

Landscape series

In western formal landscape compositions you are given a view of land and its direction toward the horizon and sky line. In my landscapes the primary objective is to investigate the surface of the ground - that upper layer of the earth's crust that we use. I am interested in the erosion and tarnished surfaces such as stones and pieces of rock of all shapes and sizes that have become detached and might be used in building or roadmaking. I use these elements from the earth's crust to indicate our prolonged use of this very fragile resource.

Education & Awards

2011 - Finalist, Rick Amour Print Prize

2003 - Visual Arts Graduate Studio Access Grant. VAGSAG recipient

2002 - Bachelor of Visual Arts/Fine Art, Latrobe University, Mildura campus

2000 - Diploma of Arts/Visual Art. Tafe, Mildura

2000 - Eckersleys Award, in recognition of academic achievements, presented by the council of Tafe, Mildura

Solo Exhibitions

2011 - Land-Scape, Stefano's Gallery 25, Mildura

2010 - Road Gardens #3, Stefano's Gallery 25

2009 - Road Gardens #2, Stefano's Gallery 25

2008 - Road Gardens , Stefano's Gallery 25

2007 - Selfscape/debris, Mildura Arts Centre

2004 - Consider the road, Mildura Arts Centre

Group Exhibitions

2010

Black is the Colour, Shoalhaven City Arts Centre

2009

Black and White, The Art Vault, (Writer's Festival Exhibition)

2008

Opening Exhibition, The Art Vault

2006

Works on paper - Gallery 25

Palimpsest, Mildura

Melbourne Art Fair

Recent works - Gallery 25

2005

Works on paper - Gallery 25

Melbourne Art Fair

Selected works - Gallery 25

2004

Works on paper - Gallery 25

Selected works - Gallery 25

2003

Palimpsest, Mildura

Works on paper - Gallery 25

2002

Final Exhibition, BAVA, Fine Art, Mildura

2001

Palimpsest, Mildura

Collections

Work is held in the Mildura Arts Centre Collection and in private collections in Sydney, Melbourne, Perth, Canberra, Adelaide and Mildura. Work is in private collections in Canada, New Zealand, Dubai and London.