

Claire Primrose

## Bio

### Selected education

1998 - Graduate Diploma in Secondary Education

1993 - 1997 Bachelor of Visual Art Institute of the Arts ANU

## Artists Review

### COLLISION COURSE

Claire Primrose's new series Then and Now explores the human presence in the passage of time by recreating the tarnished surfaces and weathered skin of urban spaces. These patinas in public places are marked by time on their distressed surfaces, which are stained, scratched, scuffed and then repaired. For Primrose, they represent 'the shiny new of yesterday and the forgotten and discarded of today.'

While these works are essentially recreations of surfaces found in cityscapes, they are less landscape paintings and more an illustration of what Primrose calls a 'collaborative art installation created by unwitting participants.' They represent the marks left by the public through everyday use – the sgraffito, the unintentional scrapings, the abrasions. It seems that she has reproduced these patinas simply to draw attention to their very existence rather than to place a literal meaning on them. They are deliberately ambiguous; an invitation to contemplate the beauty that can be found in the decayed, rather than a social comment, or a search for meaning in disrepair.

Scratching Back is dominated by strong horizontals, those across the top of the canvas resembling rust or tarnished metal. What was once a strong, glossy black exterior has been worn thin and now its weathered charcoal remains reveal the crimson beneath. As the eye moves down the canvas there is deliberate white mark-making, the bold strokes representing an attempt by an unknown hand to freshen up that which is worn down. The dense layering in this piece suggests a cyclical nature to urban decay; upon its creation it begins to tarnish and fade until it is briefly revived or resurfaced, only to surrender once more to the mercy of the public who inhabit these spaces.

In Urban Landscape and Urban Landscape 2, Primrose introduces fragmented text. This references signage and other visual cues found in the public places she reconstructs, although the text is covered over or scratched back, thus removing any literal meaning from the words. Instead, their ambiguity becomes a part of the overall composition rather than a message. They join those other marks that are the legacy of lives led in public places.

Time, tarnish and renewal collide in Primrose's bold compositions, and present an insightful view of the onlooker's immediate urban environment.

Claire Primrose was a finalist in the Paddington Art Prize, The Hawkesbury Art Prize, the Scope Gallery Award and the Fisher's Ghost Art Prize (Contemporary). She was awarded the Queanbeyan City Council Art Award in 2009. Primrose's work is represented in the Art Vault Gallery collection in Mildura, and the FORM Studio and Gallery collection in Queanbeyan.

## Solo Exhibitions

2013 Time Travellers show at The Art Vault Mildura VIC

2012 Then and Now FORM Studio and Gallery Queanbeyan NSW

2004 DIY - exhibition at the Australian Defence Force Academy ACT Library Gallery

2000 Frequent Flyers, solo exhibition at Tilley Devine Lyneham ACT

## Group Exhibitions

2012

Time Travellers at FORM Studio and Gallery Queanbeyan NSW

CLIMARTE CHANGE FORM Studio and Gallery Queanbeyan NSW

2011

Setting the Scene at FORM Studio and Gallery, Queanbeyan NSW

Queanbeyan City Council Art Prize

CLIMARTE CHANGE at FORM Studio and Gallery Queanbeyan NSW  
The Three of Us at FORM Studio and Gallery Queanbeyan NSW

2010  
Queanbeyan City Council Art Prize

2009  
*ReGeneration* exhibition with Maxine Price at the Q, Queanbeyan  
*Anamalia* exhibition at The Artist's Shed, Queanbeyan  
Winner of the Queanbeyan City Council Art Prize

2008  
Queanbeyan City Council Art Prize

2004  
*DIY* solo exhibition at the Australian Defence Force, Academy Library Gallery  
Archibald prize entry of Adam Spencer

2003  
Unhung Heroes exhibition Made in Australia Gallery  
Canberra Art Prize exhibition  
Produced and Directed the Performing Arts Expo Erindale Theatre ACT

2002  
Short listed in the Canberra Art Prize

2001  
*Frequent Flyers* solo exhibition at Tilley's Devine Café Lyneham ACT

1997  
ITA Drawing Prize Foyer Gallery, ACT

1996  
ITA Drawing Prize Foyer Gallery, ACT  
*Multiple Visions* ANCA Gallery, ACT  
Joint Print Project UWS Macarthur, Photospace, ITA ACT

1995  
ITA Drawing Prize Foyer Gallery, ACT

## Awards and Prizes

2012  
FINALIST Scope Galleries Art Prize – Art Concerning the Environment  
FINALIST Fisher's Ghost Art Prize (contemporary)  
FINALIST Paddington Art Prize  
Highly Commended Hawkesbury Art Prize

2010  
Highly Commended Queanbeyan City Council Art Awards

2009  
Winner Queanbeyan City Council Art Award

2000  
Short listed (top 10) in the Canberra Art Prize

## Collections

National Library of Australia, Canberra  
University of Western Sydney, Macarthur, NSW  
Dr Graeme Harrison  
Tim Hardy president of The Canberra Art Society  
Private collections in Australia and America