

John Firth-Smith

Bio

Born 1943, Melbourne

Studies

1961 - National Art School, Sydney

"Melbourne-born painter, John Firth-Smith, has lived for most of his life in Sydney close to the harbour and boats which provide the subject matter for much of his work.

His often large-scale pictures are known for their painterly brilliance and abstract intensity with their references to the texture of weathered wood and the changing moods of the sea."

Excerpt taken from "Art Almanac", November 2007 issue.

Solo Exhibitions

2006

"The New York Works, A Survey", Embassy of Australia, Washington DC

2005

Roslyn Oxley9 Gallery, Sydney

2003

Roslyn Oxley9 Gallery, Sydney

2002

Lister Calder Gallery, Western Australia

Metro 5 Gallery, Melbourne

2001

Roslyn Oxley9 Gallery, Sydney

1999

"John Firth-Smith: A Voyage that Never Ends" (book launch and exhibition), Roslyn Oxley9 Gallery, Sydney

1998

Roslyn Oxley9 Gallery, Sydney

1996

Roslyn Oxley9 Gallery, Sydney

1994

Roslyn Oxley9 Gallery, Sydney

Robert Lindsay Gallery, Melbourne

Greenaway Art Gallery, Adelaide

1993

Roslyn Oxley9 Gallery, Sydney

1992

"Work on Paper: 1982-1992," Roslyn Oxley9 Gallery, Sydney

1990
Roslyn Oxley9 Gallery, Sydney
"New Lithographs," Australian Galleries, Melbourne

1988
Roslyn Oxley9 Gallery, Sydney

1987
Gallery 52, Perth
"In and On" (lithographs), Blaxland Gallery, Sydney

1986
Powell St Gallery, Melbourne

1984
"Inspiration and Reality," University of Melbourne

1983
Gallery 52, Perth, Western Australia
Ray Hughes Gallery, Brisbane
"Bottle and Boat" (lithographs), Roslyn Oxley9 Gallery, Sydney

1982
"Works from New York," Axion Gallery, Melbourne
"Works from New York," Gallery A, Sydney

1981
Gallery A, Sydney
Bonython Art Gallery, Adelaide

1979
Gallery A, Sydney
Powell Street Gallery, Melbourne

1978
Bonython Art Gallery, Adelaide

1977
Gallery A, Sydney
Ray Hughes Gallery, Brisbane

1976
Ray Hughes Gallery, Brisbane
Realities Gallery, Melbourne

1975
Gallery A, Sydney

1973
Gallery A, Sydney

1972
Gallery A, Sydney

1970
Gallery A, Sydney

1969
Gallery A, Sydney and Melbourne

1966
Gallery A, Sydney and Melbourne

Group Exhibitions

2007
"Harbourlife" Manly Art Gallery & Museum

2006
"Stolen Ritual", Roslyn Oxley9 Gallery, Sydney

2005
"Fireworks," Mackay Artspace touring exhibition, New South Wales, Queensland, and Victorian regional galleries
"Landscape Now," Solander Gallery, Canberra
"Hill End Scenes, People or Objects," Inaugural Exhibition, NPWS Gallery, Hill End

2004
"Spectrum 2004," FONAS, National Art School, Sydney

2003
"The Year in Art," S.H. Ervin Gallery, Sydney
"Australian Masters," Solander Gallery, Canberra
"Beneath the Monsoon," Touring Regional Galleries, Queensland

2002
"Fifty Years of Abstraction," Metro 5 Gallery, Melbourne
"Points of View," University of Technology Sydney Art Collection, UTS, Sydney
"The First 20 Years," Roslyn Oxley9 Gallery, Sydney

2001
"MCA Unpacked" Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney

1999
"Silver," Ivan Dougherty Gallery, Sydney
"Fabric of Labour," Bulle Gallery, Melbourne
"Three Generations," Solander Gallery, Canberra

1998
"Escape Artists: Modernists in the Tropics," Cairns Regional Gallery & travelling, QLD, NSW and VIC
Axia Modern Art Opening Exhibition, Melbourne
Australian Printmaking in the 1990's: Artist printmakers 1990-95, (exhibition and Sasha Grishin book launch),
Sherman Galleries, Sydney

1997
"Swingtime Eastcoast- Westcoast: Works from the 1960s-70s in the University of Western Australia Art
Collection," University of WA, Perth

1995
"The Artists of Hill End", Art Gallery of New South Wales & travelling New South Wales
"Asia and Oceania Influence," Ivan Dougherty Gallery, Sydney
"Contemporary Australian Art," Kuala Lumpur
"Selection of Australian Works," Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane

1994

"Modern Australian Paintings," Charles Nodrum Gallery, Melbourne

1992

"Australian Masters", Solander Gallery, Canberra

"Works on Paper", R.M.I.T., Melbourne

Synthesis 6: Art & Architecture" (with Lawrence Neild), Sydney 1988

"Australian Masters", Solander Gallery, Canberra

1987

"Surface for Reflection", Art Gallery of New South Wales & travelling NSW

"Australian Painters & Sculptors", Saitama, Japan Museum of Contemporary Art, Brisbane (inaugural exhibition)

1986

"A Resistant Spirit", Roslyn Oxley9 Gallery, Sydney & Realities Gallery, Melbourne

1984

"New Work", Powell Street Gallery

1983

"Abstract Art in Australia", R.M.I.T. Gallery Melbourne

Five Sydney Painters "The Wrong Place", University of Tasmania Art Gallery, Hobart

"Twelve Australian Painters", Art Gallery of Western Australia

Perspecta '83, Art Gallery of New South Wales

Commonwealth Bank Contemporary Artists Exhibition, Sydney

"Prix de Monaco" Exhibition, Monte Carlo

1982

"Landscape Now", Solander Gallery, Canberra ACT

1981

"LIS '81", International Exhibition of Drawings, Lisbon Portugal

"Survey 16" National Gallery of Victoria; and at Penrith Art Gallery and Lewers Bequest Museum, Penrith, New South Wales

"Survey of the Seventies" Bendigo Art Gallery, Victoria

1980

Summer Exhibition, Gallery A, Sydney

1979

"LIS '79", International Exhibition of Drawings, Lisbon & Oporto, Portugal

1978

"Contemporary Australian Art to Indonesia" - Landscape and Image

"Water Works", Ivan Dougherty Gallery, Alexander Mackie College of Advanced Education, Sydney

1977

Group Show, Gallery A, Sydney

"Australian Colourists '77", Western Australian Institute of Technology, Perth

1976

Included "Artists Films", touring Europe and USA

1975

Joint exhibition with Tony Tuckson, Monash University, Melbourne

"Ten Australians" Gallery A, Sydney

"The Ocean' Expo '75", Okinawa, Japan

1974

Included "Artists Films", Art Gallery of New South Wales

"Return to Sender" Exhibition, Florence, Italy

"Ten Australians" - Paris Stuttgart, Venice, Milan, Florence Invited William Angliss Prize, Melbourne

1973

Invited Biennale de Paris, France

"Contemporary Australian Painting and Sculpture", New Zealand

"The Biennale of Sydney" Opera House, Sydney

1972

Included in "Twenty Years of Australian Painting", London, UK Group Exhibition with Michael Johnson and Andrew

Nolt, Gallery A, Sydney Invited Georges Prize, Melbourne

1970

Invited First Leasing Prize, Melbourne

Invited Georges Prize, Melbourne

1969

"Japanese Forum Exhibition", Tokyo, Japan

1968

"Group 2", Gallery A, Sydney and Melbourne

1967

"New Generation Sydney", Gallery A, Melbourne

1966

Invited Helena Rubenstein Travelling Scholarship "Survey 6", Blaxland Gallery, Sydney

"Australian Young Contemporaries" exhibition, Perth

1965

"Survey 5", Blaxland Gallery, Sydney

1964

"Survey 4", Blaxland Gallery, Sydney

1963

Joint Exhibition with Ian Van Wieringen, Hungry Horse Gallery, Sydney

1962

Joint exhibition with Ian Van Wieringen, Clune Galleries, Sydney

Awards

1978 Sydney Morning Herald Art Prize Civic Permanent Art Award, Canberra Broken Hill Art Prize

1977 Bathurst Art Prize Dalby Art Prize Capital Permanent Award, Geelong Art Gallery

1975 McCaughey Memorial Prize, Melbourne

1974 Townsville Art Prize (Purchase)

1972 Grafton Art Prize (Purchase) Georges Art Prize (Purchase)

1968 Young Contemporaries Royal Easter Show - Modern

1964 Young Contemporaries `B`Section Mirror-Waratah Under 22 Years Contemporary

1963 Young Contemporaries `B`Section

1962 Mirror-Waratah Under 22 Years Contemporary

Commissions

2000 Macquarie Apartments, Sydney, designed by Renzo Piano, painting
1998 Deutsche Bank, Australia Square, Sydney, painting
1997 Landmark Hotel, Kings Cross, Sydney, painting
1993 Governor Phillip Tower, Sydney, designed by Denton Corker Marshall, commissioned by DCM Design for Sumitomo Tenancy, painting
1992 ANA Hotel foyer, Sydney
1988 State Bank, Sydney, painting
1987 New Parliament House Tapestry design, Canberra
1987 Convention Centre, Darling Harbour, Sydney, painting
1987 Hyatt Hotel Adelaide, painting
1987 Monash Hospital Art Foundation, painting
1981 Mural, 6 x 6Cm, commissioned by I.M. Pei for ANZ Bank Head Office, Collins Street, Melbourne. Building designed by I.M. Pei. Tapestry of "Key", commissioned by
1981 Gallery A, executed by Victorian Tapestry Workshop.
1980 National Capital Permanent Development Commission for Family Law Courts, Canberra
Also completed several private commissions for domestic interiors

Collections

ALCOA Pty Ltd, USA
ANZ Bank, Commission, Melbourne
Art Gallery of New South Wales
Art Gallery of South Australia
Art Gallery of Western Australia
Australian National Gallery, Canberra
Artbank
BHP Collection, Melbourne
Bathurst Art Gallery, New South Wales
Broken Hill City Art Gallery, New South Wales
C.B.A. Bank, Sydney
Commonwealth Loan Collection
Curtin University Collection, Perth
Dalby Art Gallery, Queensland
Geelong Art Gallery, Victoria
Georges Limited, Melbourne
Grafton City Council, New South Wales
McGregor Collection, Toowoomba, Queensland
Mildura Arts Centre, Victoria
Monash University Collection, Melbourne
National Bank of Australia
National Gallery of Victoria
Newcastle Region Art Gallery
Philip Morris Collection, Melbourne
Power Gallery, University of Sydney
Qantas Airways Collection, Sydney
Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane
Shepparton Art Gallery, Victoria
Sydney Morning Herald Collection
Tarrawarra Museum of Art, Victoria
Townsville City Gallery, Queensland
University of Melbourne Collection
University of Western Australia
Visual Arts Board, Australia Council
Windsor Council, New South Wales
Artbank Collection
Private Collections in Australia, New Zealand, USA, Europe and Asia