

AIDA TOMESCU

Born in Bucharest, Romania in 1955, Aida Tomescu has lived and worked in Australia since 1980. She completed a Diploma of Art (Painting) at the Institute of Fine Arts, Bucharest in 1977 and a Post Graduate Diploma of Art at the City Art Institute, Sydney in 1983. Aida was the inaugural winner of the prestigious LSFA Arts 21 Fellowship in 1996 and has been awarded the Sulman Prize (1996), Wynne Prize (2001) and Dobell Prize for Drawing (2003) by the Art Gallery of New South Wales.

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2010 *Eden*, Liverpool Street Gallery, Sydney
- 2009 *Tuckson / Tomescu*, Liverpool Street Gallery in association with Watters Gallery, Sydney
Paintings and Drawings, the Australian National University, Canberra
- 2008 *Aida Tomescu: Ravel*, Niagara Galleries, Melbourne
- 2007 *Campi Flegrei*, Liverpool Street Gallery, Sydney
- 2006 Niagara Galleries, Melbourne
- 2004 Martin Browne Fine Art, Sydney
Martine Browne Fine Art at the Yellow House, Sydney
Martine Browne Fine Art, Melbourne Art Fair, Royal Exhibition Building, Victoria
- 2003 Niagara Galleries, Melbourne
- 2002 Martin Browne Fine Art, Sydney
- 2000 Martin Browne Fine Art, Sydney
- 1999 Niagara Galleries, Melbourne
- 1997 Heide Museum of Modern Art, Melbourne
- 1995 Coventry Gallery, Sydney
- 1994 Christine Abrahams Gallery, Melbourne
- 1993 Coventry Gallery, Sydney
- 1991 Coventry Gallery, Sydney
Deutscher Brunswick Street, Melbourne
- 1989 Coventry Gallery, Sydney
- 1987 Reconnaissance Gallery, Melbourne
Coventry Gallery, Sydney
Ben Grady Gallery, Canberra
- 1986 Design Center, Los Angeles, USA
- 1985 Coventry, Sydney
- 1981 Holdsworth Gallery, Sydney
- 1979 Cenaclu Gallery, Bucharest, Romania

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2010 *Freehand: Recent Australian Drawing*, Heide Museum of Modern Art, Melbourne
- 2009 *Building a Collection*, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne
Auckland Art Fair, New Zealand
Sulman Prize: Finalists' Exhibition, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
- 2008 *Time and Place: Selected Works from the TWMA Collection*, Tarrawarra Museum of Art, Victoria
This Way Up, Abstract works from the La Trobe University Art Collection, La Trobe University Art Museum, Melbourne
Paint (the language), RAFT Artspace, Parap, Northern Territory
Melbourne Art Fair, Royal Exhibition Building, Victoria
Blue Chip X: The Collector's Exhibition, Niagara Galleries, Melbourne
Sulman Prize: Finalists' Exhibition, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
Dobell Prize for Drawing Exhibition, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
- 2007 *Materiality*, Switchback Gallery, Gippsland Centre for Art and Design, Monash University
2007: The Year in Art, S H Ervin Gallery, Sydney
The Story of Australian Printmaking 1801–2005, National Gallery of Australia, Canberra

- Arthur Guy Memorial Painting Prize Exhibition*, Bendigo Art Gallery, Victoria
Masters of Emotion, Mornington Peninsula Regional Gallery, Victoria
Wynne Prize Exhibition, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
Summer Exhibition, Liverpool Street Gallery, Sydney
2006 *Melbourne Art Fair*, Royal Exhibition Building, Melbourne
Sixth Drawing Biennale, Drill Hall Gallery, Canberra
Wynne Prize Exhibition, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
Redlands Westpac Art Prize Exhibition, Mosman Art Gallery, Sydney
Sulman Prize Exhibition, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
Fleurieu Peninsula Art Prize Exhibition, South Australia
Interchange 2006, Museum of Contemporary Art, Hong-ik University, Seoul, Korea
The Big Picture, Delmar Gallery, Sydney
Painting, Liverpool Street Gallery, Sydney
The Summer Show, Liverpool Street Gallery, Sydney
2005 *Drawing from the Collection*, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne
Dobell Prize for Drawing Exhibition, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
Wynne Prize Exhibition, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
Abstracting the Collection, Heide Museum of Modern Art, Melbourne
Arthur Guy Memorial Painting Prize Exhibition, Bendigo Art Gallery, Victoria
2004 *Australian Prints*, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
Place Made, National Gallery of Australia, Canberra
National Works on Paper Award, Mornington Peninsula Regional Gallery, Victoria
2003 *Dobell Prize Exhibition*, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
Depth of Field, Shepparton Art Gallery, Shepparton; Monash University Museum of Art, Melbourne
Wynne Prize Exhibition, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
Sulman Prize Exhibition, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
2002 *Indecorous Abstraction*, Light Square Gallery, Adelaide
Mini Series: Stories and Sites in Print Portfolios from the Heide Collection, Heide Museum of Modern Art, Melbourne
2001 *Asia in Australia, Beyond Orientalism*, Queensland University of Technology Art Museum, Brisbane
Wynne Prize Exhibition, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
Abstraction, Tim Olsen Gallery, Sydney
Paperworks: Australian Artists Exploring Drawing and the Printed Image, Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane
A Century of Collecting, Ivan Dougherty Gallery, Sydney
2000 *Ten Contemporary Artists and the Print, Spitting and Biting*, Monash University Gallery, Melbourne
Uncommon World: Aspects of Contemporary Australian Art, National Gallery of Australia, Canberra
New Acquisitions Part 1, Heide Museum of Modern Art, Melbourne
1999 *Australian Works on Paper Award*, George Adams Gallery, Melbourne and touring
Blue Chip II: The Collectors' Exhibition, Niagara Galleries, Melbourne
Wynne Prize Exhibition, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
1998 *The Enduring Tradition: Drawings by Nine Contemporary Artists*, Toowoomba Regional Art Gallery, Queensland and touring
Australian Prints, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
Look Again: Contemporary Prints and Drawings, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne
The Acid Test, RMIT University, Melbourne
Diary '98, Coventry Gallery, Sydney
National Works on Paper, Mornington Peninsula Regional Gallery, Victoria
Blue Chip Choice, Niagara Galleries, Melbourne
1996 *Collecting from a University Perspective*, Ivan Dougherty Gallery, Sydney
Sulman Prize Exhibition, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney

- 1995 *Diary '96*, Coventry Gallery, Sydney
Australia Felix, Benalla Art Gallery, Victoria
Hidden Treasures: Art in Corporate Collections, S H Ervin Gallery, Sydney
Review, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
- 1995 *Up, Down and Across*, Campbelltown City Art Gallery, Sydney
Dairy '95, Coventry Gallery, Sydney
- 1994 *Articulate Surfaces: Three Print Cycles*, Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane
New Prints: Eight Contemporary Artists, New England Regional Art Museum,
New South Wales
Obsession: Chandler Coventry, Campbelltown City Art Gallery, Sydney
Drawing on Inspiration, Ivan Dougherty Gallery, Sydney
- 1993 *Chandler Coventry: A Private Collection*, Campbelltown City Art Gallery,
Sydney
On Paper, Christine Abrahams Gallery, Melbourne
- 1992 *Seven*, Ivan Dougherty Gallery, Sydney
- 1991 Anna Bornhort Gallery, London, UK
Deutscher Brunswick Street, Melbourne
New Art Five, Coventry Gallery, Sydney
- 1990 *Abstraction*, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney and touring
Mass Media Mixed Media, Painters' Gallery, Sydney
- 1989 *Intimate Drawing*, Coventry Gallery, Sydney
- 1988 *The BP 10th British International Print Biennale*, Bradford, UK
- 1987 *The Age of Collage*, Holdsworth Contemporary Gallery, Sydney
- 1986 Reconnaissance Gallery, Melbourne
- 1984 *Perspectives*, Performance Space, Sydney
- 1983 *A Different Perspective*, Artspace, Sydney
- 1982 *Women Artists: Group Exhibition*, Gallery A, Sydney
- 1981 University of New South Wales, Sydney
- 1978 National Museum, Bucharest, Romania

COLLECTIONS

Allen, Allen and Hemsley, Sydney
Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
Artbank, Sydney
Ballarat Regional Art Gallery, Victoria
The British Museum, London,
Campbelltown City Art Gallery, Sydney
The Derwent Collection, Tasmania
Geelong Art Gallery, Victoria
Heide Museum of Modern Art, Melbourne
Holmes à Court Collection, Perth
The IBM Australia Collection
La Trobe University Art Museum, Melbourne
Macquarie Bank, Sydney
Monash University, Melbourne
Mornington Peninsula Regional Gallery, Victoria
Mallesons Stephen Jacques, Melbourne
Myer Art Foundation, Melbourne
National Gallery of Australia, Canberra
National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne
National Museum, Bucharest, Romania
Newcastle Region Art Gallery, New South Wales
New England Regional Art Museum, New South Wales
Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane
Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane
Tarrawarra Museum of Art, Victoria
Toowoomba Regional Gallery, Queensland
University of New South Wales, Sydney
University of Queensland, Brisbane

University of Sydney, New South Wales
University of Western Sydney, New South Wales
Wagga Wagga City Art Gallery, New South Wales
Westpac Collection, New York

AWARDS and COMMISSIONS

2003 *Dobell Prize for Drawing*, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
2001 *Wynne Prize*, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
1999 *Australian Works on Paper Award*, Melbourne
1998 Federal Law Courts of Australia, Melbourne
1996 *LSFA Arts 21 Fellowship*, Museum of Modern Art at Heide, Melbourne
Sir John Sulman Prize, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
1995 *Contemporary Art Award*, Campbelltown City Art Gallery, Sydney
Kedumba Drawing Prize, Kedumba Art Society
1994 *Contemporary Art Award*, The King's School, New South Wales
1992 *Contemporary Art Prize*, Campbelltown City Art Gallery, Sydney
1991 Visual Arts and Craft Board Grant, Australia Council
1986 Myer Art Foundation

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Linda Michael, *Freehand: Recent Australian Drawing*, exhibition catalogue, Heide Museum of Modern Art, Melbourne, 2010
Annemarie, 'More notes from a virtuoso', *Australian Art Review*, issue 21, November 2009 – January 2010
Deborah Hart, 'Aida Tomescu: States of Becoming', *Paintings and Drawings*, exhibition catalogue, Australian National University Drill Hall Gallery, Canberra, 2009
Supporters of Prints & Drawings: celebrating and supporting the prints and drawings collection of the National Gallery of Victoria, National Gallery of Victoria, 2009
Barry Pearce, "Ravel", *Aida Tomescu: Ravel*, exhibition catalogue, Niagara Publishing, Melbourne, 2008
Nicholas Rothwell, *Paint*, exhibition catalogue, RAFT Artspace, Darwin, 2008
Susan McCulloch, 'Paint', *Art World*, Issue 3, June - July 2008
Margaret Moore (Ed.), 'Contemporary beauty', *Artlink*, vol. 28, no. 2, June 2008
John McDonald, 'Pathways to other worlds', *The Sydney Morning Herald*, 1 September 2007
Tracey Clement, 'Metro picks', *The Sydney Morning Herald*, 31 August 2007
Terence Maloon, *Campi Flegrei*, exhibition catalogue, Liverpool Street Gallery, Sydney, 2007
Jo Higgins, 'Aida Tomescu', *Australian Art Collector*, issue 41, July 2007
R. Ian Lloyd and John McDonald *Studio: Australian Painters on the Nature of Creativity*, R. Ian Lloyd Productions, Sydney, 2007
Irena Zdanowicz, *Masters of Emotion*, exhibition catalogue, Mornington Peninsula Regional Gallery, Victoria, 2007
Sonia Payes, *Untitled: Portraits of Australian Artists*, Macmillan Publishing, Melbourne, 2007
Terence Maloon, *Aida Tomescu*, exhibition catalogue, Niagara Publishing, Melbourne, 2006
John McDonald, 'Undeniable presence', *Australian Art Collector*, issue 36, April – June 2006
Betsy Brennan, 'What lies beneath', *Vogue Living*, November 2004
Susan McCulloch, 'The perennial power of the line', *The Weekend Australian*, 25 October 2003
Elizabeth Fortescue, 'Battle lines drawn as some see the light on artwork', *The Daily Telegraph*, 13 September 2003
Cathy Pryor, 'Dobell-winning 'squiggles' draw criticism', *The Australian*, 12 September 2003
Joyce Morgan, 'Archibald's little sister drawn out of the shadows', *The Sydney Morning Herald*, 12 September 2003
Helen Musa, 'Optimistic image of candle wins top drawing prize', *The Canberra Times*, 12 September 2003
'Child's play', *The Daily Telegraph*, 12 September 2003
'Sydney artist draws plaudits with Dobell Prize', *The Age*, 12 September 2003
Jeff Makin, 'Past imperfect', *The Herald Sun*, 11 August 2003
Anne Gray (Ed.), *Australian Art in the National Gallery of Australia*, National Gallery of Australia, 2002
Michael Newel, 'Indecorous Abstraction: Contemporary Women Painters', *Artlink*, vol. 22, 2002

Lyndal Stuart, 'Poor Cousins - The Wynne and Sulman Prizes', *Artists Palette*, no. 21, 2002

Laura Murray-Cree, 'Aida Tomescu', *Island Magazine*, Vol. 90, Hobart, 2002

Barry Pearce, *Australian Painting in the Art Gallery of New South Wales*, The Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney, 2001

Sasha Grishin, 'Memorable exhibition of works on paper', *The Canberra Times*, 19 June 2001

Louise Martin Chew, 'Culturally under the influence: Asia in Australia, Beyond Orientalism', *The Australian*, 1 June 2001

Laura Murray Cree and Nevill Drury (Eds.), *Australian Painting Now*, Craftsman House, Sydney, 2000

Elena Taylor, *Uncommon World: Aspects of Contemporary Australian Art*, National Gallery of Australia, Canberra, 2000

Sarah Hudson, 'Creative tension', *The Herald Sun*, 5 November 1999

Hendrik Kolenberg, *Australian Prints*, exhibition catalogue, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney, 1998

Sally Fisher, 'Tomescu triumph', *The Herald Sun*, November 1998

Christopher Allen, *Art in Australia: From Colonisation to Post-Modernism*, Thames and Hudson, London, 1997

Peter Timms, 'Tomescu swaps intensity for serenity', *The Age*, 26 November 1997

Robert Rooney, 'The Arts on Friday: Exhibitions', *The Australian*, 21 November 1997

Susan McCulloch, 'The Arts on Friday: More than hand for Tiller's brush', *The Australian*, 14 November 1997

Damien Woolnough, 'Aida blasts back', *The Herald Sun*, 11 November 1997

John McDonald, 'Aida Tomescu', *LSFA Arts 21 Fellowship*, exhibition catalogue, November 1997

Anna Voight, *New Visions New Perspectives*, Craftsman House, Sydney, 1996

Jane Freeman, 'Triumph for Aida', *The Sydney Morning Herald*, 19 November 1996

Rebecca Lancashire, 'Winning in the mid-career years', *The Age*, 19 November 1996

John McDonald, 'The Sentimental Prize', *The Sydney Morning Herald*, 16 March 1996

John McDonald, 'The art prize that surprises', *The Sydney Morning Herald*, 9 March 1996

Victoria Lynn, *Review*, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney, 1995

John McDonald, 'The Masonite Man Heads West', *The Sydney Morning Herald*, 2 September 1995

Felicity Fenner, 'Ambivalence leads to a sense of timelessness', *The Sydney Morning Herald*, 26 May 1995

Neville Drury, *Images Two*, Craftsman House, Sydney, 1994

Hendrik Kolenberg, *Obsession: Chandler Coventry*, exhibition catalogue, Campbelltown City Art Gallery, Sydney, 1994

Elwyn Lynn, 'Primitive Cool Hints at Maze of the Mind', *The Australian*, 21 August 1993

Jacques Delaruelle, 'Seven', *Art Monthly*, October 1992

Christopher Allen, 'Seven at Ivan Dougherty', *Asian Art News*, September 1992

Robert Rooney, 'Escape from the Time Warp', *The Australian*, 29 August 1992

Neville Drury, *News Art Five*, Craftsman House, Sydney, 1991

Robert Rooney, 'Cross Cultural Icons', *The Australian*, 29 August 1991

Elwyn Lynn, 'Surrender to Dark Powers', *The Australian*, 10 August 1991

Peter Timms, 'Fascinating Aida', *Oz Arts*, no. 1, 1991

Eileen Chanin, *Contemporary Australian Painting*, Craftsman House, Sydney, 1990

Arthur McIntyre, *Contemporary Australian Collage and its Origins*, Craftsman House, Sydney, 1990

Victoria Lynn, *Abstraction*, exhibition catalogue, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney, 1990

Peter Timms, 'Impressions: Aida Tomescu', *Art and Australia*, vol. 28, no. 2, Summer 1990

Christopher Allen, 'Worlds Apart', *Art Monthly*, October 1989

Jacques Delaruelle, 'Ultimate Verifiers', *Sydney Review*, September 1989

Elwyn Lynn, 'Creative Comparisons', *The Weekend Australian*, 12 August 1989

John McDonald, 'Dense Surfaces of Swirling Drama', *The Sydney Morning Herald*, 5 August 1989

Alison Barclay, 'Who's Who in the 1990s', *The Australian*, 25 March 1989

John McDonald, 'Reinvention of Fascinating Aida', *The Sydney Morning Herald*, 8 August 1988

Elwyn Lynn, 'Metaphor as a Means of Power', *The Australian*, 15 August 1988

Guy Burn, 'The BP 10th British International Print Biennale', *Arts Review*, 6 May 1988

Victoria Lynn, *The BP 10th British International Print Biennale*, exhibition catalogue, Bradford, UK, 1988

John McDonald, 'Discipline Gives Strategy for Survival', *The Sydney Morning Herald*, 28 May 1986

Rudy Kraussman, *Aspect*, no. 29, 1984

Terence Maloon, *A Different Perspective*, exhibition catalogue, Artspace, Sydney, 1983