

## 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

- 2009 *Aida Tomescu – New Work*, Liverpool Street 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

- 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  
*Diary '96*, Coventry Gallery, Sydney
- 1995 *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 10<sup>th</sup> 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	<i>Dobell Prize for Drawing</i> , Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
2001	<i>Wynne Prize</i> , Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
1999	<i>Australian Works on Paper Award</i> , Melbourne
1998	Federal Law Courts of Australia, Melbourne
1996	<i>LSFA Arts 21 Fellowship</i> , Museum of Modern Art at Heide, Melbourne <i>Sir John Sulman Prize</i> , Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
1995	<i>Contemporary Art Award</i> , Campbelltown City Art Gallery, Sydney <i>Kedumba Drawing Prize</i> , Kedumba Art Society
1994	<i>Contemporary Art Award</i> , The King's School, New South Wales
1992	<i>Contemporary Art Prize</i> , Campbelltown City Art Gallery, Sydney
1991	Visual Arts and Craft Board Grant, Australia Council
1986	Myer Art Foundation

## SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Annemarie, 'More notes from a virtuoso', *Australian Art Review*, issue 21, November 2009 – January 2010
- 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
- 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 10<sup>th</sup> British International Print Biennale', *Arts Review*, 6 May 1988  
Victoria Lynn, *The BP 10<sup>th</sup> 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