

## DICK WATKINS

Dick Watkins was born in Sydney in 1937. As an artist he is largely self-taught although between 1955 and 1958 he occasionally attended the Julian Ashton School and East Sydney Technical College in Sydney.

Dick Watkins held his first solo exhibition at Barry Stern Galleries in 1963 and from 1966-69 was a driving force amongst the artists of Sydney's Central Street Gallery. In 1968 he was a key participant in the National Gallery of Victoria's landmark exhibition, *The Field*, the first major survey exhibition of colour-field painting and geometric abstraction in Australia. In 1970 he began a decade-long association with Chandler Coventry, exhibiting at the Hargrave Street Gallery and at Coventry Gallery until 1980. In 1985, while associated with Yuill/Crowley Gallery, Watkins represented Australia at the XVIII Bienal de Sao Paulo. In 1989 the Wagga Wagga Regional Art Gallery celebrated Watkins' significant contribution to Australian art with a major retrospective exhibition and 1993 the National Gallery of Australia mounted the exhibition *Dick Watkins in Context*, a show of work drawn from the gallery's substantial collections.

A pioneer of abstract painting in Australia, Watkins is represented in the collections of the National Gallery of Australia, National Gallery of Victoria, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Art Gallery of South Australia, Art Gallery of Western Australia, Queensland Art Gallery, most regional gallery collections and numerous distinguished corporate and private art collections.

### SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2006 *13 Landscapes*, Liverpool Street Gallery  
Niagara Galleries, Melbourne
- 2005 Liverpool Street Gallery, Sydney
- 2003 Liverpool Street Gallery, Sydney
- 2002 Tolarno Gallery, Melbourne
- 2001 Martin Browne Fine Art, Sydney
- 2000 Tolarno Gallery, Melbourne
- 1999 Martin Browne Fine Art, Sydney
- 1998 Tolarno Gallery, Melbourne
- 1996 Martin Browne Fine Art, Sydney
- 1995 Tolarno Gallery, Melbourne
- 1993 Tolarno Gallery, Melbourne
- 1993 *Dick Watkins in Context: An Exhibition from the Collection of the National Gallery of Australia*, National Gallery of Australia, Canberra
- 1989 Survey, Wagga Wagga City Art Gallery
- 1988-89 Pinacotheca Gallery, Melbourne
- 1986 Museum of Modern Art, Heide
- 1986 Pinacotheca Gallery, Melbourne
- 1985 *Dick Watkins: Australia, XVIII Bienal de Sao Paulo*, Brazil
- 1985-95 Yuill/Crowley Gallery, Sydney
- 1984 Institute of Modern Art, Brisbane
- 1983-84 Pinacotheca Gallery, Melbourne
- 1982-84 Yuill/Crowley Gallery, Sydney
- 1975-81 Coventry Gallery, Sydney
- 1970-72 Hargrave Street Gallery, Sydney
- 1966-69 Central Street Gallery, Sydney
- 1965 Watters Gallery, Sydney
- 1963 Barry Stern Gallery, Sydney

## SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2006 *Blue Chip VIII: The Collectors' Exhibition*, Niagara Galleries, Melbourne  
*The Summer Exhibition*, Liverpool Street Gallery, Sydney
- 2005 *Liverpool Street Gallery 2005*, Liverpool Street Gallery, Sydney  
*The Salon Exhibition*, Liverpool Street Gallery, Sydney
- 2004 *Liverpool Street Gallery 2004*, Liverpool Street Gallery, Sydney
- 2003 *Central Street Live*, Penrith Regional Gallery and the Lewers Bequest,  
touring to Macquarie University Art Gallery
- 2002 *Fieldwork: Australian Art 1968 – 2002*, National Gallery of Victoria
- 2001 *The Archibald, Wynne and Sulman* prize exhibitions, Art Gallery of  
New South Wales
- 1997 *I Had a Dream: Art in the 1960s*, National Gallery of Victoria  
*A View of the Collections*, New England Regional Art Gallery  
*Swingtime East Coast West Coast: Works from the 1960s and 1970s in the  
University of Western Australia's Art Collection*, Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery,  
University of Western Australia
- 1996 *Triennial Exhibition of Contemporary Australian Art*, National Gallery of Victoria
- 1995 *Australian Art 1940 – 1990*, National Gallery of Australia, Canberra and the  
Museum of Fine Arts, Gifu, Japan  
*The Archibald, Wynne and Sulman*, Art Gallery of New South Wales
- 1988 *Creating Australia: 200 Years of Australian Art 1788-1988*, All Australian State  
Galleries
- 1987 *Australian Art 1960-1986: Field to Figuration*, National Gallery of Victoria
- 1986 *Biennale Sydney*, Art Gallery of New South Wales
- 1984 *Apocalypse and Utopia*, University Art Gallery, Melbourne  
*The Field Now*, Heide Park and Art Gallery, Melbourne
- 1983 *Recent Australian Painting. A Survey of the 70's and 80's*, Art Gallery of South  
Australia
- 1981 *Perspecta*, Art Gallery of New South Wales
- 1977 *Australian Colourists 77*, Western Australian Institute of Technology
- 1974 *Fifty Years of the National Art School*, Bonython Gallery, Sydney
- 1973 *Biennale Sydney*, Sydney Opera House  
*Recent Australian Art*, Art Gallery of New South Wales
- 1969 *Australian Art Today*, touring exhibition to South East Asia
- 1968 *The Field*, National Gallery of Victoria, Art Gallery of New South Wales
- 1965 *Contemporary Australian Painting*, Los Angeles and San Francisco
- 1962 *Young Commonwealth Artists*, London

## COLLECTIONS

Allens Arthur Robinson, Sydney  
Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney  
Art Gallery of Western Australia  
Art Gallery of South Australia  
Bendigo Art Gallery, Victoria  
Benalla Art Gallery, Victoria  
Holmes à Court Collection, Perth  
Macquarie University, Sydney  
Melbourne University, Victoria  
Monash University, Victoria  
National Gallery of Australia, Canberra  
National Art Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne

New England Regional Art Museum, New South Wales  
Philip Morris  
Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane  
RGC Limited  
The British Museum, London  
Wollongong City Gallery, New South Wales

## SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

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- Triennial Exhibition of Contemporary Art*, exhibition catalogue, National Gallery of Victoria, 1996
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- Colin Simpson and Donald Williams, *Art Now, Contemporary Art Post-1970*, MacGraw Hill, 1994
- Mary Eagle and John Jones, *A Story of Australian Painting*, MacMillan Australia, 1994
- Barbara Dowse, *Dick Watkins in Context: an Exhibition from the Collection of the National Gallery*, exhibition catalogue, National Gallery of Australia, 1993
- Deborah Clark, 'Hanging Watkins, but in context', *Art Monthly*, No. 57 March 1993
- Ingrid Periz, 'Dick Watkins - The Eighties and After', *Art and Australia*, Vol. 31, No.2, Summer, 1993
- Mary Eagle, 'Dick Watkins', *Art Monthly*, No. 35, October 1990
- Jacques Delaruelle, 'Looby, Watkins, and McDonald's Duck Project', *Art Monthly*, April 1989
- Sylvia Harrison, 'Sydney Pop and Social Internationalism in the 1960s', *Art and Australia*, Vol. 25 No.4, Winter, 1988
- Robert Rooney, 'Dick Watkins, Sao Paulo Bienal, Museum of Modern Art at Heide', *The Australian*, 10 May 1986
- Memory Holloway, 'Sao Paulo Bienal - The Last Picture Show', *Art and Australia*, Vol. 23, No.4, Winter 1986
- Daniel Thomas and Imants Tillers, *Dick Watkins: Australia, XVIII Bienal de Sao Paulo, Brazil*, exhibition catalogue, 1985
- Paul Taylor, 'The Instrumentality of Dick Watkins', *Art & Text*, 12 7 13, Summer '83/Autumn '84,
- Imants Tillers, *Dick Watkins*, Style Master, Express Australia, August, New York
- Imants Tillers, 'In Perpetual Mourning', *ZG/Art & Text*, September, New York
- Terence Maloon, 'Dick Watkins, Yuill Crowley', *Sydney Morning Herald*, May 5
- Grazia Gunn, 'Dick Watkins', *Art and Australia*, Vol 21 no. 2, Summer 1983
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- Kim Bonython and Elwyn Lynn, *Modern Australian Painting 1970–75*, Rigby. 1976
- Bernard Smith, *Australian Painting 1788–1970*, Oxford University Press, 1971
- James Gleeson, *Modern Painters*, Lansdowne Press, 1971
- Terry Smith, *Colour-Form Painting Sydney 1965–70*, Other Voices, Vol. 1/1, 1970
- Daniel Thomas & Mervyn Horton, *Present Day Art in Australia*, Ure Smith, Sydney, 1969
- Terry Smith, 'Dick Watkins', *Honi Soit*, 12/2, 1969