

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

- 2007 *'Better git it in your soul'*, Liverpool Street Gallery, Sydney
- 2006 *13 Landscapes*, Liverpool Street Gallery, Sydney
Dick Watkins, Niagara Galleries, Melbourne
- 2005 *New Work 2005*, Liverpool Street Gallery, Sydney
- 2003 *New Paintings 2003*, Liverpool Street Gallery, Sydney
- 2002 *Abstraction*, [Tolarno Gallery, Melbourne](#)
Newcastle Lights, John Miller Galleries, Newcastle
- 2001 *Marks and Angels*, [Martin Browne Fine Art, Sydney](#)
- 2000 *New Paintings*, Tolarno Gallery, Melbourne
- 1999 *Recent Work 1998-1999*, Martin Browne Fine Art, Sydney
- 1998 Tolarno Gallery, Melbourne
- 1996 *Paintings 1993-1996*, Martin Browne Fine Art, Sydney
- 1995 Tolarno Gallery, Melbourne
Twilight of the Gods, Yuill/Crowley Gallery, Sydney
- 1994 *Twin Peaks*, Yuill/Crowley Gallery, Sydney
- 1993 Tolarno Gallery, Melbourne
Dick Watkins in Context: An Exhibition from the Collection of the National Gallery of Australia, National Gallery of Australia, Canberra
- 1992 Yuill/Crowley Gallery, Sydney
- 1991 *Works on Paper*, Yuill/Crowley Gallery, Sydney
- 1990 Yuill/Crowley Gallery, Sydney
- 1989 Survey, Wagga Wagga City Art Gallery, New South Wales
Arteries, Yuill/Crowley Gallery, Sydney
- 1988-89 Pinacotheca Gallery, Melbourne
- 1988 Yuill/Crowley Gallery, Sydney
- 1987 Yuill/Crowley Gallery, Sydney
Tolarno Gallery, Melbourne
Paintings – Drawings 1981-1987, Galerie Dusseldorf, Perth

- 1986 *Dick Watkins: Australia, XVIII Bienal de Sao Paulo*, Museum of Modern Art, Heide, Victoria
Dick Watkins: A Retrospective, Broken Hill City Art Gallery, New South Wales
Dick Watkins: A Retrospective, Manly Art Gallery and Museum, Sydney
 Pinacotheca Gallery, Melbourne
 Yuill/Crowley Gallery, Sydney
- 1985 *Dick Watkins: Australia, XVIII Bienal de Sao Paulo*, Brazil
 Yuill/Crowley Gallery, Sydney
- 1984 *Style Master*, Institute of Modern Art, Brisbane
 Yuill/Crowley Gallery, Sydney
- 1983-84 Pinacotheca Gallery, Melbourne
- 1982-83 Yuill/Crowley Gallery, Sydney
- 1973-81 Coventry Gallery, Sydney
- 1970-72 Hargrave Street Gallery, Sydney
- 1966-69 Central Street Gallery, Sydney
- 1965 *Exhibition of Interesting Pictures*, Watters Gallery, Sydney
- 1963 Barry Stern Gallery, Sydney

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2008 *Blue Chip X: The Collectors' Exhibition*, Niagara Galleries, Melbourne
Abstraction 7, Charles Nodrum Gallery, Melbourne
 Melbourne Art Fair, (Liverpool Street Gallery), Melbourne
Wonderlust, Art Gallery of Western Australia, Perth
- 2007 *2007: The Year in Art*, S H Ervin Gallery, National Trust of Australia, Sydney
Abstraction 6, Charles Nodrum Gallery, Melbourne
Art on Paper – The 2007 Hazelhurst Art Award, Hazelhurst Regional Gallery and Arts Centre, New South Wales
Wynne Prize Finalists' Exhibition, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
Summer Exhibition, Liverpool Street Gallery, Sydney
A Taste of the Chandler Coventry Collection, New England Regional Art Museum, New South Wales
- 2006 *Blue Chip VIII: The Collectors' Exhibition*, Niagara Galleries, Melbourne
The Summer Exhibition, Liverpool Street Gallery, Sydney
Painting, Liverpool Street Gallery, Sydney
Melbourne Art Fair 2006, Liverpool Street Gallery, Melbourne
Ink: Whiteley and Others, The Brett Whiteley Studio, Sydney
The Chroma Collection, Macquarie University Art Gallery, Macquarie University, New South Wales
Picture the Seventies from the Macquarie University Collection, Macquarie University Art Gallery, New South Wales
Colour and Movement: Abstract Painting from the Collection of the Geelong Gallery, Monash Gallery of Art, Victoria
- 2005 *Liverpool Street Gallery 2005*, Liverpool Street Gallery, Sydney
The Salon Exhibition, Liverpool Street Gallery, Sydney
The Moderns: 20th Century Painting and Sculpture, Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, Hobart
 Newcastle Region Art Gallery, New South Wales
A Partial View: Australian Art in the University of Western Australia Collection, Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery, University of Western Australia, Perth
Lloyd Rees and Contemporaries, New England Regional Art Museum, New South Wales

- 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

- Sarah Hetherington, 'New work: Dick Watkins', *Art World*, Issue 6, December 2008 – January 2009
- Carrie Lumby, 'Dick Watkins: An artist's artist', *Australian Art Collector*, Issue 31, January – March 2005
- Triennial Exhibition of Contemporary Art*, exhibition catalogue, National Gallery of Victoria, 1996
- Edmund Capon et al., *AGNSW Collections*, Art Gallery of New South Wales (cover illustration), 1995
- 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
- Gary Catalano, *The Years of Hope, Australian Art and Criticism 1959–68*, Oxford University Press, 1981
- 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