

## **BRENT HARRIS**

Brent Harris' paintings and works on paper are brooding, dripping swamplands delineated in the most meticulous way. Stark planes, often black and white, belie the swooping organic gestures and expressionist shapes.

'[M]any of his forms vibrate, rise and fall, and cause the viewer's eye much exercise in following them,' noted James Mollison in *Art and Australia* recently. But what surprises most is the sensuality of the work; as though the sharp lines and immaculate surfaces can barely contain the emotions brooding beneath. This is the Unconscious meshed with a taut, graphic sensibility.

Brent Harris has exhibited extensively in Australia since 1985. Recently his work was seen in *Orifice*, Australian Centre for Contemporary Art and *Field Work: Australian Contemporary Art 1968-2002* at the National Gallery of Victoria. His solo show - *The Face* - at the Art Gallery of New South Wales in 2004 was described by Peter Hill as 'of-its-time yet strangely out-of-time.'

## **BRENT HARRIS**

Born 1956, Palmerston North, New Zealand  
Lives and works in Melbourne

Represented by Tolarno Galleries, Melbourne

## **EDUCATION**

1984-2  
Bachelor of Fine Art, Victoria College of the Arts, Melbourne

1981  
Diploma of Art and Design, Footscray College of TAFE, Melbourne

## **SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS**

### **2016**

The Otherside - A Backroom Project by Brent Harris, Tolarno Galleries, Melbourne

### **2015**

Dreamer, Tolarno Galleries, Melbourne

### **2012**

Brent Harris, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne

### **2011**

the reassembled self, Martin Browne Contemporary, Sydney

### **2010**

Surrender and Catch, Tolarno Galleries, Melbourne

### **2008**

Deluge, Tolarno Galleries, Melbourne

### **2007**

Heads, Lister Gallery, Perth  
Borrowed plumage, Kaliman Gallery, Sydney

### **2006**

Deities, Tolarno Galleries, Melbourne  
Just a feeling: Brent Harris, selected works 1987–2005, the Ian Potter Museum of Art, University of Melbourne  
Swamp op—Brent Harris, Art Gallery of Western Australia, Perth

### **2005**

Singapore print and paper pulp works, Singapore Tyler Print Institute  
Plato's cave, Tolarno Galleries, Melbourne

### **2004**

The face, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney

### **2003**

Sleep: twenty small paintings, Kaliman Gallery, Sydney

### **2002**

Grotesquerie, Kaliman Gallery, Sydney  
Grotesquerie, Tolarno Galleries, Melbourne

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS continued

**2001**

Prints 1988–2001, Ben Grady Gallery, Canberra  
Swamp, Kaliman Gallery, Sydney

**2000**

Prints 1989–2000, Tolarno Galleries, Melbourne

**1999**

Swamp, Tolarno Galleries, Melbourne  
The untimely, Martin Browne Fine Art, Sydney

**1998**

'To the forest' and 'Drift', a set of 10 intaglio prints, Martin Browne Fine Art, Sydney

**1997**

The untimely, Tolarno Galleries, Melbourne

**1996**

Martin Browne Fine Art, Sydney  
That uncertain feeling, Contemporary Art Centre of South Australia, Adelaide

**1995**

Karyn Lovegrove Gallery, Melbourne  
Martin Browne Fine Art, Sydney

**1993**

Karyn Lovegrove Gallery, Melbourne

**1992**

Karyn Lovegrove Gallery, Melbourne

**1989**

The Stations, 13 Verity Street, Melbourne

**1988**

13 Verity Street, Melbourne

**SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS**

**2013**

Melbourne Now, National Gallery Of Victoria, Melbourne, Australia

**2012**

The Sleep of Reason, Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide, Australia

**2011**

Out of Australia, The British Museum, London  
Artist Artists, Benalla Art Gallery, Victoria

**2010**

Change, MUMA, Monash University, Melbourne

**2009**

The things I have seen and the money I have spent, The British School in Rome, Dec

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS continued

**2006**

Before The Body – Matter, Monash University Museum of Art, Melbourne  
Tarrawarra Biennial 2006; Parallel Lives: Australian Painting Today, Tarrawarra, Victoria

**2005**

Drawn from the collection, NGV International, Melbourne  
Extra-aesthetic: 25 views of the Monash University Collection, Monash University Museum of Art, Melbourne

**2004**

HANGA: selected artists from the Nagasawa Art Park residency, Devonport Regional Gallery, Tasmania  
Making portraits: five years of National Portrait Gallery commissions, National Portrait Gallery, Canberra

**2003**

Orifice, Australian Centre for Contemporary Art, Melbourne

**2002**

Archibald prize, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney; tour of regional New South Wales; and George Adams Gallery, Victorian Arts Centre, Melbourne  
Fieldwork: Australian art 1968–2002, the Ian Potter Centre: NGV Australia, Melbourne  
It's a beautiful day: new painting in Australia: 2, the Ian Potter Museum of Art, the University of Melbourne, and Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney

**2001**

Art on paper, Kaliman Gallery, Sydney  
Low-down: recent acquisitions, Monash University Collection, Monash University Gallery, Melbourne  
Painting: an arcane technology, the Ian Potter Museum of Art, the University of Melbourne  
A studio in Paris: Australian artists at the Cité Internationale des Arts, 1967–2000, SH Ervin Gallery, Sydney

**2000**

The Chartwell Collection: recent acquisitions, Auckland Art Gallery, New Zealand  
Sensational painting, Holmes à Court Gallery, Perth  
Spitting and biting: ten contemporary artists and the print, Monash University Gallery, Melbourne  
Workings of the mind: Melbourne printing 1960–2000, Queensland University of Technology Art Museum, Brisbane, and tour

**1999**

Woodblock prints from Nagasawa AIR Program, Sanko Gallery, Kobe, Japan

**1998**

Private parts, Monash University Gallery, Melbourne  
Sets and series, Tolarno Galleries, Melbourne

**1997**

Geometric painting in Australia 1941–1997, University Art Museum, University of Queensland, Brisbane  
Queer crossing, Ivan Dougherty Gallery, College of Fine Arts, the University of New South Wales, Sydney

**1996**

Drawn from life, National Gallery of Australia, Canberra  
Other islands, art of the Pacific Rim, National Gallery of Australia, Canberra

**1993**

The black show, Geelong Gallery, Victoria, and tour  
Contemporary Australian painting: the Allen, Allen and Hemsley Collection, Westpac Gallery, Melbourne

**1992**

Australian pastels, National Gallery of Australia, Canberra  
Recent acquisitions, Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane  
Rules for drawing, Mori Gallery, Sydney

## SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS continued

Stations of the Cross, patronage and the visual arts: Rod Milgate and Brent Harris, Noosa Regional Gallery, Queensland  
You are here, Institute of Modern Art, Brisbane, and tour

### 1991

Exposition, Art Dock Noumea, New Caledonia  
John McCaughey memorial art prize, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne  
Loaded, 13 Verity Street, Melbourne  
Möet & Chandon Australian Art Foundation touring exhibition, National Gallery of Australia, Canberra, and tour  
New art: contemporary Australian art acquisitions, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne  
Painting + perception, Mori Gallery, Sydney  
Recent acquisitions, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne  
Room for abstraction, Heide Park and Art Gallery, Melbourne  
The 2nd Tokyo art expo 1991, Tokyo International Trade Centre  
The sublime imperative, Australian Centre for Contemporary Art, Melbourne

### 1989

Australian perspecta 1989, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney  
ICI Contemporary Art Collection exhibition, Ballarat Fine Art Gallery, Victoria, and Australian Centre for Contemporary Art, Melbourne  
Möet & Chandon Australian Art Foundation touring exhibition, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, and tour  
Re: creation/re-creation: the art of copying 19th & 20th centuries, Monash University Gallery, Melbourne

### 1988

A new generation 1983–1988, the Philip Morris arts grant purchases, National Gallery of Australia, Canberra  
Studio artists, 200 Gertrude Street inc. Gertrude Street Artists' Spaces, Melbourne

### 1987

Keith and Elisabeth Murdoch travelling fellowship exhibition, Victorian College of the Arts, Melbourne

### 1985

Three new painters, 70 Arden Street, Melbourne

## GRANTS AND RESIDENCIES

### 2009-2010

Residency, Rome, Australia Council

### 2004

Residency, Singapore Tyler Print Institute

### 1999

Residency, Nagasawa Art Park, Japan

### 1997

Grant, Visual Arts/Craft Board of the Australia Council

### 1993–94

Residency, Cité Internationale des Arts, Paris, Visual Arts/Craft Board of the Australia Council and Power Institute, the University of Sydney

### 1988

Grant, Visual Arts/Craft Board of the Australia Council

### 1987–89

Residency, 200 Gertrude Street inc. Gertrude Street Artists' Spaces, Melbourne

## SELECTED COLLECTIONS

Artbank Collection  
Art Gallery of Ballarat, Victoria  
Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney  
Art Gallery of Western Australia, Perth  
Bendigo Art Gallery, Victoria  
British Museum, Department of prints and Drawings, London  
Chartwell Collection, Auckland  
Edith Cowan University Art Collection, Perth  
IBM Australia, Melbourne  
The John McBride Collection  
Monash University Collection, Melbourne  
Murdoch University Art Collection, Perth  
Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney  
National Gallery of Australia, Canberra  
National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne  
National Portrait Gallery, Canberra  
Wollongong City Art Gallery, Wollongong NSW  
Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane  
Queensland University of Technology Art Collection, Brisbane  
RACV Art Collection, Melbourne  
Sussan Corporation Collection, Melbourne  
TarraWarra Museum of Art Collection, Yarra Glen, Victoria  
Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, Hobart  
Te Manawa (formerly Manuwatu Art Gallery), Palmerston North, New Zealand  
The Ian Potter Museum of Art, The University of Melbourne, Melbourne

## SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

### 2013

Melbourne Now, (exh. cat.), National Gallery Of Victoria, Melbourne, Australia. NGV Publications 2013

### 2011

Coppel, Stephen, Out of Australia, The British Museum, London, 2011

### 2010

Clemens, Justin, A Shallow Calumniated Stream Death, Tolarno Galleries, 2010

### 2008

Smee, Sebastian, 'Forget Me Not', The Australian, August 2008

### 2007

Smith, Jason, Untitled. Sonia Payes. Portraits of Australian Artists. 2007  
Clemens, Justin, Soft Target, Kaliman Gallery Sydney, 2007

### 2006

Cook, Robert, Swamp op—Brent Harris, Art Gallery of Western Australia, Perth, 2006

### 2005

Mollison, James, Brent Harris: Singapore print and paper pulp works, eds. Martin Tran & Laura A Taylor, Singapore Tyler Print Institute, 2005  
Trounson, Alan, in Max Delany & Kirrily Hammond (eds), Extra-aesthetic: 25 views of the Monash University Collection, Monash University Museum of Art, Clayton, Vic. 2005  
Zagala, Maria, Drawn from the collection, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, 2005

### 2004

Kadota, Keiko, Jane Stewart et al., Hanga: selected artists from the Nagasawa Art Park residency, Devonport Regional Gallery, Tas., 2004  
Miller, Steven, Brent Harris: The face, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney, 2004

Hill, Peter, 'The wagers of sin', *The Sydney Morning Herald*, 29 May 2004

Mollison, James, 'Brent Harris: "Bubbles", "Just a feeling", "Sleep"', *Art & Australia*, vol. 42, no. 1, 2004

### 2003

Grant, Kirsty & Cathy Leahy, *On paper: Australian prints and drawings in the National Gallery of Victoria*, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, 2003

### 2002

Stanhope, Zara, 'Brent Harris', in Jenepher Duncan & Linda Michael (eds), *Monash University Collection: four decades of collecting*, Monash University Museum of Art, Clayton, Vic., 2002

Grant, Kirsty, 'Swamp (no. 2)', in Lisa Prager, Margaret Trudgeon & Dianne Waite (eds), *Fieldwork, Australian art 1968–2002*, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, 2002

Starr, Bala, *It's a beautiful day: new painting in Australia: 2*, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney, 2002

### 2000

'Artist profile', *Artbank*, no. 4, 2000

Nicholson, Tom, 'Brent Harris', *Artext*, no. 68, 2000

### 1997

Moore, Ross, *Brent Harris: The untimely*, Tolarno Galleries, Melbourne, 1997

### 1996

Colless, Edward, *Brent Harris: That uncertain feeling*, Contemporary Art Centre of South Australia, Adelaide, 1996

Nicholson, Tom, 'On becoming figurative: the art of Brent Harris', *Broadsheet*, vol. 5, no. 2, 1996

### 1995

Colless, Edward, 'Blue funk: Brent Harris', *The error of my ways*, Institute of Modern Art, Brisbane, 1995

### 1994

Dodge, Alan R, 'Brent Harris: consistency and contradiction', *Art & Australia*, vol. 31, no. 4, 1994

### 1993

Timms, Peter, *The black show*, Geelong Gallery, Vic., 1993

McAuliffe, Chris, 'The blank generation? Monochrome in the eighties and beyond', *Art + Text*, no. 44, 1993

### 1992

Roberts, Luke & Scott Redford, *You are here*, Institute of Modern Art, Brisbane, & Martin Browne Fine Art, Sydney, 1992

### 1991

Lindsay, Frances, *Möet & Chandon Australian Art Foundation touring exhibition*, Möet & Chandon Australian Art Foundation, Sydney, 1991

Yamamoto, Susumo, *The 2nd Tokyo art expo 1991*, Japan Art Publishing Co. Ltd, Tokyo, 1991

### 1989

Drury, Neville (ed.), *New art three: profiles in contemporary Australian art*, Craftsman House, Roseville, NSW, 1989

Gates, Merryn, *Re: creation/re-creation: the art of copying 19th & 20th centuries*, Monash University Gallery, Clayton, Vic., 1989

Wardell, Michael, 'Brent Harris', *Australian perspecta 1989*, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney, 1989

Colless, Edward, 'Australian perspecta 1989', *Eyeline*, no. 10, 1989

Dodge, Alan R, 'Brent Harris: The Stations', *Tension*, no. 18, 1989

McDonald, Ewen, 'Sydney', *Contemporanea*, New York, vol. II, no. 5, 1989

### 1988

Crawford, Ashley, 'Brent Harris: between quotation and homage', *Tension*, no. 15, 1988