PETER ATKINS

Peter Atkins' bold abstractions on canvas and multi panelled journals utilise the ephemera of his travels - everything from buttons to bottle tops and sequins. Hidden amidst the strange forms are indigenous artefacts and the odd deviations of Outsider Art. Atkins is an alchemist mixing condom wrappers, messages from fortune cookies, lotto tickets, confetti … 'not just things, but loaded things,' writes Max McLean, 'that speak of chance or destiny, birth and death, form and entropy …' Atkins' collecting, arranging, repeating and copying hand injects rhythm into detritus, creates order out of chaos.

PETER ATKINS

Born 1963, Murrurundi, NSW
Lives and works in Melbourne

Represented by Tolarno Galleries, Melbourne

EDUCATION

1985
National Art School, Sydney

1983-84
Newcastle Art School, NSW

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2012
The Monopoly Project Tolarno Galleries, Melbourne

2011
Physical Seattings Martin Browne Fine Art, Sydney
Painting and Drawing Greenaway Art Gallery, Adelaide

2010
Hume Highway Project, Tolarno Galleries, Melbourne Art Fair

2009
Welcome to L.A./Readymade Abstraction, Tolarno Galleries, Melbourne
Studies, Greenaway Art Gallery, Adelaide

2008
Pre-formed, Martin Browne Fine Art, Sydney

2007
Readymade Abstraction, Greenaway Art Gallery, Adelaide

2006
Precious Things, Sherman Galleries, Sydney

2005
The Connected World, Greenaway Art Gallery, Adelaide
Down My Street, Tolarno Galleries, Melbourne
Paintings 2000–2005, Bett Gallery, Hobart

2004
The World Around Me, Sherman Galleries, Sydney

2003
Big Paintings 1990–2003, Survey Exhibition, Lake Macquarie City Art Gallery, New South Wales; Latrobe Regional Gallery, Morwell, Victoria
Paperform, Tolarno Galleries, Melbourne

2002
lo-tech, Sherman Galleries Goodhope, Sydney
Simple Pleasures, Greenaway Art Gallery, Adelaide

2001
Handmade, Tolarno Galleries, Melbourne
Materiality, Sherman Galleries Hargrave, Sydney

2000
Accumulation, Sherman Galleries Goodhope, Sydney
Paintings and Works on Paper, Sherman Galleries Hargrave, Sydney
Live From Brunswick, Greenaway Art Gallery, Adelaide

1999
Polyrhythm, Tolarno Galleries, Melbourne

1998
Soft Edge, Sherman Galleries Goodhope, Sydney
Peter Atkins, Greenaway Art Gallery, Adelaide

1997
Urban Artefacts, Ipswich Regional Gallery, Queensland

1996
Peter Atkins, Greenaway Art Gallery, Adelaide
Peter Atkins, Sherman Galleries Goodhope, Sydney

1995
Peter Atkins, Tolarno Galleries, Melbourne
Peter Atkins, Sherman Galleries Goodhope, Sydney
Peter Atkins, APA Gallery, Nagoya, Japan

1994–95
World Journal, VIII Triennale–India 1994, curator Annette Larkin, Lalit Kala Akademi New Delhi, awarded Gold Medal

1993
Peter Atkins, Tolarno Galleries, Melbourne

1991
Peter Atkins, Tolarno Galleries, Melbourne
Peter Atkins, Garry Anderson Gallery, Sydney

1990
Peter Atkins, Galerie Cannible Pierce, Paris

1989
Peter Atkins, Garry Anderson Gallery, Sydney

1988
Peter Atkins, Garry Anderson Gallery, Sydney

1987
Peter Atkins, Garry Anderson Gallery, Sydney

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2011
Artist/Artists Benalla Regional Art Gallery, Benalla, Victoria

2010
Quirky: From the Collection Newcastle Regional Gallery, NSW

2009
Clemenger Contemporary Art Award, The Ian Potter Centre, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne
The Museum Effect, Lake Macquarie Regional Gallery, NSW
Art For Science / Art Auction, Nellie Castan Gallery, *Melbourne*
The Shilo Project The Ian Potter Museum of Art , Melbourne

2008
Contemporaneous: Australian Contemporary Painting, Wangaratta Exhibitions Gallery, VIC
Bias Bound, Victorian Tapestry Workshop, Melbourne
Summer Exhibition, Martin Browne Fine Art, Sydney
Fletcher Jones Art Prize, Geelong Gallery

2007
Auckland Art Fair, Auckland, New Zealand
Winter Catalogue, Martin Browne Fine Art, Sydney
Poets Paint Words, Newcastle Regional Art Gallery
Arthur Guy Memorial Painting Prize, Bendigo Art Gallery, Bendigo

2006
Multiplicity: Small Tapestry Show 2006, Victorian Tapestry Workshop, Melbourne
Strange Cargo: Contemporary Art as a State of Encounter, Newcastle Region Art Gallery, NSW
Found Out, Lake Macquarie Regional Gallery, NSW
Salon, Bett Gallery Hobart, TAS

2005
Glad-Wrap-Up, Sherman Galleries, Sydney
Arthur Guy Memorial Painting Prize, Bendigo Art Gallery, Bendigo

2004
One Of: Festivus 04, curators Anthony Whelan & Amanda Henry, Sherman Galleries, Sydney
Rubbish: Recycling as Art, Global Arts Link, Ipswich, QLD

2003
Festivus, Sherman Galleries, Sydney
New Acquisitions, Newcastle Region Art Gallery, NSW
The Barcelona Studio: Fragments of a Brief History, Plimsoll Gallery, University of Tasmania, Hobart
ARCO International Contemporary Art Fair, Madrid, Spain
MCA Unpacked II, Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney

2003
Home Sweet Home: Works from the Peter Fay Collection, National Gallery of Australia, Canberra
A Small Private Eye, Horsham Regional Art Gallery, Victoria
Barcelona Studio: Fragments of a Brief History, Plimsoll Gallery, University of Tasmania, Hobart

2002
Group Exhibition, Sherman Galleries Goodhope, Sydney
Dressing and Dreaming, Sherman Galleries Hargrave, Sydney
The Art of Collecting, Newcastle Region Art Gallery, NSW
The Shape of Air (Flat), curator Heather B. Swann, Bett Gallery, Hobart

2001
Five Painters, Sherman Galleries Goodhope, Sydney
A Century of Collecting 1901–2001, Ivan Dougherty Gallery, College of Fine Arts, University of New South Wales, Sydney
Hermanns Art Award, Sherman Galleries Hargrave, Sydney and regional galleries tour
Well Connected: Dobell and Company, Lake Macquarie City Art Gallery, NSW; *Contemporary Benefactors Auction*, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney

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

1999
fashion & art, Gallery 4A, Sydney
Five Continents and One City, curator Gao Minglu, Mexico City Gallery, Mexico
ARCO International Contemporary Art Fair, Madrid, Spain
Global Arts Link, Ipswich Regional Gallery, Queensland
National Works on Paper, Mornington Peninsula Regional Gallery, Victoria
Sixth Australian Contemporary Art Fair, Melbourne
1998 Redlands Westpac Art Prize, Sydney
The Mecenat Collection, Sherman Galleries, Sydney
Sets and Series, Tolarno Galleries, Melbourne
'Something…', Sherman Galleries Goodhope, Sydney

1997
Anon, Sherman Galleries Goodhope, Sydney
The Crate Show, Sherman Galleries Goodhope, Sydney
Tokyo International Art Festival, Tokyo
Za Moca Foundation Works on Paper, Tokyo
Sydney Fundraiser Exhibition, Gallery 4A, Sydney
Contemporary Benefactors Auction, Art Gallery of NSW, Sydney

1996–98
Flagging the Republic, Sherman Galleries, Sydney and regional galleries tour

1996–97
Systems End: Contemporary Art in Australia, curators William Wright and Takeshi Kanazawa, OXY Gallery, Osaka; Hakone Open-Air Museum, Tokyo; Dong-Ah Gallery, Seoul; Kaohsiung Fine Arts Museum, Taiwan

1996
Contemporary Benefactors Collection, Art Gallery of NSW, Sydney
Moët et Chandon Touring Exhibition, touring Australian state galleries

1995
Moët et Chandon Touring Exhibition, touring Australian state galleries
Nippon International Contemporary Art Fair, Yokohama
Windows on Australia I, Australian Embassy, Tokyo
The Loti and Victor Smorgon Gift of Contemporary Australian Art, Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney
International Works on Paper Fair, Sydney

1994
Two Weeks, Tolarno Galleries, Melbourne

1992
Third Australian Contemporary Art Fair, Melbourne
Moët et Chandon Touring Exhibition, touring Australian state galleries

1991
Over East, Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery, Perth
Il sud del mondo/The other side of the world, Masala, Italy; then touring France and the United States
Microcosm, Garry Anderson Gallery, Sydney

1990
Moët et Chandon Touring Exhibition, touring Australian state galleries
Second Australian Contemporary Art Fair, Melbourne
Working up to Yellow, Campbelltown City Bicentennial Art Gallery, NSW

1989
Australian Perspecta 1989, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney

1988
First Australian Contemporary Art Fair, Melbourne
Shards of Consciousness, Galerie Cannible Pierce, Paris

1987
Here and There, Monash University Gallery, Melbourne

AWARDS, RESIDENCIES AND COMMISSIONS

2009
'Melway Project' Commission for The City of Melbourne

2008
'Signature of 'M' Award', Melbourne

2008
Los Angeles Studio Residency, awarded by the Australia Council

2006
Artist in residence, Princes Hill Primary School, Melbourne

2003
Commission for the Crown Promenade Hotel foyer, Melbourne

2002
New work grant, awarded by the Australia Council

2002
Artist in residence, Lake Macquarie City Art Gallery, NSW

2001
Artist in residence, Bundanon, NSW
Artist in residence, Mt Scopus College, Melbourne

1998
Barcelona Studio Residency, awarded by the Australia Council

1994
Awarded Gold Medal, VIII Triennale–India 1994, New Delhi

1992
Project Grant, awarded by the Australia Council

1991
Muswellbrook Open Art Prize, NSW

1989
Sir William Dobell Art Foundation Prize, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney

1987
Artist in residence, Dr Denise Hickey Studio, Cité International des Arts, Paris
Artist in residence, The British School, Rome, August–September

1986
Dyason Bequest, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney

1985
New South Wales Travelling Art Scholarship

1984
Maitland Student Art Prize, NSW

COLLECTIONS

National Gallery of Australia, Canberra
Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide
Art Gallery of Western Australia, Perth
Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney
National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne
Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane
Benalla Art Gallery, Victoria
Bendigo Art Gallery, Victoria
Muswellbrook Regional Gallery, NSW
Newcastle Region Art Gallery, NSW
New England Regional Art Museum, NSW
Chartwell Collection, Waikato Museum of Art & History, Hamilton, New Zealand
Shell Company of Australia
Allen, Allen & Hemsley, Sydney
Corbett and Yueji Lyon Collection, Melbourne
Pat Corrigan Collection NSW
Peter Fay Collection NSW
Derwent Collection, Tasmania
Esk Collection, Tasmania
Artbank

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

2009

Alex Baker, "Peter Atkins" Clemenger Contemporary Art Award catalogue essay, September 2009
Ashley Crawford, "Readymade Abstraction" Australian Art Collector Oct-Dec 2009 pp.170-175
John McDonald, 'Show of Strength" Sydney Morning Herald August 14-15 2010 pp14-15

2008

Annemarie Kiely, "Readymade" *Vogue Living Jan/Feb 2008* pp.76
Wendy Walker, "New Work" Interview *Art World Issue #1* Feb/Mar 08 pp.94-99

2007

Wendy Walker, 'The collections of Peter Atkins and Dana Harris', *Art & Australia*, vol. 44, no. 3, autumn 2007, pp. 434–39
Ray Edgar, "The Collector*" Monument issue 77*, 2007, pp.44-47

2006

'Peter Akins', boxoffice, *the (sydney)magazine*, May 2006
Laura Murray Cree (ed.), *Twenty: Sherman Galleries 1986–2006*, Craftsman House, Melbourne, 2006
Charles Green, Critics Picks, *Artforum*, 17 May 2006 http://www.artforum.com
Celia Lendi, 'Salon', *Australian Art Collector*, issue 38, October – December 2006, p. 343
'Sigalit Landau and Peter Atkins', *AICE Newsletter*, issue 3, November 2006, p. 7
Gillian Serisier, "Acquisitions by the public galleries an important guide to "what to buy"', *Australian Art Market Report*, no. 22, summer 2006–07, pp. 20–22

2005

Deirdre Macken, 'Unfinished business', *Australian Financial Review Magazine*, December 2005, pp.16–24
Leeta Keens, 'Street stories', *Belle*, August–September 2005, pp. 90–93

2004

'The Atkins effect', Art, *The Reader*, no. 48, 21 May 2004, p. 33
Martyn Hook, 'House edge, Crown Promenade, Southbank, Melbourne', *Monument*, no. 61, June–July 2004, pp. 22–6
Betsy Brennan, 'For art's sake', *Vogue Living Apartments*, June 2004, pp. 35–8 (illus.)
Deborah Hart, 'Peter Atkins: United States Journal', *Developing a Collection: Acquisitions 2001–2004*, Australian Art, National Gallery of Australia, Canberra, 2004, pp. 36–7

2003

Maria Bilske, 'Most collectible artists', *Australian Art Collector*, issue 23, January 2003, p. 52
Wendy Walker, ARCO Madrid, catalogue essay, Greenaway Art Gallery, Adelaide, 2003
Daniel Thomas, 'Tender buttons', catalogue essay, *Peter Atkins 1990-2003*, Lake Macquarie City Art Gallery, 2003
Bruce Armstrong, 'Why birds?', *MCA Unpacked 2*, exhibition catalogue, Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney, 2003, pp. 8–9
Max McLean, 'Paper forms', *Paper form*, catalogue essay, Tolarno Galleries, Melbourne, November 2003
Jonathan Holmes and Maria Kunda, *The Barcelona Studio: Fragments of a Brief History*, exhibition catalogue, Plimsoll Gallery, University of Tasmania, Hobart, 2003, pp. 18, 33
Jill Stowell, 'Small curios at large', *Newcastle Herald*, 11 October 2003
Andrew Frost, 'Peter Atkins', *Australian Art Collector*, issue 28, April–June 2003, p. 184

2002

Donald Williams, *In Our Own Image – the Story of Australian Art*, (4th edn), McGraw Hill, Sydney, 2002
Peter Timms, *The Shape of Air (Flat)*, catalogue essay, Bett Gallery, Hobart, 2002
Laura Murray Cree, *Awesome! Australian Art for Contemporary Kids*, Craftsman House, Sydney, 2002
Annette Larkin, 'Contemporary art', *Australian Art Market Report*, p. 10, issue 4, winter 2002
Jill Stowell, 'Chance-found works back home', *Newcastle Herald*, 12 January 2002
Anne Susskind, 'Wear in the world', *Bulletin*, 16 April 2002
Deborah Hart, 'Peter Atkins: Finding beauty in the everyday', *Art & Australia* (cover image), vol. 39, no. 4, winter 2002, pp. 568–77
'Look what I found', *State of the Arts*, November 2002
Elena Taylor, *Australian Art in the National Gallery of Australia*, Thames and Hudson, Melbourne, 2002, p. 424
Paco Barragan, 'El arte que viene – The art to come', *Subastas*, 2002, pp. 32–3

2001

Look Magazine, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney, February 2001
Nick Waterlow, 'A century of collecting 1901–2001', catalogue essay, Ivan Dougherty Gallery, College of Fine Arts, University of New South Wales, Sydney, 29 March – 28 April 2001
Meryl Ryan, 'The journey', catalogue essay, *Well Connected: Dobell and Company*, Lake Macquarie City Art Gallery, 12 May – 17 June 2001
Max McLean, *Handmade*, catalogue essay, Tolarno Galleries, Melbourne, August 2001

2000

Sebastian Smee, 'Fandom creates its own comfort zone', *Sydney Morning Herald*, 17 April 2000
'A load of old rubbish', express/arts, *Sunday Telegraph*, 2 April 2000
Margaret Meagher, 'Highly prized', *The Eye*, 6–19 April 2000
Simeon Kronenberg, 'Documenting aesthetic responses', *Accumulation*, catalogue essay, Sherman Galleries Goodhope, Sydney, February 2000
'The old becomes the stock of the new', *Australian*, 19 May 2000
Paco Barragan, 'El arte que viene. Con el riesgo por delante', *Subastas*, October 2000
Elena Taylor, *Uncommon World: Aspects of Contemporary Australian Art,* catalogue essay, National Gallery of Australia, Canberra, 15 July – 22 October 2000

1999

Bruce James, 'Galleries', *Sydney Morning Herald*, 22 August 1999
Timothy Morrell, 'Art and the everyday', catalogue essay, *Exploring Culture and Community for the 21st Century*, Global Arts Link, Ipswich, Queensland, 1999
Sebastian Smee, 'Raising the bar', *Sydney Morning Herald*, 11 May 1999

1998

Sebastian Smee, 'Looking, looking ...', Metro, *Sydney Morning Herald* , 24–30 April 1998
Bruce James, 'Galleries: Inspired by the everyday', *Sydney Morning Herald*, 2 May 1998
Margaret Moore, 'Soft edge', catalogue essay, Sherman Galleries Goodhope, Sydney, 1998

1997

Anna Johnson, 'Art's new wave', Good Weekend, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 26 April 1997
'Exhibit eh? How selling art to Asia raised eyebrows in Sydney', Metro, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 16–22 May 1997
Anna Johnson, 'In vogue – essentials', *Vogue Australia*, May 1997
Sebastian Smee, 'Hung, drawn and courted', *Sydney Morning Herald*, May 1997
Timothy Morrell, 'Art objects', catalogue essay, *Urban Artefacts*, Ipswich Regional Gallery, Queensland, 1997
Antonia Williams, 'Family matters', *Sydney Morning Herald*, 7 August 1997
Joyce Morgan, 'Yen for the big league', *Sydney Morning Herald*, 31 October 1997

1996

Peter Ward, 'State of the arts. What's hot in 1996', Weekend Magazine, *Australian*,6–7 January 1996
Chris Ashton, 'Australian contemporary art', *QANTAS Spirit*, March–April 1996
Anna Johnson, 'Art beat', *Sydney Morning Herald*, 5 April 1996
Chris Ashton, 'Off again, on again', *Bulletin*, 16 April 1996
'Sherman to Asia', *Asian Art News*, May–June 1996
Neilton Clarke, 'Beginning at the end', *Daily Yomiuri*, 7 June 1996
T. J. McGuire, 'Down under Asia', *Asahi Evening News*, 27 June 1996
'Probe into an original landscape of multicultural society', *Yomiuri Shimbun Newspaper*, 19 July 1996
Tamaki Hara, 'Probe into the present contemporary art in the southern hemisphere', *Maihichi Gravure-Amuse*, no. 14, 24 July 1996
Akihiko Takami, 'Compounding Australian identity' (review of *Systems End*), Bijutsu-Techo, August 1996
Donald Williams & Colin Simpson, *Art Now: Contemporary Art Post-1970*, book 2, McGraw Hill, Sydney, 1996
Felicity Fenner, catalogue essay, Sherman Galleries Goodhope, Sydney, 1996

1995

John McDonald, 'Around the world in holiday snaps', *Sydney Morning Herald*, 18 February 1995
Terry Ingram, 'Art and antique trade goes to Asia', *Australian Financial Review*, 6 July 1995
Elwyn Lynn, 'Double vision', *Australian*, 17 February 1995
Donald Williams, *In Our Own Image: The Story of Australian Art*, 3rd edn, McGraw Hill, Sydney, 1995
Miriam Cosic, 'To all foreigners: We have art as well as outback', *Sydney Morning Herald*, 28 October 1995
Art Monthly, (cover image), Dec–Feb 1995

1994

Michael Hutak, 'Young at art: The new painters', *Sydney Morning Herald*, 1 January 1994
Oz Arts, issue 9, January 1994
Annette Larkin & Peter Timms, *Peter Atkins 'World Journal'*, exhibition catalogue, VIII Triennale-India 1994,
Annette Larkin, 'Peter Atkins', *Eighth Triennale India 1994*, exhibition catalogue, Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi, India, 1994
Suneet Chopra, 'Confronting the global village', *Hindustan Times*, 29 January 1994

1994
Suneet Chopra, 'Building bridges and breaking them', *Hindustan Times*, 12 February 1994
Carmel Dwyer, 'A journey built on obsession', *Sydney Morning Herald*, 14 February 1994
K. I. Kaul, 'A subtle and meaningful fare', *Statesman*, 8 March 1994
Anjali Sircar, 'A comment on superficial realities?', *The Hindu*, 13 March 1994
Geeti Sen, 'Art: Triennale', *The Week*, 20 March 1994
Annette Larkin, 'Peter Atkins', *Craft Arts International*, March–May 1994
Fenella Souter, 'Peter Atkins, painter', *HQ Magazine*, March–April 1994
Michele Helmrich, 'VIII Indian Triennale – Peter Atkins', *Art & Text*, vol. 48, 1994
Isana Murti, 'Crisis in the house of art', *Asian Art News*, vol. 4, no. 4, July–August 1994
Terry Ingram, 'What to watch in 1995', *Australian Financial Review*, 29 December 1994

1993
Christopher Heathcote, 'Keeping the faith in the miraculous power of a prize', *Age*, 13 August 1993
Robert Rooney, 'Exploiters of exotica', *Weekend Australian*, 21–22 August 1993

1992
Alsion Carroll, Introduction, *Moët et Chandon Touring Exhibition*, exhibition catalogue, Melbourne, 1992
Felicity Fenner, 'Moët loses its sparkle', *Sydney Morning Herald*, 11 July 1992
Peter Timms, 'Painting by numbers – Melbourne report', *Art & Australia*, vol. 29, no. 2, summer 1992
Daniel Thomas, 'Australia made by art', introductory essay, *Third Australian Contemporary Art Fair*, exhibition catalogue, Melbourne, October 1992

1991
Jo Saurin, 'Reward of sensual pleasure', *Sydney Morning Herald*, 22 March 1991
Elwyn Lynn, 'Abstract angles with exuberant edges…', *Weekend Australian*, 16–17 March 1991
Jonathan Turner, 'Who are the artists to watch', *Artnews*, New York City, April 1991
Ken Shepherd, *Il sud del mondo/The other side of the world*, exhibition catalogue, Masala, Italy, 1991

1990
Frances Lindsay, Introduction, *Moët et Chandon Touring Exhibition*, exhibition catalogue, Melbourne, 1990
Amanda Meade, 'Profile: Peter Atkins, painter', *City Life Magazine*, Sydney & Melbourne, February 1990
Ken Shepherd, *Peter Atkins – New Work*, exhibition catalogue, Galerie Cannible Pierce, Paris, 1990

1989
Ken Shepherd, 'The way of the spirit in paint', *Australian Perspecta 1989*, exhibition catalogue, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney, 1989
Elwyn Lynn, 'The individual in perspective', *Weekend Australian*, 10–11 June 1989
Christopher Allen, 'Word as image in a language of art', *Sydney Morning Herald*, 16 June 1989
Elwyn Lynn, 'Intimacy and nature', *Weekend Australian*, 18 June 1989
Elwyn Lynn, 'Sir William Dobell Art Prize – Art Gallery of New South Wales', *Weekend Australian*, 11–12 November 1989

1988
Elwyn Lynn, 'From the sublime to the meticulous', *Weekend Australian*, 24 September 1988

1987
Elaine Merkus, *Here and There*, exhibition catalogue, Monash University Gallery, Melbourne, 1987
Terry Smith, 'No simple way to find the Australia in Australian art', *Times on Sunday*, Sydney, 8 November 1987
Ken Shepherd, *Peter Atkins: Poetic Painter of the Essential*, exhibition catalogue, Galerie Cannible Pierce, Paris, 1987