

DANIE MELLOR

Danie Mellor is a contemporary artist living and working in Bowral, New South Wales. His multidisciplinary research and practice explore intersections between contemporary and historic culture, and the legacies of cultural memory and knowledge. Born in Mackay, North Queensland, his maternal family heritage is Aboriginal with Scottish and Irish settler ancestry from the Atherton Tablelands and Cairns region, and his father's family emigrated to Australia from California in the early 1900s.

Mellor's work is held in regional and all state and national collections, including the NGA and MCA Australia, and international museums including the National Gallery of Canada, The British Museum, and National Museums Scotland. His work has received major awards, acquisitions, and commissions including the MCA Australia's Sculpture Commission in 2019, the National Gallery of Australia Member's 2019 Acquisition Fund, and the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Award in 2009. He was awarded his PhD from the Australian National University in 2005 and held positions of lecturer and senior lecturer at the National Institute of the Arts, ANU and then Sydney College of the Arts, University of Sydney.

In 2010 he was appointed to the Visual Arts Board at the Australia Council for the Arts and subsequently served as Chair of Artform until 2015. In 2020 he was appointed to the Board of MCA Australia and the Visual Arts Board of Create NSW.

<https://daniemellor.com/>

Danie Mellor's work is at once beautiful and a calling to account. Finely crafted, embellished and framed, with images and devices that disarm with humour, narrative and a play on the 'exotic', the work nonetheless confronts and confounds our understanding of the past. Mellor tells stories that are neither simple nor complete. Instead, the view is presented with multiple layers that challenge assumptions. Stories collide and metaphors reach further than expected.

Dr Campbell Gray, *Danie Mellor: Exotic Lies Sacred Ties*, The University of Queensland Art Museum, 2014, page 11.

DANIE MELLOR

Born 1971, Mackay, QLD

EDUCATION

Certificate in Art, North Adelaide School of Art, SA

Bachelor of Arts (Visual) with Honours, Canberra School of Art, ANU

MA (Fine Art), Birmingham Institute of Art and Design, University of Central England, UK

PhD, School of Art, National Institute of the Arts, ANU

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2025

marr u | the unseenvisible QAGOMA curated by Sophia Sambono

2024

Danie Mellor Campbelltown Art Centre curated by Emily Rolfe and Isabelle Morgan

2023

Narratives, Tolarno Galleries, Melbourne

Danie Mellor: Recent Works N.Smith Gallery, Sydney

Photo London Gallery N.Smith

2022

redux Tolarno Galleries, Melbourne

2021

jujaba: [a thought space] Artspace Ideas Platform, Sydney

2020

The Sun Also Sets Tolarno Galleries, Melbourne

2018

The Landscape: [all the debils are here], Tolarno Galleries, Melbourne

Proximity and Perception, Cairns Art Gallery May-July 2018 curated by Ashleigh Campbell

Pleasure and Vexation – the strata and spectacle of history, Pataka Art + Museum, New Zealand May – August 2018, curated by Mark Hutchins-Pond, Kairuruku Toi Hou

2017

Sydney Contemporary, Jan Murphy Gallery, Brisbane

2016

a sensual instinct, Jan Murphy Gallery, Brisbane

2014

Danie Mellor: Exotic Lies Sacred Ties, Major survey and touring exhibition, University of Queensland Art Museum, curated by Maudie Palmer, AO (UQAM, Tarrawarra Museum of Art, Museum and Gallery of the Northern Territory)

Art Basel Hong Kong Jan Murphy Gallery, Brisbane, QLD

Primordial: SuperNaturalBayiMinyjirral, National Museum of Scotland, Edinburgh, part of the Edinburgh Arts Festival and presented by the Edinburgh International Festival and director Sir Jonathan Mills

2012

Danie Mellor, Manly Art Gallery and Museum, NSW

Paradise Garden, Michael Reid at Elizabeth Bay, Elizabeth Bay, NSW

2011

Multiple Histories, Jan Murphy Gallery, Fortitude Valley, QLD

2010

Non Sufficit Orbis Melbourne Art Fair, in association with Caruana and Reid Fine Art, Elizabeth Bay, NSW

2009

NEW WORLD, NEW ORDER A Complex Vision, Jan Murphy Gallery, Fortitude Valley, QLD

A Balance of Power, Caruana & Reid Fine Art, Elizabeth Bay, NSW

2008

The Great Creative Golden Age of long ago and here and now, Holmes à Court Gallery in association with Caruana and Reid Fine Art, East Perth, WA

2007

Voyage + Recovery, Fireworks Gallery, Newstead, QLD

Visions of a Curious Wonderland, Caruana and Reid Fine Art, Elizabeth Bay, NSW

From the Landscape of the Curious, Uber Gallery, St Kilda, VIC

2006

Voyages of Recovery, Canberra Museum and Art Gallery, ACT

More from the Cabinet, Despard Gallery, Hobart, TAS

In memories lie fragile dreams, Solander Gallery, Yarralumla, ACT

2005

A Backward Glance, Fireworks Gallery, Newstead, QLD

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2023

NGV Triennial, NGV

Serpent Musée Yves Saint Laurent, Marrakech curated by Bérengère Primat, President, Fondation Opale and Dr Georges Petitjan

Photo London Gallery N.Smith

Archibald Prize, AGNSW

Wynne Prize, AGNSW

2022

The Dingo Project curated by Djon Mundine OAM, Ngununggula, Southern Highlands Regional Gallery, Bowral

Wynne Prize, AGNSW

2021

EVER PRESENT First Peoples Art of Australia National Gallery of Australia and Wesfarmers collection of Australian Art
Unsettled Australian Museum, Sydney
Asia Now Yavuz Gallery, Paris

2020

Real Worlds Dobell Drawing Biennale AGNSW, Sydney
The Possibility of an Island Arndt Art Agency (A3), Cromwell House, London
Terra Australis Galerie Ernst Hilger, Vienna, Australia

2019

New Materialisms: anticipating Gurrugarr Queensland Museum
QUEEN'S LAND AND BLACK PORTRAITURE: From late 19th century to the present Cairns Art Gallery, Queensland
Marriage: Love and Law NSW State Archives and Penrith Regional Gallery
Rococolonial Hazelhurst Arts Centre and Bathurst Regional Art Gallery

2018

Weapons for the Soldier APY Artists and Hazelhurst regional Gallery, NSW
We are all connected 30th anniversary exhibition, Campbelltown Arts Centre, curated by Adam Porter and Emily Rolfe
Life in Irons Museum of Brisbane, Queensland
Indigenous Australia: Masterworks from the National Gallery of Australia Collectors Room, Berlin | Stiftung Olbricht (Olbricht Foundation) curated by Franchesca Cubillo and Kelli Cole
Resolution | new Indigenous photomedia National Gallery of Australia touring exhibition curated by Franchesca Cubillo and Kelli Cole [2017 – 2018]
Art Los Angeles Contemporary, February 2018

2017

Art Basel Hong Kong, Tolarno Galleries, Melbourne
@50, Tolarno Galleries, Melbourne
Tracks and Traces Negev Museum of Art, Israel curated by Emily Rolfe and Dr Dalia Manor with the support of Brian and Gene Sherman
Framing Nature McClelland Sculpture Park + Gallery, Victoria, curated by Simon Lawrie, Balnaves Curator of Australian Sculpture
Primavera at 25: MCA Collection Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney and touring through until November 2018

2016

Adelaide Biennial of Australian Art: Magic Object, AGSA

2015

8th Asia Pacific Triennial, QAGOMA

2013

Debil Debil Anna Schwartz Gallery, Carriageworks, Sydney, curated by Marcia Langton AM
Sakahàn International Survey of Indigenous Art, National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa
International Kogei Triennial 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa, Japan
Australia Royal Academy of Arts, London, curated by Kathleen Soriano, Director of Exhibitions, Royal Academy of Arts, Dr Ron Radford AM, Director of the National Gallery of Australia, Canberra and Dr Anne Gray, Head of Australian Art at the National Gallery of Australia

Memoires Vives: une Histoire de l'Art Aborigenene Australien/ Vivid Memories: an Aboriginal Art History Musée d'Aquitaine, Bordeaux, France, curated by Paul Matharan and Arnaud Morvan
My Country, I Still Call Australia Home: Contemporary Art from Black Australia QAGOMA, curated by Bruce McLean
Berlin Preview Berlin, in conjunction with Michael Reid Berlin and Arts Queensland
 New 2013 University of Queensland Art Museum, curated by Michele Helmrich
Danie Mellor Sydney Contemporary Art Fair with Jan Murphy Gallery and Sophie Gannon Gallery

2012

unDisclosed 2nd National Indigenous Art Triennial, National Gallery of Australia, curated by Carly Lane
Terrain: crossing landscape and country AGSA, curated by Lisa Slade, Project Curator
NEW 2011: Selected recent acquisitions UQ Art Museum, curated by Michele Helmrich
Animal/Human, UQ Art Museum curated by Michele Helmrich
Sculpture Is Everything: Contemporary Works From The Collection QAGOMA
Keeping Places AGSA, curated by Nici Cumpston, Curator of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art and Lisa Slade, Project Curator
Redlands Westpac Art Prize, National Art School Gallery, Darlinghurst, curated by Lindy Lee
Bungaree, Mosman Art Gallery touring exhibition, curated by Djon Mundine, OAM

2011

Curious Colony S.H. Ervin Gallery, Sydney (a Newcastle Region Art Gallery travelling exhibition, curated by Lisa Slade)
Your Move: Australian Artists Play Chess The University of Queensland Art Museum; McClelland Gallery + Sculpture Park, The Elisabeth Murdoch Gallery; Anne & Gordon Samstag Museum of Art, University of South Australia (a Bendigo Art Gallery travelling exhibition)
Message Stick: Indigenous Identity in Urban Australia an Artbank international touring exhibition
Reclaimed: Contemporary Australian Art Bathurst Regional Gallery, curated by Richard Perram
Global Backyard La Trobe Regional Gallery, Victoria, curated by Fiona West
Message Stick: Indigenous Identity in Urban Australia an Artbank international touring exhibition
The New Arcadia Lismore Regional Gallery, NSW

2010

Your Move: Australian Artists Play Chess Bendigo Art Gallery
Curious Colony Newcastle Region Art Gallery, curated by Lisa Slade
NATSIAA, Northern Territory Museum and Gallery, Darwin, NT
Adelaide Perry Prize for Drawing, PLC Croydon, NSW
Time Travel: Reimagining the Past Tweed River Art Gallery, curated by Susi Muddiman
Interpreting Portraits: Macquarie 1810 – 2010 Hawkesbury Regional Gallery, curated by Kathleen von Witt

2009

MCA Collection: New Acquisitions, Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney
Culture Warriors: National Contemporary Indigenous Art Triennial, curated by Brenda Croft, National Gallery touring exhibition at GOMA, and Katzen Arts Centre, American University Museum, American University, Washington, USA
Menagerie, Australian Museum and Object Gallery, curated by Nicole Foresheew & Brian Parkes
Floating Life, Contemporary Aboriginal Fibre Art GOMA, Brisbane
Animal Attraction, Newcastle Region Gallery, NSW curated by Lisa Slade
Bravura curated by Robert Reason, AGSA
NATSIAA, Northern Territory Museum and Gallery, Darwin, NT

2007

Culture Warriors: National Contemporary Indigenous Art Triennial, National Gallery of Australia, curated by Brenda Croft

Indigenous Ceramic Art Award Shepparton Gallery, Vic

NATSIAA, Northern Territory Museum and Gallery, Darwin, NT

2006

Artbank: Celebrating 25 Years of Contemporary Art National touring exhibition

NATSIAA, Northern Territory Museum and Gallery, Darwin, NT

Important Aboriginal Art Caruana and Reid Fine Art, Elizabeth Bay, NSW

3 Large Rooms Fireworks Gallery, Newstead

2005

Primavera, Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney, curated by Felicity Fenner

1992

Story Place – the art of Cape York and the Rainforest Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane

Kanagawa International Print Triennial, Japan

Sorak Biennale, Korea

Internationaal Exlibriscentrumi, Sint-Niklaas, Belgium

Passage, Kyoto Seika University, Japan

Jacaranda Drawing Prize, Grafton Regional Gallery, NSW

Native Titled Now, Tandanya, SA

Fragile Objects, National Library, Canberra

Fremantle Print Award and Exhibition, Fremantle Arts Centre, WA

The Alice Springs Art Prize, Araluen, NT

The Art of Place, Heritage Commission, Old Parliament House, Canberra, ACT

Shield and Show Perc Tucker Regional Gallery, Townsville, Queensland

National Works on Paper, Mornington Peninsula Regional Gallery, VIC

NATSIAA, Northern Territory Museum and Gallery, Darwin, NT

Important Works on Paper Rex Irwin Art Dealer, Woollahra

Fremantle Print prize and Exhibition, Fremantle Arts Centre, WA

COMMISSIONS

Mission Stairs, The Rocks/Tallawoladah, Place Making NSW

55 Pitt Street Sydney with Balarinji, Woods Bagot and Mirvac

Melbourne Metro State Library of Victoria Legacy artwork

Wulgulul Walk artwork, Barangaroo, Sydney with Cultural Capital and Infrastructure NSW

MCA Australia Sculpture commission

Westmead Hospital, Multiplex

International Towers Sydney, Barangaroo with Durbach Block Jagger and Lendlease

480 Queen Street with Grocon/DEXUS/ BVN Architecture

Darling Harbour with Lend Lease/HASSELL

Australian National University

Boulderstone Hornibrook Unilodge, ANU

Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS), Canberra

Australian Indigenous Cultural Network, AIATSIS

Tandanya, National Aboriginal Cultural Institute, Adelaide

Tjabal Centre, ANU

AWARDS

AAANZ award, best art essay by an Indigenous Australian in 2021 *Speaking of an Unquiet Country*
Winner, Adelaide Perry Prize for Drawing, PLC Croydon, NSW, 2010
Winner, 26th National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Awards, Museum and Gallery of the Northern Territory, 2009
Winner, 2009 Indigenous Ceramics Award, Shepparton Art Gallery
Winner, 2008 Tallis Foundation National Works on Paper, Mornington Peninsula Regional Gallery
Highly Commended, National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Awards 2002, 2003, 2007
Canberra Critic's Choice Award for Visual Arts, 2006
Research and Development grant, University of Sydney, 2006
Australian Research Council Research grant, 2000-2003
Post Graduate Study Award, ANU, 2000-2004
Rotary Art Prize, 1996
DEETYA Overseas Study Award, 1995
Australian National University Award, 1994

CONFERENCES

Australian Davos Connection Future Summit 2011 Melbourne
Invited session presenter, EMBA, USYD Business School 2010, 2011
The great work of china (keynote) Australian Ceramics Triennial 2009 Sydney
Artists' Voice Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney November 2005 and 2010
Australian Davos Connection, invited session facilitator, Australian Leadership Retreat, Hayman Island, 2009
Artist Danie Mellor Discusses art and Life ABC Stateline, 20 June 2008 (broadcast Canberra, North Queensland)
Memento 6th Australian Print Symposium, National Gallery of Australia, April 2007
How to hold a spear thrower AAANZ, Canberra 2003

SELECTED COLLECTIONS

National Gallery of Australia
Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney
British Museum
National Gallery of Canada
National Museums Scotland
Queensland Art Gallery
Art Gallery of New South Wales
Art Gallery of South Australia
Art Gallery of Western Australia
National Gallery of Victoria
Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory
Tasmanian Museum and Gallery
Queensland Museum
Australian Museum
Canberra Museum and Gallery Collection
Fondation Opale, Switzerland
Wesfarmers
Sir Elton John Collection, London

Westpac
Artbank
New Parliament House Art Collection
Warrnambool Art Gallery
Mornington Peninsula Regional Gallery
City of Sydney Art Collection
Adelaide Festival Centre
Muswellbrook Regional Gallery
Cairns Regional Gallery
Shepparton Art Museum
Campbelltown Arts Centre
Newcastle Region Art Gallery
Wollongong Art Gallery
Kerry Stokes Collection
Packer Collection
Holmes à Court Collection
Brian and Gene Sherman, Sydney
Jean-Bernard Lafonta, Paris
Malcolm and Lucy Turnbull, Sydney
Malleons, Stephens, Jacques
Australian National University
Flinders University
University of Queensland Art Museum
Dundee University, Scotland
Garangula Gallery NSW
Murdoch University Art Collection

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- Byrne, Lisa *Discrepant MUSE*, September 2003
- Caruana, Wally *The Great Creative Golden age of Long ago and Here and Now* catalogue essay, Caruana, September 2008
- Caruana, Wally *Visions of a Curious Wonderland* catalogue essay, 2007
- Caruana, Wally *Culture Warriors* Frieze Magazine Issue 116 June, Aug 2008
- Clemens, Justin John *Howard in Toytown – Hip politics at the Sydney Museum of Contemporary Art* The Monthly, November, 2005
- Cosic, Miriam *Led by visions of their own* The Australian October 12, 2007
- Culture Warriors – A Nine Part Indigenous Arts Showcase* National Indigenous Television, broadcast from July 2009
- Creagh, Sunanda *Young artists redraw perceptions of the land* Sydney Morning Herald, September 8, 2005
- Dart, Jonathan *Culture Warriors departs from tradition* Canberra Times, October 6, 2007: 9
- Dawson, Jessica *Australian Indigenous Art Triennial: Culture warriors* Washington Post, Friday, September 11, 2009
- Djon Ian Denham, Peter and Johnson, Trish *Story Place* The Courier Mail, 26 July 2003
- Desmon, Michael *Culture Warriors* CVA+C Broadsheet 2007: 46
- Flynn, Chloe *Telling stories* State of the arts, Visual arts August 2003
- Gardner, Jorian *Two visually stunning shows from CMAG* The Canberra Review, July, 2006
- Garrett, Catherine *Danie Mellor's Art* ABC Stateline, broadcast June 20, 2008
- Grishin, Sasha *Concept of Display*, on Show Sunday Times, Canberra Times, August 20, 2006: 8-9
- Higson, Rosalie *Cool and Collectable* The Australian, 28 August 2003
- Jensen, Erik *Mr Yalandja's traditional sculptures go to Washington* The Sydney Morning Herald October 12, 2007
- La, Khadija *Culture Warriors* Artlink Vol30, No 10, 2010
- McClean, Sandra *Art of the Accidental*, The Courier Mail, March 12-13, 2005
- McDonald, John *A vivid trip Back to where it all began* Sydney Morning Herald Saturday January 12, 2008
- McKenzie, Yanada Peter *Sotry Place: Indigneous art of Cape York and the rainforest* Craft Culture November 28, 2003
- Moses, Alexa *Primavera takes on a new sheen* Sydney Morning Herald, September 24, 2005
- Mundine, Djon *Cows & Kangaroos and Cultural Collations* MUSE, October, 2002
- Mundine, Djon *Good, better, best: the art of Danie Mellor* Art & Australia, Spring 2012
- Nicholls, Christine *Culture Warriors: National Indigenous Art Triennial* Object Magazine Studio Edition Issue 55, April – July 2008:56
- Nicholls, Christine *A Battle Worn World* Sculpture News Volume 14, Number 1 Winter, 2008
- Nunn, Louise *Big guns feature in art tour* The Advertiser, June 24, 2008
- Snell, Ted *Unfolding a Winner* The Australian, 15 September 2003
- Taylor, Luke *Culture Warriors (National Indigenous Art Triennial: 07)* reCollections Journal of the National Museum of Australia Volume 3, Number 1 ISSN 1833-4946
- Thomas, Daniel *Indigenous Triennial* Artlink Vol 27, no 4
- Sunanda Creagh *Young artists redraw perceptions of the land*, Sydney Morning Herald, September 7, 2005
- Sorenson, Rosemary *The Story of the Cape* The Courier Mail, 19 July, 2003
- Sorenson, Rosemary *Tie that kangaroo down on a dinner plate, mate* The Australian, May 3, 2007: 36
- Were, Ian *Story Place* (catalogue) Queensland Art Gallery, July, 2003