

ROBYN SWEANEY

Born 1957, Melbourne, Australia

EDUCATION

1978 Bachelor of Education – Arts and Craft, State College of Victoria

AWARDS & RESIDENCIES

- 2018 Tattersalls Landscape Art Prize, Tattersalls Club, Brisbane, Finalist
JADA, Jacaranda Drawing Prize, Grafton Regional Gallery, Finalist
Salon des Refusés, S.H. Ervin Gallery, Sydney
BAM Art Prize, ThomgALLERY, Byron Bay, Finalist
- 2017 Wynne Prize, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Finalist
The June Hedditch Studio - Apartments Residency, The Arts Company, Portland
Tattersalls Landscape Art Prize, Tattersalls Club, Brisbane, Highly Commended
Arthur Guy Memorial Painting Prize, Bendigo Art Gallery, Finalist
- 2016 Border Art Prize, Tweed Regional Gallery, Winner
Allan Gamble Memorial Prize, Mosman Art Gallery, Winner
Salon des Refusés, S.H. Ervin Gallery, Sydney
Tattersalls Landscape Art Prize, Tattersalls Club, Brisbane, Finalist
- 2015 Paddington Art Prize, Sydney, Highly Commended
Hurford Hardwood Portrait Prize, Lismore Regional Gallery, Finalist
Tattersalls Landscape Art Prize, Tattersalls Club, Brisbane, Finalist
Mosman Art Prize, Mosman Art Gallery, Finalist
- 2014 Gallipoli Art Prize, Gallipoli Memorial Club, Finalist
Gold Coast Art Prize, Gold Coast City Art Gallery, Finalist
JADA, Jacaranda Drawing Prize, Grafton Regional Gallery, Finalist
Salon des Refusés, S.H. Ervin Gallery, Sydney
- 2013 Portia Geach Memorial Award, S.H. Ervin Gallery, Sydney, Finalist
Salon des Refusés, S.H. Ervin Gallery, Sydney
Northern Rivers Portrait Prize, Lismore Regional Gallery, Finalist
Fleurieu Art Prize, Fleurieu Biennale, Finalist
- 2012 The Broken Hill Art Exchange Residency
Salon des Refusés, S.H. Ervin Gallery, Sydney
Paddington Art Prize, Sydney, Finalist
The Doug Moran National Portrait Prize, Sydney, Finalist
Gallipoli Art Prize, Gallipoli Memorial Club, Finalist
Northern Rivers Portrait Prize, Lismore Regional Gallery, Finalist
- 2011 Wynne Prize, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Finalist
Paddington Art Prize, Sydney, Highly Commended
Tattersalls Landscape Art Prize, Tattersalls Club, Brisbane, Finalist
The Doug Moran National Portrait Prize, Sydney, Finalist
The Adelaide Perry Drawing Prize, Sydney, Finalist

ROBYN SWEANEY

- 2010 The Northern Rivers Portrait Prize, Highly Commended
Stanthorpe Art Festival, Stanthorpe Regional Gallery, Acquired
JADA, Jacaranda Drawing Prize, Grafton Regional Gallery, Finalist
Paddington Art Prize, Sydney, Finalist
Salon des Refusés, S.H. Ervin Gallery, Sydney
Mosman Art Prize, Mosman Art Gallery, Finalist
- 2009 Country Energy Landscape Prize, Lismore Regional Gallery, Highly Commended
Sulman Prize, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Finalist
Salon des Refusés, S.H. Ervin Gallery, Sydney
Paddington Art Prize, Sydney, Finalist
Mosman Art Prize, Mosman Art Gallery, Finalist
EMSLA, Still Life Award, Coffs Harbour Regional Gallery, Finalist
- 2008 Hill End Artists In Residence Program – Murray’s Cottage
Quick Response Grant, NSW Regional Arts
Border Art Prize, Tweed Regional Gallery, Open Second Prize
Salon des Refusés, S.H. Ervin Gallery, Sydney
EMSLA, Still Life Award, Coffs Harbour Regional Gallery, Finalist
JADA, Jacaranda Drawing Prize, Grafton Regional Gallery, Finalist
Mosman Art Prize, Mosman Art Gallery, Finalist
- 2007 St John’s Art Festival, Open Prize, Winner
Southern Cross – Watercolour, Second Place
Southern Cross – Works on Paper, Third Place
Country Energy Landscape Prize, Dubbo Regional Gallery, Finalist
EMSLA, Still Life Award, Coffs Harbour Regional Gallery, Finalist
Hutchins Art Prize, The Hutchins Foundation, Tasmania, Finalist
Macarthur Cook Art Awards, 45 Downstairs, Melbourne, Finalist
Prometheus Visual Arts Prize, The Prometheus Foundation, QLD, Finalist
- 2006 The National Association for the Visual Arts Marketing Grant
- 2005 Southern Cross – Painting, Winner
Southern Cross – Miniatures, Winner
Country Energy Landscape Prize, Grafton Regional Gallery, Finalist
- 2004 The June Hedditch Studio - Apartments Residency, The Arts Company, Portland
JADA, Jacaranda Drawing Prize, Grafton Regional Gallery, Finalist
- 2003 Southern Cross – Mixed Media, Winner
The Pink Poodle Art Prize, Bond University Art Gallery, Gold Coast, Commended
Postcard Show, Grafton Regional Gallery, Finalist
- 2002 Southern Cross – Printmaking, Highly Commended
Border Art Prize, Tweed Regional Gallery, Highly Commended
- 2001 St Hilda’s Festival of Arts – Painting, Highly Commended
Southern Cross – Painting, Winner

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SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2018 'Backwards looking forwards', Arthouse Gallery, Sydney
- 'The Nature of Things', Anthea Polson Art, Southport
- 2017 'The Summer That Was', Arthouse Gallery, Sydney
- 2016 'Fade to blue', Anthea Polson Art, Southport
- 'Looking Sideways, Heading West', Arthouse Gallery, Sydney
- 2013 'Topia', Anthea Polson Art, Southport
- 'Finding Mrs Frisby', Art Piece Gallery, Mullumbimby
- 'A quiet obsession... Mrs Violet Frisby', Sheffer Gallery, Sydney
- 2011 'Road Trip, from here to there and places in-between', Anthea Polson Art, Southport
- 2009 'New Work', Iain Dawson Gallery, Sydney
- 2007 'Emoh Ruo', Tim Olsen Gallery, Sydney
- 2006 'The house beautiful', Lismore Regional Gallery
- 2004 'A rose is a rose...', Portland Bay Press, Portland
- 2003 'Sub rosa series', Piece Gallery, Mullumbimby
- 'Sub rosa', Grafton Regional Gallery, Grafton
- 1994 'From my life at home', Griffith Fine Art Gallery, Condong
- 1992 'Connections', Cape Gallery, Byron Bay

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2018 'Three Decades: Celebrating the Tweed Regional Gallery Collection', Tweed Regional Gallery & Margaret Olley Art Centre, Murwillumbah
- 'New Galleries', State Library New South Wales, Sydney
- 'Tattersalls Landscape Art Prize', Tattersalls Club, Brisbane
- 'JADA – Jacaranda Drawing Prize', Grafton Regional Gallery, Grafton
- 'Salon des Refusés', S.H. Ervin Gallery, Sydney
- 'BAM Art Prize', Thomgalleries, Byron Bay
- 'The Way You Came', Arthouse Gallery, Sydney
- 2017 'Wynne Prize', Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
- 'Tattersalls Landscape Art Prize', Tattersalls Club, Brisbane
- 'Arthur Guy Memorial Painting Prize', Bendigo Art Gallery, Bendigo
- 'Sydney Contemporary – Arthouse Gallery', Carriageworks, Sydney
- 'House Show', Constance ARI, Hobart
- 'The Bridges: The Second Year', Grafton Regional Gallery, Grafton
- 2016 'Planting Dreams: Celebrating Australian gardens', State Library New South Wales, Sydney
- 'The Popular Pet Show', National Portrait Gallery, Canberra
- 'Sensations: Accessing Collections', Grafton Regional Gallery, Grafton
- 'Border Art Prize', Tweed Regional Gallery, Murwillumbah
- 'Mosman Art Prize', Mosman Art Gallery, Sydney
- 'Salon des Refusés', S.H. Ervin Gallery, Sydney
- 'Tattersalls Landscape Art Prize', Tattersalls Club, Brisbane

ROBYN SWEANEY

- 2015 'Paddington Art Prize', Sydney
'Hurford Hardwood Portrait Prize', Lismore Regional Gallery, Lismore
'Tattersalls Landscape Art Prize', Tattersalls Club, Brisbane
'Mosman Art Prize', Mosman Art Gallery, Sydney
'Unfolding Splendor', Arthouse Gallery, Sydney
'JADA – Jacaranda Drawing Prize', Touring Exhibition
'The Garden Show', Art Piece Gallery, Mullumbimby
'Australia Fair', Lismore Regional Gallery, Lismore
- 2014 'Gallipoli Art Prize', Gallipoli Memorial Club, Sydney
'Gold Coast Art Prize', Gold Coast City Art Gallery, Gold Coast
'JADA – Jacaranda Drawing Prize', Grafton Regional Gallery, Grafton
'Salon des Refusés', S.H. Ervin Gallery, Sydney
- 2013 'Portia Geach Memorial Award', S.H. Ervin Gallery, Sydney
'Salon des Refusés', S.H. Ervin Gallery, Sydney
'Northern Rivers Portrait Prize', Lismore Regional Gallery, Lismore
'Fleurieu Art Prize', Fleurieu Biennale
- 2012 'Salon des Refusés', S.H. Ervin Gallery, Sydney
'Paddington Art Prize', Sydney
'The Doug Moran National Portrait Prize', Sydney
'Gallipoli Art Prize', Gallipoli Memorial Club, Sydney
'Northern Rivers Portrait Prize', Lismore Regional Gallery, Lismore
- 2011 'Wynne Prize', Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
'Paddington Art Prize', Sydney
'Tattersalls Landscape Art Prize', Tattersalls Club, Brisbane
'The Doug Moran National Portrait Prize', Sydney
'The Adelaide Perry Drawing Prize', Sydney
'The Australian Character, works from the collection', Tweed Regional Gallery, Murwillumbah
- 2010 'The Northern Rivers Portrait Prize', Lismore
'Stanthorpe Art Festival', Stanthorpe Regional Gallery, Stanthorpe
'JADA, Jacaranda Drawing Prize', Grafton Regional Gallery, Grafton
'Paddington Art Prize', Sydney
'Salon des Refusés', S.H. Ervin Gallery, Sydney
'Mosman Art Prize', Mosman Art Gallery, Sydney
'The Distance Between Knowing and Not Knowing', Art Piece Gallery, Mullumbimby
'The Industrialists', Tweed Regional Gallery, Murwillumbah
'Countryscapes', Chifley Tower, Sydney
- 2009 'Country Energy Landscape Prize', Lismore Regional Gallery, Lismore
'Sulman Prize', Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
'Salon des Refusés', S.H. Ervin Gallery, Sydney
'Paddington Art Prize', Sydney
'Mosman Art Prize', Mosman Art Gallery, Sydney

ROBYN SWEANEY

- 2009 'EMSLA, Still Life Award', Coffs Harbour Regional Gallery, Coffs Harbour
'About a Tree', Art Piece Gallery, Mullumbimby
'The Collectors Paradise Show', Northern Rivers Community Gallery, Ballina
'Industrialists', QDOS Gallery, Lorne
'Hot In The City', Iain Dawson Gallery, Sydney
- 2008 'Border Art Prize', Tweed Regional Gallery, Murwillumbah
'Salon des Refusés', S.H. Ervin Gallery, Sydney
'EMSLA, Still Life Award', Coffs Harbour Regional Gallery, Coffs Harbour
'JADA, Jacaranda Drawing Prize', Grafton Regional Gallery, Grafton
'Mosman Art Prize', Mosman Art Gallery, Sydney
'HOME', Lismore Regional Gallery, Lismore
'Wish You Were Here, Friends Exhibition', Tweed Regional Gallery, Murwillumbah
'Solstice, a winter exhibition', Tim Olsen Gallery, Sydney
'2 X 2', Tim Olsen Gallery, Sydney
'Countryscapes', The Gunnery, Woolloomooloo
- 2007 'JADA Traveling Exhibition', Tamworth Regional Gallery, Tamworth
'Come Hither: Interpretations of the Boudoir', Wagga Wagga Art Gallery, Wagga Wagga
'Country Energy Landscape Prize', Dubbo Regional Gallery, Dubbo
'EMSLA, Still Life Award', Coffs Harbour Regional Gallery, Coffs Harbour
'Hutchins Art Prize', The Hutchins Foundation, Tasmania
'Macarthur Cook Art Awards', 45 Downstairs, Melbourne
'Prometheus Visual Arts Prize', The Prometheus Foundation, QLD
'Solstice, a winter exhibition', Tim Olsen Gallery, Sydney
- 2006 'Local Art', LRG, Byron Bay Writers Festival, Byron Bay
'FEHVA Exhibition and Auction', Byron Bay Community Centre, Byron Bay
'Identity', Piece Gallery, Mullumbimby
- 2005 'Countryscapes', Parliament of New South Wales, Fountain Court Gallery, Sydney
'JADA, Jacaranda Drawing Prize Exhibition', Wagga Wagga Regional Gallery, Wagga Wagga
'Print Night', Grafton Regional Gallery, Grafton
'Country Energy Landscape Prize', Grafton Regional Gallery, Grafton
'c.a.s.e...unpacked', Tweed Regional Gallery, Murwillumbah
'Man's best friend', next contemporary art space, S. C. University, Lismore
- 2004 'Lismore Regional Treasures', Lismore Regional Gallery, Lismore
'JADA, Jacaranda Drawing Prize', Grafton Regional Gallery, Grafton
- 2003 'The Inaugural Print Night', Grafton Regional Gallery, Grafton
'The Pink Poodle Art Prize', Bond University Art Gallery, Gold Coast
'Postcard Show', Grafton Regional Gallery, Grafton
- 2002 'Art as Investment', Lismore Regional Art Gallery, Lismore
'Border Art Prize', Tweed Regional Gallery, Mullumbimby
'Erotica [e]', Print Portfolio, Lismore Regional Art Gallery, Lismore
'Doors of Perception', Piece Gallery, Mullumbimby

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SELECTED COLLECTIONS

Artbank, Sydney, NSW

Gold Coast City Art Gallery, QLD

Gold Coast University Hospital, QLD

Grafton Regional Gallery, NSW

Lismore Regional Gallery, NSW

Mitchell Library, State Library of New South Wales, NSW

Southern Downs Regional Art Collection, Stanthorpe, QLD

Tweed Regional Gallery & Margaret Olley Art Centre, Murwillumbah, NSW

Northern Rivers Community Gallery, Ballina Shire Council, NSW

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

John McDonald, 'Salon des Refusés: No need for consolation tones', *SMH, Spectrum*, 2018
Artist Profile, 'Robyn Sweaney' Issue 42, 2018

BAM. Byron Art Magazine, 'Feature', Summer 17, Issue 8, p.32

Andrew Frost, 'Archibald 2017: objections to winning work are merely whinges over style',
The Guardian, 2017

Candida Baker, 'Time & Tide shortlisted for the Wynne', *Verandah Magazine*, 2017

Alana Wilson, 'Congratulations Robyn Sweaney, 2017 Wynne Prize Finalist',
BAM, Byron Arts Magazine, 2017

Sarah Engledow, 'The Popular Pet Show – Catalogue Essay', National Portrait Gallery,
Canberra, 2016

Richard Aitken, 'Planting Dreams: Shaping Australian Gardens', State Library of NSW, 2016

Karen Viggers, 'Pets get top billing in Popular Pet Show at the National Portrait Gallery in Canberra',
SMH, 4 Nov 2016

Sally Pryor, 'Dogs get star billing in The Popular Pet Show at the National Portrait Gallery in
Canberra', 3 Nov 2016

Sharne Wolff, 'The Short List, 20 Things to See, Hear and Do this Weekend', *SMH*, 2016

Alana Wilson, 'Interview', *BAM. Byron Art Magazine*, Issue 1

John McDonald, 'More than face value', *SMH, Spectrum*, 2013

John McDonald, 'Salon des Refusés', *SMH, Spectrum*, 2012

Marina Saint Martin, 'No place like...' *Artworld: The Gold Coast Bulletin*, 2011

Sharne Wolff, 'A Platform for Legends', *The Art Life*, 2011

Dominic Feain, 'Mrs Frisby's Brush with fame', *The Northern Star*, 2011

Lissa Christopher, 'Open Gallery', *SMH, Spectrum*, 2009

Laura Jan Shore and Bev Sweeney (eds), 'All the way home: Poetry from Byron Bay
and beyond', illustrated by Robyn Sweaney, Byron Bay: Dangerously Poetic Press, 2009

Melitta Firth, 'Case Study', *Arts Northern Rivers, VAN Report*, 2009

'Sunday Arts', ABC TV, Episode 16

John McDonald, 'When losers are winners – Salon Des Refuses', *SMH, Spectrum*, 2009

Steven Alderton, 'Lismore hosts the Country Energy Art Prize', *The Northern Star, Art Speak*, 2009

ROBYN SWEANEY

Nerida Woolley, 'Border Art Prize', *The Northern Star*, 2008

John McDonald, 'Full of life, still or otherwise', *SMH*, 2008

'ArtPost', ABC TV & Regional Arts, Web profile – Photos & Interview David Batty, Rebel Films, 2008

Sonia Caeiro, 'Artist Profile', *North Coast ARTS Quarterly*, Summer, 2008

'House Painter: Conversation with Robyn Sweaney', *Radio National, By Design*, 2007

'Beyond Region: Public Galleries in New South Wales', published by Arts New South Wales, M&GNSW and the Australia Council, 2007

Melitta Firth, 'Van Speed Dating: First Cabs Off The Rank!', *Visual Arts Network News*, 2007

Carmel Dwyer, 'Tim Olsen gets serious', *Australian Art Collector*, 2007

Steven Alderton, 'A year of art - Steven gives us his top ten', *The Northern Star*, 2006

Rosie Lee, *North Coast Arts Quarterly*, 2006

Louise Beaumont, *Byron Shire Echo*, 2006

Steven Alderton, 'A brushstroke in time', *The Northern Star*, 2006

Candida Baker, 'Is it a book?', *The Northern Star*, 2006