



JOSHUA YELDHAM

*In Return*



Photograph by Jo Yeldham

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## *In Return*

18 August – 9 September 2023

Opening Celebration, Friday 18 August, 6 – 8 pm

Arthouse Gallery is delighted to present 'In Return', an evocative photomedia exhibition by leading contemporary artist Joshua Yeldham.

In December 2023 Yeldham's unique hand-carved photographic practice will be highlighted in the National Gallery of Victoria 'Triennial' exhibition. The NGV has acquired *Resonance* (8 in a series of 9) for their permanent collection. The work features embellishments of acrylic paint, cane, wood and string.

*The 'Triennial' series signifies one of the most ambitious and exciting projects ever embarked on by the NGV. 'Triennial' 2017 and 'Triennial' 2020 challenged, confronted, and inspired us to see the world differently – through the lens of artists and designers in the contemporary, art, design and architectural space from around the globe. Exploring current issues through ground-breaking works narrated by contemporary artists and designers, 'Triennial' 2023 will challenge visitors to think differently.* Tony Ellwood AM, Director – National Gallery of Victoria

'In Return' continues and expands upon Yeldham's complex photographic practice. The time the artist takes to paint, carve, and sculpt each piece is rewarded by the time it deserves to know them: To connect with the vibrational hum between positive and negative space.

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## ***In Return* – Georgina Reid**

It is impossible to meander through life without entanglement. Without becoming both knotted and unspooled, woven and unwoven. It is possible, however, to be unaware of the threads that bind. To exist in a place where the fine silken string that ties me and you, rock and heron, mud and star is rendered invisible. Blotted out by the noise. Swept away by the speed.

This shimmering thread makes and unmakes worlds. If you trace it with curiosity and attention, like Joshua Yeldham, you will rise to the moon and sink to the bottom of the river. You will climb mountain peaks and dissolve into the space between rock and sky. You will laugh and cry and draw and make and where you've been might best be described as a mystery. What is less mysterious is where the thread leads: It returns, always, to the earth beneath our soft-soled animal feet.

Yeldham's work is an act of tending and care, weaving and reweaving. See *Surrender Tree*. See how he wraps the ancient mangrove with line and light and the tenderest touch. Follow the bands of cane adorning the sinuous trunk, tapping into invisible energetic realms. Trace the strings running from node to node, lines of support and connection. Track the tiny, intricate marks carved and scraped and drilled into the tree trunks. See how the light – glistening and alive – emerges from the canopy, coaxed by Yeldham's hand. It is not enough only to imagine care. No, it is a physical act.

Now imagine, for a minute, being a spider. Climb to the highest point you can, raise your stomach to the sun and release your finest silken gossamer. Wait. Wait. Wait. Until the wind catches the thread and pulls you aloft, soaring skyward towards worlds unknown. Ballooning, it's called, this act of trust in sky and silk. As illustrated in *Fertility Tree – Morning Bay*, it is an action of release and connection, weaving and unravelling. 'I've created my own language in the trees,' Yeldham says of the work. He talks of caress, how sometimes ideas and energies touch us in places quiet and hidden yet eternal. How a web is also an embrace.

Looping strands glimmer and dance in the iridescent light, linking branch to sky and beyond. Winding cane webs spiral softly in the wind. There is movement here. Energy here. Release here.

Surrender. Yes, surrender to the shimmering thread.

Joshua Yeldham has exhibited widely throughout Australia and internationally. In 2017 he was awarded the prestigious Nancy Fairfax Artist Residency at Tweed Regional Gallery & Margaret Olley Arts Centre, that culminated in a critically acclaimed survey exhibition. Yeldham has been a finalist in numerous prestigious awards including the Wynne Prize (2019, 2018, 2017, 2014, 2013, 2012, 2011, 2009), Archibald Prize (2013), Sulman Prize (2006, 1998) and Mosman Art Prize (2005, 2003) and in 2015 he participated in the London Art Fair, ART15. Yeldham's work is held in many important collections including Mosman Art Gallery, Manly Art Gallery and Museum, Australian Stock Exchange, University of Wollongong and BHP Billiton Collection, as well as numerous private collections in Australia and overseas.

*Spirit of Motherhood* (3 in a series of 9)

hand-carved pigment print on canvas on aluminium with acrylic, cane, ceramic and wood

201 x 201 cm (framed)

\$50,000

VIDEO

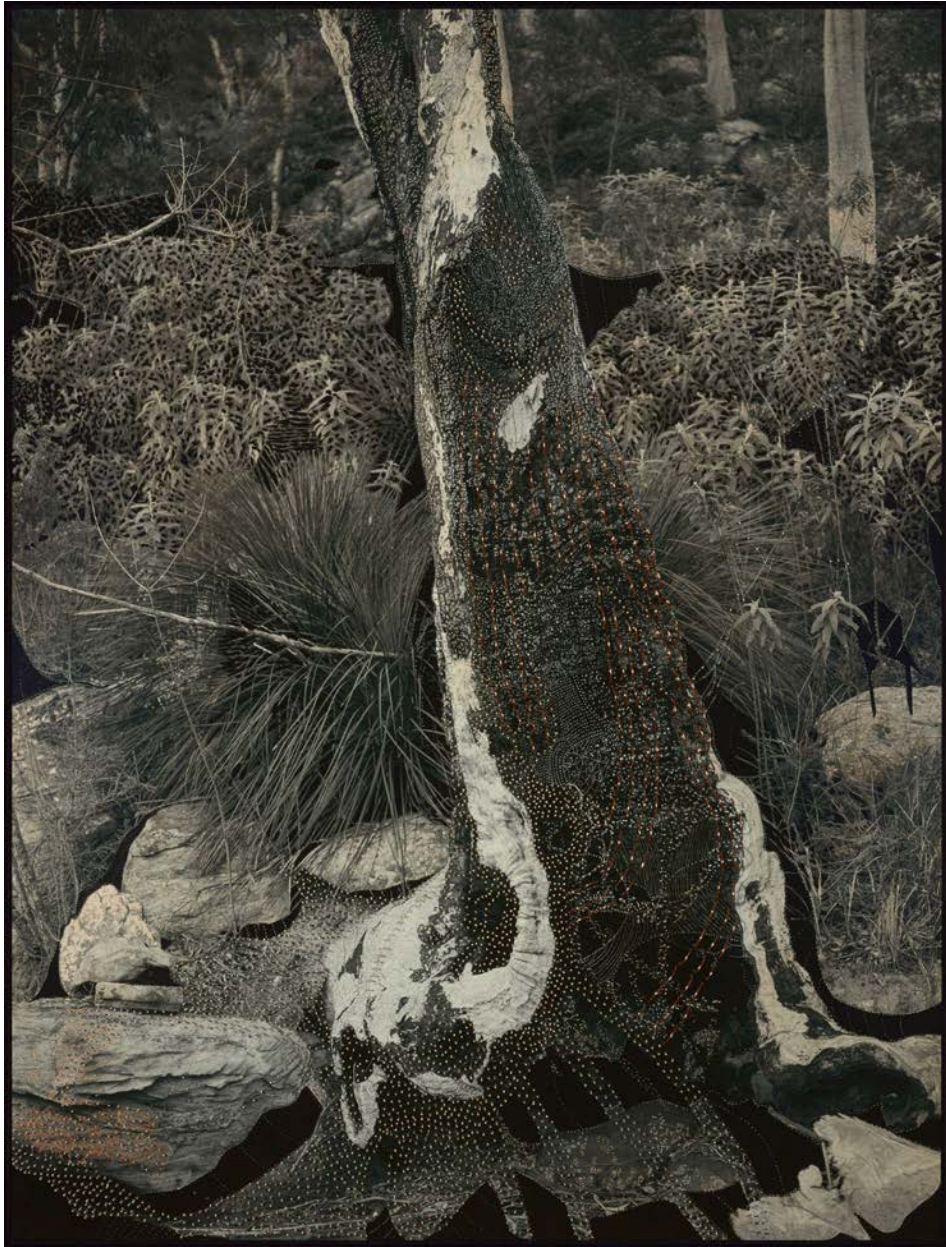


*Providence* (1 in a series of 9)

hand-carved pigment print on canvas on aluminium with acrylic and cane

198 x 150 cm (framed)

\$45,000



*Surrender Tree – Morning Bay* (5 in a series of 9)

hand-carved pigment print on canvas on aluminium with acrylic, cane and string

201.5 x 201.5 cm (framed)

\$50,000



*Trinity* (1 in a series of 9)

hand-carved pigment print on canvas on aluminium with acrylic, cane, wire in cedar artist frame

251.5 x 151.5 cm (framed)

\$48,000

**VIDEO**





*Kyoto Studio with Spider Web*

hand-carved pigment print on canvas on aluminium with acrylic and wire in cedar artist frame

200 x 200 cm (framed)

\$48,000

**VIDEO**



*Fertility Tree – Morning Bay (2 in a series of 9)*

hand-carved pigment print on canvas on aluminium with acrylic and cane

201 x 201 cm (framed)

\$40,000



*Morning Bay – Owl Fertility* (1 in a series of 9)

hand-carved pigment print on canvas on aluminium with acrylic and cane

151 x 252 cm (framed)

\$48,000





Photograph by Jo Yeldham

*Owl Wood* (1 in a series of 9)

hand-carved pigment print on canvas on aluminium with acrylic and cane

150.5 x 150.5 cm (framed)

\$20,000



*Driftwood – Lord Howe Island* (8 in a series of 9)

hand-carved pigment print on canvas on aluminium with acrylic and cane

150.5 x 150.5 cm (framed)

\$20,000

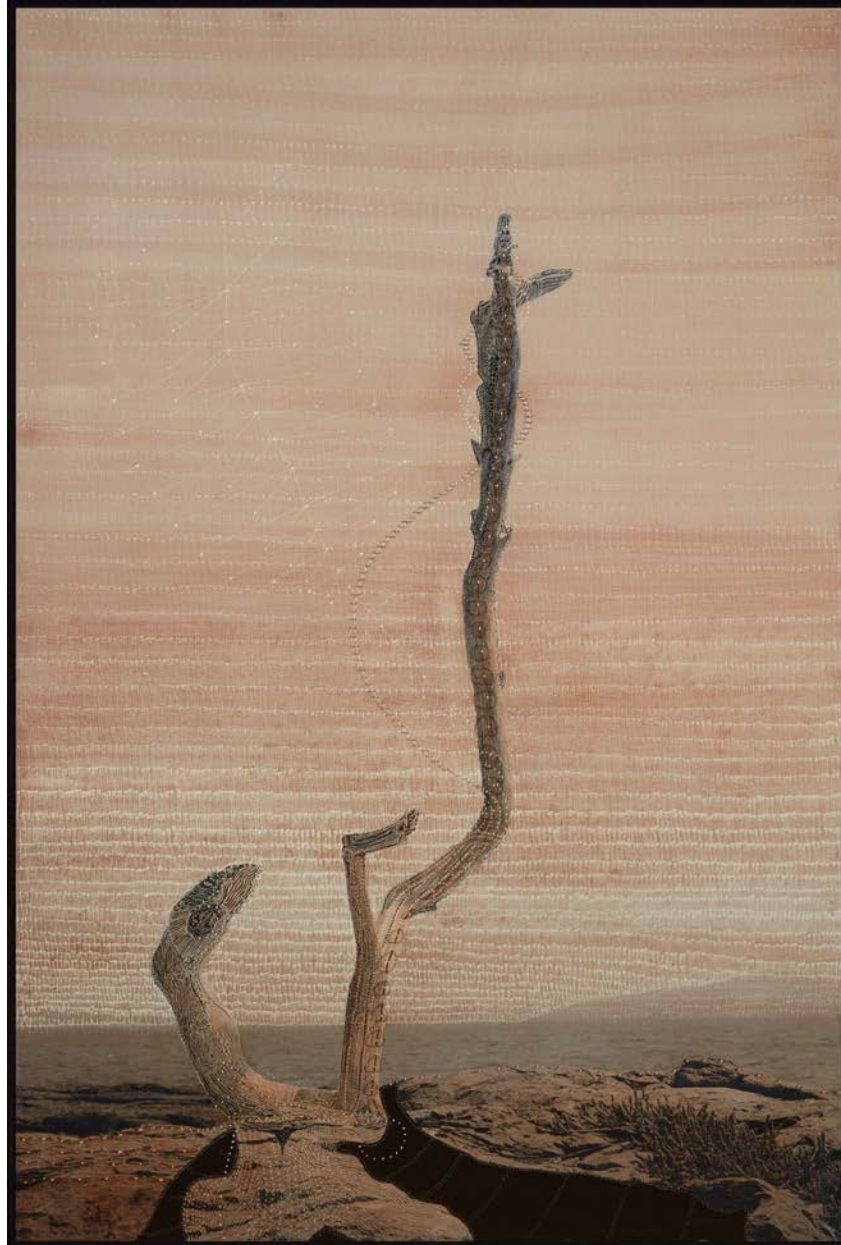


*Driftwood – Snake Head* (2 in a series of 9)

hand-carved pigment print on canvas on aluminium with acrylic and cane

190.5 x 128.5 cm (framed)

\$22,000



*Joshua Tree – Terracotta* (1 in a series of 9)  
hand-carved pigment print on paper with clay stain  
206.5 x 206.5 cm (framed)  
\$40,000



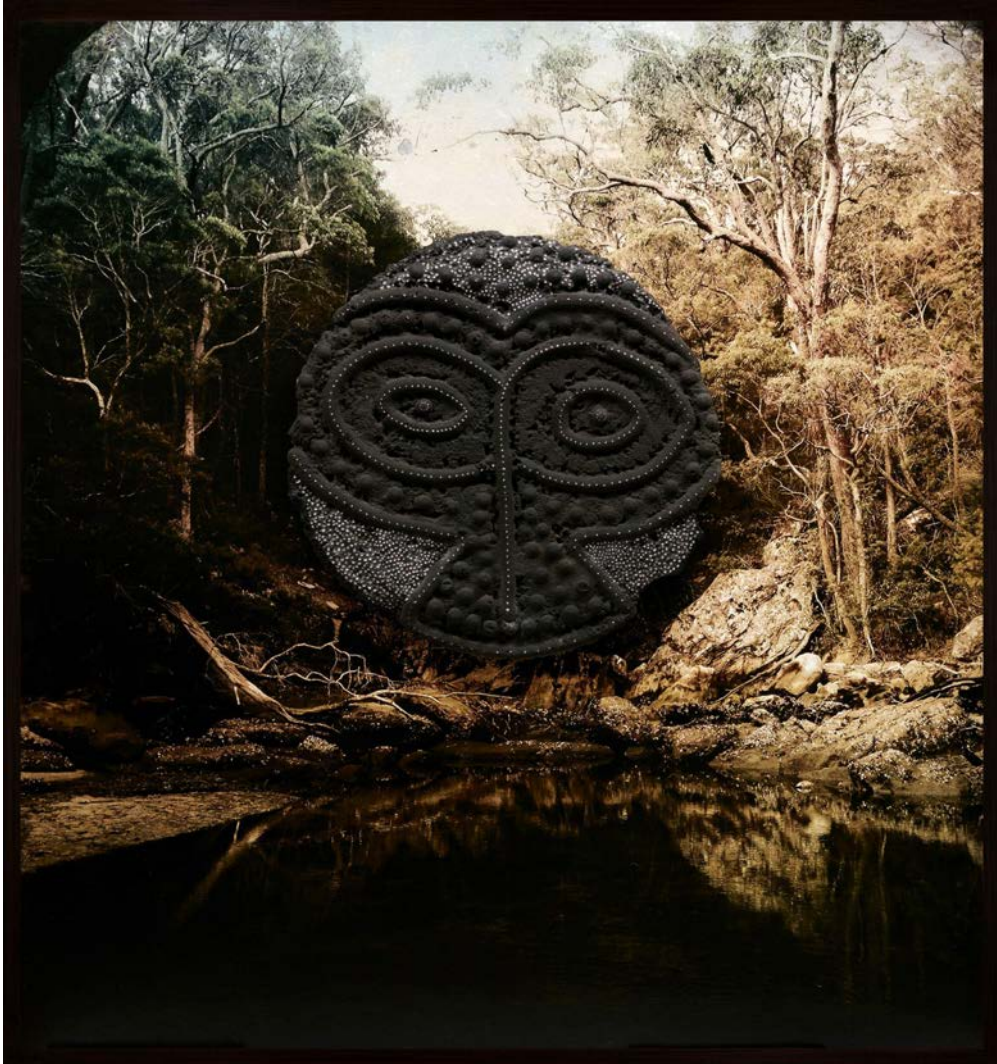


*Morning Bay*

hand-carved drystone on pigment print on dibond

164 x 155 x 12 cm (framed)

\$24,000





Photograph by Cam Bloom

*Spring Owl* (front and back)

ceramic

40 x 34 x 20 cm

\$9,800



*Agapanthus Owl* (front and back)

ceramic

40 x 34 x 18 cm

\$9,800



*Dog Owl* (front and back)  
ceramic, drystone and cedar  
54 x 34 x 34 cm  
\$9,800



*Spellbound Owl* (front and side)

ceramic and cane

42 x 33 x 31 cm

\$9,800



*Gliding Owl* (front and back)  
ceramic, acrylic, cane, drystone and cedar  
38 x 34 x 34 cm  
\$7,000



*Lily Owl* (front and back)  
ceramic, acrylic and cane  
40 x 45 x 22 cm  
\$9,800





*Night Hunter Owl*

ceramic

39 cm diameter

\$4,200



*Olive Owl*  
ceramic  
34 cm diameter  
\$3,000



*Upside Down Owl*  
ceramic  
33 cm diameter  
\$3,000



Owl Eyes  
ceramic  
26 cm diameter  
\$2,000



*Owl of Clay Moon Lantern*

ceramic

35 cm diameter

\$3,800



*Honey Owl Lantern*

ceramic

37 cm diameter

\$3,800



*Morning Bay*  
ceramic  
35 cm diameter  
\$3,800



*Mud Owl*  
ceramic  
25 cm diameter  
\$2,000



*Night Owl*  
ceramic  
25 cm diameter  
\$2,000



*Owl of Providence*  
ceramic  
34 cm diameter  
\$3,000



*Sand Owl*  
ceramic  
26 cm diameter  
\$2,000



*Growing to the Stars*

ceramic

31 cm diameter

\$3,000





*It is the time in and connection to nature on the banks of Dyarubbin  
(Hawkesbury) River on the lands of the Gadigal, the Darug and  
Darkinjung people that inspires me to keep creating. – jy*



# JOSHUA YELDHAM

*Born Sydney, Australia, 1970*

## EDUCATION

1993 Bachelor of Fine Arts, Rhode Island School of Design, USA

## AWARDS, GRANTS & RESIDENCIES

- 2023 Salon des Refuses, S.H. Ervin Gallery, Sydney, People's Choice Winner
- 2021 Salon des Refuses, S.H. Ervin Gallery, Sydney, Finalist
- 2020 Salon des Refuses, S.H. Ervin Gallery, Sydney, People's Choice Winner  
Artist in Residence, Capella Lodge, Lord Howe Island, NSW
- 2019 Wynne Prize, Art Gallery of NSW, Sydney, NSW, Finalist
- 2018 Wynne Prize, Art Gallery of NSW, Sydney, NSW, Finalist
- 2017 Wynne Prize, Art Gallery of NSW, Sydney, NSW, Finalist  
Nancy Fairfax Artist Residency, Tweed Regional Gallery & Margaret Olley Art Centre, Murwillumbah, NSW
- 2016 Redlands Konica Minolta Art Prize, Redlands, Second Place
- 2015 Wynne Prize, Art Gallery of NSW, Sydney, Finalist
- 2014 Wynne Prize, Art Gallery of NSW, Sydney, Finalist
- 2013 Archibald Prize, Art Gallery Of NSW, Sydney, Finalist  
Wynne Prize, Art Gallery of NSW, Sydney, Finalist
- 2012 Wynne Prize, Art Gallery of NSW, Sydney, Finalist
- 2011 Wynne Prize, Art Gallery of NSW, Sydney, Finalist
- 2010 Salon des Refuses, S.H. Ervin Gallery, Sydney, Finalist
- 2009 Wynne Prize, Art Gallery of NSW, Sydney, Finalist
- 2006 Sulman Art Prize, Art Gallery of NSW, Sydney, Finalist
- 2005 Mosman Art Prize, Mosman Art Gallery, Sydney, Finalist
- 2003 Mosman Art Prize, Mosman Art Gallery, Sydney, Finalist
- 2002 Universities and Schools Club Prize, Sydney, Finalist
- 1998 Sulman Prize, Art Gallery of NSW, Sydney, Finalist
- 1997 Westpac Art Awards, SKEGGS Redlands, Sydney, NSW  
Tattersall's Landscape Art Awards, Brisbane, QLD
- 1995 The Queen's Trust Award

# JOSHUA YELDHAM

- 1995 Australian Young Achiever Awards, NSW State Finalist, Career Achievement Award (Arts Division)
- 1993 Alumni Award for Outstanding Achievement, Rhode Island School of Design, USA

## SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2023 'In Return', Arthouse Gallery, Sydney, NSW
- 2022 'Garden of Ruins', Scott Livesey Galleries, Melbourne, VIC
- 2021 'Hearthstone', Arthouse Gallery, Sydney, NSW
- 2020 'Providence', Arthouse Gallery, Sydney, NSW
- 2019 'Child of the Storm', Scott Livesey Galleries, Melbourne, VIC
- 2017 'Endurance', Arthouse Gallery, Sydney, NSW  
'Endurance', Nancy Fairfax Artist in Residence, Tweed River Regional Gallery, NSW  
'Surrender', Survey Exhibition, Tweed Regional Gallery & Margaret Olley Art Centre, Murwillumbah, NSW
- 2016 'Rishi', Scott Livesey Galleries, Melbourne, VIC
- 2015 'Owls Of Kyoto', Arthouse Gallery, Sydney, NSW  
'The Need of the Time', Scott Livesey Gallery, Melbourne, VIC  
'Surrender', Cat Street Gallery at Art 15 London, London, UK
- 2014 'Surrender - Survey Exhibition', Manly Art Gallery & Museum, Sydney, NSW
- 2013 'Surrender Tree', Sydney Contemporary Art Fair, Arthouse Gallery, NSW
- 2012 'The Tongue Has No Bone', Scott Livesey Galleries, Melbourne, VIC
- 2011 'Two Rivers', Cat Street Gallery, Hong Kong
- 2010 'River Song', Arthouse Gallery, Sydney, NSW  
'River Music', Scott Livesey Gallery, Melbourne, VIC
- 2009 'Child Of The Moon', Scott Livesey Galleries, Melbourne, VIC
- 2008 'Hawkesbury River', Motherland, Arthouse Gallery, Sydney, NSW
- 2007 'Hawkesbury River – Death Bird', Scott Livesey Galleries, Melbourne, VIC
- 2006 'Hawkesbury River', Melbourne Art Fair, Arthouse Gallery, NSW  
'Hawkesbury River', Arthouse Gallery, Sydney, NSW
- 2005 'Bird Nest Diaries', Scott Livesey Galleries, Melbourne, VIC
- 2004 'Bird Nest Diaries', Arthouse Gallery, Sydney, NSW
- 2003 'The Clay Brothers - A Prayer for Fertility', Scott Livesey Galleries, Melbourne, VIC  
'A Prayer for Fertility', Sydney Art Fair, NSW

# JOSHUA YELDHAM

- 2002 'Solitude's Bride Series', Arthouse Gallery, Sydney, NSW  
'Solitude's Bride Series', Melbourne Art Fair, Melbourne, VIC
- 2001 'Eucalyptus', Arthouse Gallery, Sydney, NSW
- 1999 'Colo River', Arthouse Gallery, Melbourne, VIC  
'Solitude & Prayer', Arthouse Gallery, Sydney, NSW
- 1998 'Paradise is a Bird', Arthouse Gallery, Sydney, NSW
- 1997 'The Hunger Artist', Arthouse Gallery, Sydney, NSW
- 1996 'Viola and the Emu Catcher', Arthouse Gallery, Sydney, NSW

## SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2021 'Tree of Life', S.H. Ervin Gallery, Sydney, NSW
- 2020 'Sydney Contemporary presents 2020', Arthouse Gallery, Sydney, NSW  
'Renewal', Arthouse Gallery, Sydney, NSW  
'Portraits Project', Manly Art Gallery & Museum, NSW
- 2019 Arthouse Gallery at Sydney Contemporary, NSW  
Scott Livesey Galleries at Sydney Contemporary, NSW  
'Love', Tweed Regional Gallery & Margaret Olley Art Centre, Murwillumbah, NSW
- 2018 Arthouse Gallery at Sydney Contemporary, NSW  
'Cabinets of Curiosity', Installation with Sibella Court for The Society Inc., Rigg Design Prize, NGV, VIC
- 2017 'Imagine', Gippsland Art Gallery, VIC  
'2016 Cutting Edge - 21st Century Photography', Monash Gallery of Art, VIC  
'On Paper', Arthouse Gallery, Sydney, NSW
- 2016 'Under the Sun', Arthouse Gallery, Sydney, NSW  
'Ku-ring-gai pH: art + science project', Manly Art Gallery & Museum, Sydney, NSW  
'Redlands Konica Minolta Art Prize', Redlands, Sydney, NSW
- 2015 'The Salon', Scott Livesey Galleries, Melbourne, VIC
- 2014 'Under the Sun', Arthouse Gallery, Sydney, NSW  
'Twenty Fourteen', Scott Livesey Galleries, Melbourne, VIC
- 2013 'Archibald Prize,' Touring Exhibition - Regional QLD, NSW & VIC  
'Wonderworks,' Cat Street Gallery, Hong Kong
- 2011 'Wattle – Australian Artists', Cat Street Gallery, Hong Kong

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- 2011 '30 to Collect – Brisbane Flood Relief', Arthouse Gallery, Sydney, NSW
- 2010 'Hong Kong Art Fair', Cat Street Gallery, Hong Kong  
'Salon des Refuses', S.H. Ervin Gallery, Sydney & Tweed Regional Gallery & Margaret Olley Art Centre, Murwillumbah, NSW  
'Zoo Air', Taronga Zoo Artists in Residence Plein Air, University of Newcastle, NSW
- 2009 'In Paradise', Artists of the Northern Beaches, Manly Art Gallery & Museum, NSW
- 2008 'Group Show '08', Scott Livesey Galleries, Melbourne, VIC
- 2006 'Flaming Youth,' Orange Regional Gallery, NSW
- 2003 'Biennial Sydney Art on Paper Fair,' Sydney, NSW  
'Ned Kelly Framed', The National Trust of Australia, S. H. Ervin Gallery, Sydney, NSW
- 2000 Arthouse Gallery at Melbourne Art Fair, Melbourne, VIC
- 1999 'An Affair to Remember', Art Sauce, Singapore
- 1997 'A Taste in Art: Next Generation of Great Australian Artists', Sotheby's Sydney, NSW  
'Zoo', Arthouse Gallery, Sydney, NSW
- 1996 Australian Artists Exhibition, Cranbrook School, Sydney, NSW  
Teresa Burns Exhibition of Australian Artists, Westpac, Sydney, NSW

## SELECTED COLLECTIONS

- Mosman Art Gallery, NSW  
Manly Art Gallery & Museum, NSW  
University of Wollongong, NSW  
Commission, Australian Stock Exchange, Sydney, NSW  
BHP Billiton Collection  
Mirvac Collection  
Hawkesbury River Regional Gallery (on loan), NSW  
Autore Pearl Collection  
ACP Collection  
James Packer Collection  
National Gallery of Victoria (NGV)

## SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- Yeldham, Joshua, 'Garden of Ruins', 2022  
Yeldham, Joshua, 'Child of the Storm', 2019  
Yeldham, Joshua, 'Surrender', 2014  
Yeldham, Joshua, 'Solitude's Bride', 2002



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