

ROBYN SWEANEY

Born 1957, Melbourne, Australia

EDUCATION

1978 Bachelor of Education (Arts and Craft), State College of Victoria, VIC

AWARDS & RESIDENCIES

2024 The Wynne Prize, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney, NSW
Wollumbin Art Award, Finalist, Tweed Regional Gallery, Murwillumbah, NSW
The Doyles Art Award, Firth Park Community Centre, Mudgeeraba, QLD, Winner

2023 Paddington Art Prize, Sydney, NSW, Finalist
Wynne Prize, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Finalist

2022 Salon des Refusés, S.H. Ervin Gallery, Sydney, NSW, Finalist
Ravenswood Art Prize, Sydney, NSW, Finalist

2021 Salon des Refusés, S.H. Ervin Gallery, Sydney, NSW, Finalist

2019 Portia Geach Memorial Award, S.H. Ervin Gallery, Sydney, NSW, Finalist
Wynne Prize, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Finalist
Trustees Watercolour Prize, Art Gallery of NSW, Winner
Korean-Australian Art Prize (KAAF), Sydney, NSW, Finalist
Police Point Artist Residency, Gatekeepers Cottage, Portsea, VIC

2018 Tattersalls Landscape Art Prize, Tattersalls Club, Brisbane, QLD, Finalist
JADA, Jacaranda Drawing Prize, Grafton Regional Gallery, NSW, Finalist
Salon des Refusés, S.H. Ervin Gallery, Sydney, NSW, Finalist

2017 Wynne Prize, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Finalist
The June Hedditch Studio Apartments Residency, The Arts Company, Portland, QLD
Tattersalls Landscape Art Prize, Tattersalls Club, Brisbane, QLD, Highly Commended
Arthur Guy Memorial Painting Prize, Bendigo Art Gallery, VIC, Finalist

2016 Border Art Prize, Tweed Regional Gallery & Margaret Olley Art Centre, NSW, Winner
Allan Gamble Memorial Prize, Mosman Art Gallery, NSW, Winner
Salon des Refusés, S.H. Ervin Gallery, Sydney, NSW
Tattersalls Landscape Art Prize, Tattersalls Club, Brisbane, QLD, Finalist

2015 Paddington Art Prize, Sydney, NSW, Highly Commended
Hurford Hardwood Portrait Prize, Lismore Regional Gallery, NSW, Finalist
Tattersalls Landscape Art Prize, Tattersalls Club, Brisbane, QLD, Finalist
JADA, Jacaranda Drawing Prize, Grafton Regional Gallery, NSW, Finalist
Mosman Art Prize, Mosman Art Gallery, NSW, Finalist

2014 Gallipoli Art Prize, Gallipoli Memorial Club, NSW, Finalist
Gold Coast Art Prize, Gold Coast City Art Gallery, QLD, Finalist
The Doyles Art Award, Firth Park Community Centre, Mudgeeraba, QLD, Winner
JADA, Jacaranda Drawing Prize, Grafton Regional Gallery, NSW, Finalist
Salon des Refusés, S.H. Ervin Gallery, Sydney, NSW

2013 Portia Geach Memorial Award, S.H. Ervin Gallery, Sydney, NSW, Finalist
Salon des Refusés, S.H. Ervin Gallery, Sydney, NSW
Fleurieu Art Prize, Fleurieu Biennale, McLaren Vale, SA, Finalist

2012 The Broken Hill Art Exchange Residency, NSW
Salon des Refusés, S.H. Ervin Gallery, Sydney, NSW
Paddington Art Prize, Sydney, NSW, Finalist
Doug Moran National Portrait Prize, Sydney, NSW, Finalist
Gallipoli Art Prize, Gallipoli Memorial Club, NSW, Finalist
Northern Rivers Portrait Prize, Lismore Regional Gallery, NSW, Finalist

2011 Wynne Prize, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Finalist
Paddington Art Prize, Sydney, NSW, Highly Commended

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- Tattersalls Landscape Art Prize, Tattersalls Club, Brisbane, QLD, Finalist
The Doug Moran National Portrait Prize, Sydney, NSW, Finalist
Adelaide Perry Drawing Prize, Sydney, NSW, Finalist
- 2010 Northern Rivers Portrait Prize, NSW, Highly Commended
Stanthorpe Art Festival, Stanthorpe Regional Gallery, QLD, Acquired
JADA, Jacaranda Drawing Prize, Grafton Regional Gallery, NSW, Finalist
Paddington Art Prize, Sydney, NSW, Finalist
Salon des Refusés, S.H. Ervin Gallery, Sydney, NSW
Mosman Art Prize, Mosman Art Gallery, NSW, Finalist
- 2009 Country Energy Landscape Prize, Lismore Regional Gallery, NSW, Highly Commended
Sulman Prize, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Finalist
Salon des Refusés, S.H. Ervin Gallery, Sydney, NSW
Paddington Art Prize, Sydney, NSW, Finalist
Mosman Art Prize, Mosman Art Gallery, NSW, Finalist
EMSLA, Still Life Award, Coffs Harbour Regional Gallery, NSW, Finalist
- 2008 Hill End Artists In Residence Program, Murray's Cottage, NSW
Border Art Prize, Tweed Regional Gallery & Margaret Olley Art Centre, NSW, Open 2nd Prize
Salon des Refusés, S.H. Ervin Gallery, Sydney, NSW
EMSLA, Still Life Award, Coffs Harbour Regional Gallery, NSW, Finalist
JADA, Jacaranda Drawing Prize, Grafton Regional Gallery, NSW, Finalist
Mosman Art Prize, Mosman Art Gallery, NSW, Finalist
- 2007 Country Energy Landscape Prize, Dubbo Regional Gallery, NSW, Finalist
EMSLA, Still Life Award, Coffs Harbour Regional Gallery, NSW, Finalist
Hutchins Art Prize, the Hutchins Foundation, TAS, Finalist
JADA, Jacaranda Drawing Prize, Grafton Regional Gallery, NSW, Finalist
Macarthur Cook Art Awards, 45 Downstairs, Melbourne, VIC, Finalist
Prometheus Visual Arts Prize, the Prometheus Foundation, QLD, Finalist
- 2005 Country Energy Landscape Prize, Grafton Regional Gallery, NSW, Finalist
JADA, Jacaranda Drawing Prize, Grafton Regional Gallery, NSW, Finalist
- 2004 The June Hedditch Studio Apartments Residency, The Arts Company, Portland, QLD
JADA, Jacaranda Drawing Prize, Grafton Regional Gallery, NSW, Finalist
- 2003 Pink Poodle Art Prize, Bond University Art Gallery, Gold Coast, QLD, Commended
- 2002 Border Art Prize, Tweed Regional Gallery & Margaret Olley Art Centre, NSW, Highly Commended
- 2001 St Hilda's Festival of Arts, Highly Commended (Painting)

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2023 'Paradise Lost', Anthea Polson Art, Southport, QLD
- 2022 'Living on the Edge', Arthouse Gallery, Sydney, NSW
- 2021 'Long Road Home', Anthea Polson Art, Southport, QLD
- 2020 'Hidden in Plain Sight', Arthouse Gallery, Sydney, NSW
- 2019 'Dwell', Tweed Regional Gallery & Margaret Olley Art Centre, Murwillumbah, NSW
- 2018 'Backwards Looking Forwards', Arthouse Gallery, Sydney, NSW
'The Nature of Things', Anthea Polson Art, Southport, QLD
- 2017 'The Summer That Was', Arthouse Gallery, Sydney, NSW
- 2016 'Fade to Blue', Anthea Polson Art, Southport, QLD
'Looking Sideways, Heading West', Arthouse Gallery, Sydney, NSW
- 2013 'Topia', Anthea Polson Art, Southport, QLD
'Finding Mrs Frisby', Art Piece Gallery, Mullumbimby, NSW
'A Quiet Obsession... Mrs Violet Frisby', Sheffer Gallery, Sydney, NSW
- 2011 'Road Trip, From Here to There and Places In-Between', Anthea Polson Art, Southport, QLD
- 2009 'New Work', Iain Dawson Gallery, Sydney, NSW

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- 2007 'Emoh Ruo', Tim Olsen Gallery, Sydney, NSW
- 2006 'The House Beautiful', Lismore Regional Gallery, NSW
- 2004 'A Rose is a Rose...', Portland Bay Press, Portland, QLD
- 2003 'Sub Rosa Series', Piece Gallery, Mullumbimby, NSW
'Sub Rosa', Grafton Regional Gallery, Grafton, NSW
- 1994 'From My Life at Home', Griffith Fine Art Gallery, Condong, NSW
- 1992 'Connections', Cape Gallery, Byron Bay, NSW

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2025 '30 Years of Arthouse', Arthouse Gallery, Sydney, NSW
- 2024 'Lost in Palm Springs', Art Gallery of Ballarat, NSW
'Lost in Palm Springs', Manly Art Gallery & Museum, Sydney, NSW
'Paintings from the Collection', State Library of NSW, Sydney, NSW
'Summer', Arthouse Gallery, Sydney, NSW
- 2023 Arthouse Gallery Group Show at Sydney Contemporary, Carriageworks, Sydney, NSW
'Paper & Clay', Arthouse Gallery, Sydney, NSW
'Lost in Palm Springs', Home of the Arts (HOTA), Gold Coast, QLD
- 2022 'Flood Relief – Spread the Love', Arthouse Gallery, Sydney, NSW
'Summer', Arthouse Gallery, Sydney, NSW
'Police Point Artist in Residence Retrospective', Point Nepean, VIC
- 2021 'Coming Home', Arthouse Gallery, Sydney, NSW
'Summer Salon', Arthouse Gallery, Sydney, NSW
- 2020 'MPRG: FIFTY', Mornington Peninsula Regional Gallery, VIC
'You Are Here: art of the region', Tweed Regional Gallery & Margaret Olley Art Centre, Murwillumbah, NSW
'FOUND! Studio Dog', Bundaberg Regional Gallery, QLD
'Suburban Portrait', Weswal Gallery, Tamworth, NSW
'Summer Salon', Arthouse Gallery, Sydney, NSW
- 2019 'Reflections of a Fading Sky', Arthouse Gallery, Sydney, NSW
'Summer', Arthouse Gallery, Sydney, NSW
- 2018 'Three Decades: Celebrating the Tweed Regional Gallery Collection', Tweed Regional Gallery & Margaret Olley Art Centre, Murwillumbah, NSW
'New Galleries', State Library New South Wales, Sydney, NSW
'The Way You Came', Arthouse Gallery, Sydney, NSW
- 2017 Arthouse Gallery at Sydney Contemporary, Carriageworks, Sydney, NSW
'House Show', Constance ARI, Hobart, TAS
'The Bridges: The Second Year', Grafton Regional Gallery, Grafton, NSW
- 2016 'Planting Dreams: Celebrating Australian Gardens', State Library of New South Wales, Sydney, NSW
'The Popular Pet Show', National Portrait Gallery, Canberra, ACT
'Sensations: Accessing Collections', Grafton Regional Gallery, Grafton, NSW
- 2015 'Unfolding Splendor', Arthouse Gallery, Sydney, NSW
'The Garden Show', Art Piece Gallery, Mullumbimby, NSW
'Australia Fair', Lismore Regional Gallery, Lismore, NSW
- 2011 'The Australian Character, works from the collection', Tweed Regional Gallery & Margaret Olley Art Centre, Murwillumbah, NSW
- 2010 'The Distance Between Knowing and Not Knowing', Art Piece Gallery, Mullumbimby, NSW
'The Industrialists', Tweed Regional Gallery & Margaret Olley Art Centre, Murwillumbah, NSW
'Landscape', Chifley Tower, Sydney, NSW
- 2009 'About a Tree', Art Piece Gallery, Mullumbimby, NSW
'The Collectors Paradise Show', Northern Rivers Community Gallery, Ballina, NSW
'Industrialists', QDOS Gallery, Lorne, VIC
'Hot In The City', Iain Dawson Gallery, Sydney, NSW

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- 2008 'HOME', Lismore Regional Gallery, Lismore, NSW
'Wish You Were Here, Friends Exhibition', Tweed Regional Gallery & Margaret Olley Art Centre, Murwillumbah, NSW
'Solstice, a Winter Exhibition', Tim Olsen Gallery, Sydney, NSW
'2 X 2', Tim Olsen Gallery, Sydney, NSW
'Countryscapes', The Gunnery, Woolloomooloo, NSW
- 2007 'Come Hither: Interpretations of the Boudoir', Wagga Wagga Art Gallery, NSW
'Solstice, a Winter Exhibition', Tim Olsen Gallery, Sydney, NSW
- 2006 'Local Art', LRG, Byron Bay Writers Festival, Byron Bay, NSW
'FEHVA Exhibition and Auction', Byron Bay Community Centre, Byron Bay, NSW
'Identity', Piece Gallery, Mullumbimby, NSW
- 2005 'Countryscapes', Parliament of New South Wales, Fountain Court Gallery, Sydney, NSW
'Print Night', Grafton Regional Gallery, Grafton, NSW
'c.a.s.e... unpacked', Tweed Regional Gallery & Margaret Olley Art Centre, Murwillumbah, NSW
'Man's Best Friend', next contemporary art space, S. C. University, Lismore, NSW
- 2004 'Lismore Regional Treasures', Lismore Regional Gallery, Lismore, NSW
- 2003 'The Inaugural Print Night', Grafton Regional Gallery, Grafton, NSW
'Postcard Show', Grafton Regional Gallery, Grafton, NSW
- 2002 'Art as Investment', Lismore Regional Art Gallery, Lismore, NSW
'Erotica [e]', Print Portfolio, Lismore Regional Art Gallery, Lismore, NSW
'Doors of Perception', Piece Gallery, Mullumbimby, NSW

SELECTED COLLECTIONS

Artbank

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

Tiarney Miekus, 'Exhibition, Lost in Palm Springs', The Saturday Paper, SMH Spectrum, August 17 2024

Rachel Franks, Richard Neville, 'Reading the Rooms: Behind the Paintings of the State Library of NSW', New South Books

Greer Honeywill, 'Lost in Palm Springs', Melbourne Books, p. 245 & 247, 2023

HOTA, 'Lost in Palm Springs', Education Resource, p. 14 & 15, 2023

Paul McGillick, 'Living on the Edge', Catalogue Essay, Arthouse Gallery, 2022

BAM. Byron Art Magazine, 'Paradise lost', Issue 23

The Sydney Morning Herald, Spectrum, John McDonald, 'The reject shop: The works the Archibald's didn't want', May 2022

BAM. Byron Art Magazine, Issue 21, Long road home, pg 40 - 45

Sydney Morning Herald, Spectrum, 'Salon des Refusés 2021, 11 June 2021

John McDonald, 'Too much art is barely enough as galleries re-open', SMH Spectrum, 2020

Elli Walsh, 'Hidden in Plain Sight', Catalogue Essay, Arthouse Gallery, 2020

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, Iss.8, p.32

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

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

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

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Sarah Engledow, 'The Popular Pet Show', Catalogue Essay, National Portrait Gallery, 2016
Richard Aitken, 'Planting Dreams: Shaping Australian Gardens', State Library of New South Wales, 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', Byron Art Magazine, Iss.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 & Bev Sweeney (Editors), 'All the Way Home: Poetry from Byron Bay and Beyond', illustrated by Robyn Sweeney, Dangerously Poetic Press, 2009
Melitta Firth, 'Case Study', Arts Northern Rivers, VAN Report, 2009
'Sunday Arts', ABC TV, ep.16
John McDonald, 'When Losers are Winners, Salon Des Refusés', SMH, Spectrum, 2009
Steven Alderton, 'Lismore Hosts the Country Energy Art Prize', the Northern Star, Art Speak, 2009
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 by David Batty, Rebel Films, 2008
Sonia Caeiro, 'Artist Profile', North Coast ARTS Quarterly, Summer 2008
'House Painter: Conversation with Robyn Sweeney', Radio National, By Design, 2007
'Beyond Region: Public Galleries in New South Wales', published by Arts NSW, M&G NSW & 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