

## Leslie Rice

Rumour has it that Marco Polo introduced velvet painting to the West. Artist Leslie Rice was introduced to it seven hundred years later when his father returned to Sydney from a business trip in Tijuana with a velvet painting among his souvenirs. The quintessence of kitsch exotica, velvet painting to this day holds a guilt-ridden attraction. With his suite of virtuosic velvet paintings Rice has reclaimed this guilty pleasure and quickly earned himself a reputation as 'one to watch'. His accolades include inclusion in the Archibald Prize and two times winner of Doug Moran National Portrait Prize.

Rice has spent more than 15 years as an established tattoo artist (from a lineage of tattooists including his father and sister) and finds the transition to velvet to be strangely familiar. Like painting the body with a needle, painting velvet with a brush is exacting and unforgiving. Rice's subjects side-step the usual preoccupation with sunsets and pin up girls made popular mid last century in velvet painting's halcyon days. Instead dramatic, Mannerist tableaux including biblical and mythological references proliferate. These subjects find their source in Rice's immediate world where friends and families close at hand are transposed into dramatis personae.

Making paintings with their longevity in mind, Rice now secures each work under glass, often choosing to pigment the glass lending the works a holographic quality where the beholder is invited into the picture.

BIOGRAPHY	1976	Born in SYDNEY
EDUCATION	2005	Bachelor of Fine Art, National Art School, SYDNEY
SOLO EXHIBITIONS	2016	<i>Tragic Plastic</i> , Sophie Gannon Gallery, MELBOURNE
	2015	<i>No Oil Painting</i> , Jan Murphy Gallery, BRISBANE
	2014	<i>Bacchanalia</i> , Sophie Gannon Gallery, MELBOURNE
	2013	<i>For Days Unnumbered: Leslie Rice + Julia deVille</i> , Jan Murphy Gallery, BRISBANE
	2012	<i>Mortinaissance</i> , Jan Murphy Gallery & Sophie Gannon Gallery, MELBOURNE ART FAIR, MELBOURNE
	2010	<i>Christian Martyrs of the Roman Colosseum</i> , Jan Murphy Gallery, BRISBANE
	2009	<i>Untitled</i> , MOP Projects, SYDNEY
GROUP EXHIBITIONS	2019	<i>Sulman Prize</i> , Art Gallery of New South Wales, SYDNEY
	2018	<i>The 65<sup>th</sup> Blake Prize</i> , Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre, NSW
	2017	<i>Romancing the Skull</i> , Art Gallery of Ballarat, NSW <i>Artist Profile: Australasian Painters 2007 – 2017</i> , Orange Regional Gallery, NSW
	2016	Jan Murphy Gallery, SPRING 1883, MELBOURNE <i>Salon des Refuses</i> , S.H. Ervin Gallery, SYDNEY <i>Return to Hanging Rock</i> , Mulberry Hill National Trust, VIC
	2015	<i>Archibald Prize</i> , Art Gallery of New South Wales, SYDNEY <i>Permanent Mark: The Impact of Tattoo Culture on Contemporary Art</i> , Pinnacles Gallery, TOWNSVILLE
	2014	<i>Black Swan Prize for Portraiture</i> , Art Gallery of Western Australia, PERTH
	2013	<i>Sulman Prize</i> , Art Gallery of New South Wales, SYDNEY
	2012	<i>Animal/Human</i> , UQ Art Museum, BRISBANE <i>Archibald Prize</i> , Art Gallery of New South Wales, SYDNEY <i>Doug Moran National Portrait Prize</i> , SYDNEY
	2011	<i>Animalia</i> , Jan Murphy Gallery, BRISBANE
	2010	<i>Melbourne Art Fair</i> , Jan Murphy Gallery, MELBOURNE
	2009	<i>On Rage</i> , Jan Murphy Gallery, BRISBANE

GROUP EXHIBITIONS (CONTD)

- A fragile state*, Martin Browne Fine Art, SYDNEY
- 2009 *Waiting: a still life*, NG Art Gallery, SYDNEY  
National Art School Gallery, SYDNEY
- 2008 MOP Projects, SYDNEY  
National Art School Gallery, SYDNEY  
*Food for thought*, NG Art Gallery, SYDNEY
- 2007 *Doug Moran National Portrait Prize*, SYDNEY
- 2006 Peloton, SYDNEY  
Wallspace Gallery, NEW YORK  
Royal Hall of Industries, SYDNEY
- 2005 National Art School Gallery, SYDNEY
- 2004 National Art School Gallery, SYDNEY

AWARDS AND PRIZES

- 2019 Finalist, Sulman Prize, Art Gallery of New South Wales, SYDNEY
- 2018 Finalist, The 65<sup>th</sup> Blake Prize, Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre, NSW
- 2015 Finalist, Archibald Prize, Art Gallery of New South Wales, SYDNEY
- 2014 Finalist, Black Swan Prize for Portraiture, Art Gallery of New South Wales, SYDNEY
- 2013 Finalist, Sulman Prize, Art Gallery of New South Wales, SYDNEY
- 2012 Winner, Doug Moran National Portrait Prize, SYDNEY  
Finalist, Archibald Prize, Art Gallery of New South Wales, SYDNEY
- 2009 Finalist, Hazelhurst Regional Gallery Works on Paper Prize, Hazelhurst Regional Gallery, SYDNEY  
Finalist, Blake Prize for Religious Art
- 2008 Finalist, Archibald Prize, Art Gallery of New South Wales, SYDNEY
- 2007 Winner, Doug Moran National Portrait Prize, SYDNEY  
Finalist, Blake Prize for Religious Art
- 2006 Finalist, MCQ Art Prize  
Finalist, Blake Prize for Religious Art
- 2005 Highly Commended, Waverly Woollahra Art Prize

AWARDS AND PRIZES (CONTD)

Winner, Parkers Fine Art Prize

PUBLICATIONS

- 2016 Peter Hill, *Black Velvet*, Art Collector Australia, Issue 77  
June/September
- 2015 Carrie McCarthy, *Beautiful Mourning*, Cultral Flanerie, 27 July
- 2014 Anna Madeleine, *Leslie Rice*, Artist Profile, 2 July  
Lindsay McDougall (interviewer), *The Mix*, ABC TV, July
- 2013 *What now?*, Art Collector Australia, Issue 65, July/September
- 2012 Jane O'Sullivan, *Leslie Rice Wins \$150,000 Doug Moran*, Art Collector  
Australia, July  
Matthew Westwood, *Leslie Rice wins Doug Moran National Portrait  
Prize*, The Australian, 24 July
- 2010 Sharne Wolff, *Throw 'em to the lions*, The Art Life, 10 December

COLLECTIONS

NAS Collection, SYDNEY