

Adam Lester

Adam Lester's work comes from a need to make sense of cultural 'noise'. Travels in Greece and Asia, and an interlude in the hippy north of New South Wales, have laid the groundwork for this artist's penetrating perception of the contemporary milieu. Steering a course between the political and the aesthetic, Lester appropriates from the plethora of sensorium generated by the metropolis. Dualities have always fascinated him, and his titles often hint at contra interpretations. Pictorially, words function both as form and meaning, creating a kind of frisson between an image's layers. Vibrant colours and iconic signs often jostle uneasily together to produce highly kinetic surfaces.

Employing a stylistic vocabulary inherited from ready-made and pop art forms, Lester juxtaposes graphic art modes and gestural marks. He brings his face-off between high art and everyday culture to edgy resolution.

Lester completed his Bachelor of Visual Arts degree in 2002, although his participation in group exhibitions in Greece and northern New South Wales predates his formal training by several years. He continues with regular group and solo shows. Since graduation, Lester has taken first prize in the Bentley Art Prize, twice been highly commended in the Southern Cross Art Prize, and twice selected for inclusion in the Churchie Emerging Art Prize exhibition. His work is held in Australian public collections, including Artbank and Parliament House Art Collection, Canberra, as well in a number private collections in Australia and overseas.

BIOGRAPHY	1971	Born in MELBOURNE
EDUCATION	2002	Bachelor of Visual Arts, Southern Cross University, NSW
SOLO EXHIBITIONS	2017	<i>This Ole House</i> , Jan Murphy Gallery, BRISBANE
	2014	<i>Summerland</i> , Jan Murphy Gallery, BRISBANE
	2012	<i>Palookaville</i> , Jan Murphy Gallery, BRISBANE
	2011	Michael Reid Gallery at Murrurundi, NSW
	2010	<i>Gumbo</i> , Jan Murphy Gallery, BRISBANE
		<i>I Don't Wanna Grow Up</i> , Hill Smith Gallery, ADELAIDE
	2009	<i>Harbourworks</i> , Michael Reid Gallery at Murrurundi, NSW
	2008	<i>Let's Get Lost</i> , Jan Murphy Gallery, BRISBANE
		<i>Barely Losing</i> , Hill Smith Gallery, ADELAIDE
		<i>New World</i> , Michael Reid Gallery, MURRURUNDI
	2006	<i>Anywhere, Anywhere</i> , Jan Murphy Gallery, BRISBANE
	2005	<i>Mixed Business</i> , Arts Factory Gallery, BRISBANE
	2003	<i>Working Class Bohemia</i> , Arts Factory Gallery, BRISBANE
GROUP EXHIBITIONS	2019	<i>Last Seen</i> (exhibition and auction), QAGOMA and QPAC, BRISBANE
	2017	<i>Dog Days</i> , Jan Murphy Gallery, BRISBANE
	2016	Jan Murphy Gallery, SPRING 1883, MELBOURNE
	2014-15	<i>Cars = My Autolove</i> , Caboolture Regional Gallery, QLD
	2012	Hill Smith Gallery, MELBOURNE ART FAIR, MELBOURNE
	2011	<i>Straddie</i> , Jan Murphy Gallery, BRISBANE
		<i>Animalia</i> , Jan Murphy Gallery, BRISBANE
		Scott Livesey Galleries, MELBOURNE
	2009	<i>Works on Paper</i> , Jan Murphy Gallery, BRISBANE
	2008	Michael Reid at Murrurundi, NSW
	2008	Hill Smith Gallery, ADELAIDE
	2007	Jan Murphy Gallery, BRISBANE
		Michael Reid Gallery, SYDNEY
		Griffith Regional Art Gallery, NEW SOUTH WALES
	2005	Jan Murphy Gallery, BRISBANE
		Charles Ginn Gallery, BRISBANE

GROUP EXHIBITIONS (CONTD)

- 2004 Arts Factory Gallery, BRISBANE
Victoria Street Warehouse, BRISBANE
- 2003 Arts Factory Gallery, BRISBANE
- 2002 *National Graduate Show*, Perth Institute of Contemporary Arts, PERTH
- 2001 *Graduate Show*, Southern Cross University, LISMORE
The Tub Gallery, BYRON BAY
- 2000 Roxy Gallery, KYOGLE
- 1997 Agias Procopihos, Naxos, GREECE
Kali Techni, Bar Baigani, Naxos, GREECE

AWARDS & RESIDENCIES

- 2005 Finalist, Queensland Art Workers Alliance Art Prize, BRISBANE
Finalist, The Churchie National Emerging Art Prize, Anglican Church Grammar School, BRISBANE
- 2004 Finalist, The Churchie National Emerging Art Prize, Anglican Church Grammar School, BRISBANE
- 2002 Winner, Bentley Art Prize, BENTLEY
Highly Commended, Southern Cross Art Prize, Southern Cross University, LISMORE
- 2001 Highly Commended, Reconciliation Art Prize, Southern Cross University, LISMORE

PUBLICATIONS

- 2019 Phil Brown, “(They) tell stories about the last thing they saw before their site started to deteriorate”, Courier Mail, 2 November
- 2017 Wendy Hughes, *Art to lift the heart, especially for kids in Brisbane hospital*, Brisbane Times, 27 June
- 2014 Edwina Dittmer, *Eye on the prize*, The CEO Magazine, August
- 2012 Daily Imprint, *Artist Adam Lester*, 6 June
- 2011 Inside Out, *Adam Lester*, July/August
Phil Brown, *Island ideal*, Brisbane News, 23 March
- 2010 *Artnotes*, Art Monthly Australia, June
Suzanna Clarke, *Boy's own show*
Alicia Blumsom, *Gumbo*, Brisbane News, 16 June

COLLECTIONS

Artbank
Parliament House Art Collection, CANBERRA
Private collections in Australia and overseas