

# Jason Benjamin

## *A Fragrant World*

---

17 July – 3 August 2019

Jason Benjamin continues his enduring engagement with the landscape in his exhibition, *A Fragrant World*. His sublime paintings of isolated locations invite an emotional response beyond postcard wanderlust. Absent of people, the landscapes evoke combinations of melancholy, loneliness and optimism. Poetic and elusive titles hint at the connection to personal terrain.

Benjamin is a masterful painter and a deeply considered artist. The surfaces of his paintings deliberately shift gears from luminous sfumato sunsets and sweeping skies, to detailed repetitive marks of shimmering seas.

“Look closely and one can see the painstaking labour that goes into every picture, but Benjamin wants us to engage with the complete image not just one aspect of its making. The labour and the loneliness do not detract from our pleasure in these paintings, they add both depth and nuance. It’s like being shipwrecked up on a desert island: it may be a tragic occurrence, but it comes with an exhilarating sense of freedom.”

**John McDonald - 2019**

### ABOUT THE ARTIST

Benjamin’s work has met wide critical acclaim, and is represented in numerous public and private collections within Australia, including the National Gallery of Australia, Artbank, National Portrait Gallery and many regional galleries. He has won numerous prizes including the Kings School and Mosman Art Prizes, and is a regular finalist in the prestigious Archibald and Moran Prizes. He exhibits extensively throughout Australia and internationally.