

Adam Pyett

Adam Pyett (born 1973, Melbourne) reconfigures the still life tradition through a disciplined yet playful approach. Rooted in an early engagement with abstraction, his work is defined by strong compositional structures and a sustained focus on the formal possibilities of painting, where subject matter becomes a vehicle for exploring image-making itself.

Working across motifs including flowers, everyday objects, and landscape, Pyett approaches each subject through a process that prioritises surface, colour, and composition. His paintings are built through layered application, scraping, and reworking, allowing forms to shift between representation and abstraction. Botanical subjects are often rendered with a spiky, sculptural presence against luminous grounds, while familiar objects such as aluminium drink cans are transformed through reflection and distortion, taking on an atmospheric, sometimes gothic quality. His landscapes are pared back and loosely described, with trees dissolving into light and colour, evoking the transient effects of dusk.

Central to Pyett's practice is the idea that the subject is secondary to the success of the image. Rather than painting directly from observation, he works from preparatory drawings, using this intermediary step to distance the object and allow the material qualities of paint to take precedence. Through this process, colour becomes both structural and expressive, underpinning a sustained investigation into the possibilities of painting.

Pyett has exhibited widely across Australia and has been the subject of a solo survey, *Still Life Painting* at Geelong Gallery (2017). His work has been included in major institutional exhibitions including *Painting. More Painting* at the Australian Centre for Contemporary Art, Melbourne (2016), and *Romancing the Skull* at Art Gallery of Ballarat (2017). He has been a finalist in numerous awards including the Len Fox Painting Prize, John Leslie Art Prize, and the Geelong Contemporary Art Prize. His work is held in major public collections including the National Gallery of Victoria, Monash University Museum of Art, Geelong Art Gallery, Art Gallery of Ballarat, Bendigo Art Gallery, Tweed Regional Gallery, and Artbank, as well as private collections in Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States.

Adam Pyett

BIOGRAPHY

1973 Born in Melbourne, VIC

EDUCATION

1994 Bachelor of Fine Art (Painting), VICn College of the Arts, Melbourne

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2026 *Stories of daylight*, Jan Murphy Gallery, Brisbane

2025 *Recent paintings*, Sophie Gannon Gallery, Melbourne

2024 *New Paintings*, Jan Murphy Gallery, Brisbane

2023 *Recent paintings*, Sophie Gannon Gallery, Melbourne

2022 *New Paintings*, Jan Murphy Gallery, Brisbane

2021 *New Paintings*, Sophie Gannon Gallery, Melbourne

2020 *Recent paintings*, Jan Murphy Gallery, Brisbane

2019 *New Paintings*, Sophie Gannon Gallery, Melbourne

2018 *Recent Works*, Jan Murphy Gallery, Brisbane

2017 *Adam Pyett – Still life painting*, Geelong Gallery, VIC
New paintings, Sophie Gannon Gallery, Melbourne

2015 *From Another Room*, Sophie Gannon Gallery, Melbourne

2013 *Small Change*, Neospace, Melbourne

2011 *Darkness and Light Alike*, Block Projects, Melbourne

2009 *Night Divides the Day*, Block Projects, Melbourne

2008 *Not Fade Away*, Seventh Gallery, Melbourne

2007 *In Bloom*, Alluvial Gallery, Bendigo
The Shades, Seventh Gallery, Melbourne

2006 *Through a Glass*, Darkly, Seventh Gallery, Melbourne

2005 *Still Life*, Seventh Gallery, Melbourne

2004 *Recent Paintings*, Spencer Gallery, Melbourne

1999 *Recent Paintings*, Smyrnios Gallery, Melbourne

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2026 *Geelong Contemporary Art Prize*, Geelong Gallery, VIC
Bayside Painting Prize, Bayside Gallery, Melbourne

2025 *Painting life: Margaret Olley and works from the collection*, Tweed Regional Gallery, Murwillumbah NSW

2023 *Australiana: Designing a Nation*, Bendigo Art Gallery, VIC

GROUP EXHIBITIONS (CONT)	2022	<i>Len Fox Painting Prize</i> , Castlemaine Art Museum, VIC
	2021	<i>Group show</i> , Jan Murphy Gallery, Brisbane
	2020	<i>Margaret's House</i> , Tweed Regional Gallery, Murwillumbah NSW
		John Leslie Art Prize, Gippsland Art Gallery, VIC
	2018	John Leslie Art Prize, Gippsland Art Gallery, VIC
		<i>Imagine</i> , Gippsland Art Gallery, VIC
	2017	<i>Romancing the skull</i> , Art Gallery of Ballarat, VIC
		Sophie Gannon Gallery, Sydney Contemporary, Sydney
	2016	<i>Visiting Painting</i> , Horsham Regional Art Gallery, VIC
	2015	<i>Painting. More Painting</i> , Australian Centre for Contemporary Art, Melbourne
		<i>Fair Go</i> , Sophie Gannon Gallery, Melbourne
		<i>Geelong Contemporary Art Prize</i> , Geelong Gallery, VIC
	2014	<i>Geelong Contemporary Art Prize</i> , Geelong Gallery, VIC
		Sophie Gannon Gallery, Melbourne Art Fair, Melbourne
		<i>Still Life</i> , Sophie Gannon Gallery, Melbourne
		<i>Black Beauty</i> , Sophie Gannon Gallery, Melbourne
		<i>Rockem Sockem</i> , St Heliers Street Gallery, Melbourne
	2012	<i>Waterhouse Natural Science Art Prize</i> , South Australian Museum, Adelaide
		<i>R & M McGivern Prize</i> , Maroondah Art Gallery, Melbourne
	2011	<i>The Rest is Silence</i> , Death Be Kind, Melbourne
	2010	<i>Fletcher Jones Art Prize</i> , Geelong Gallery, VIC
		<i>The Naked Face, Self-Portraits</i> , National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne
	2009	<i>Heads</i> , Rex Irwin Art Dealer, Sydney
	2008	<i>Group Show</i> , Block Projects, Melbourne
		<i>Look! New Perspectives on the Contemporary Collection</i> , National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne
		<i>The Ecologies Project</i> , Monash University Museum of Art, Melbourne
		<i>Rimbaud/Rambo</i> , Neon Parc, Melbourne
		<i>Fletcher Jones Art Prize</i> , Geelong Gallery, VIC
	2007	<i>Elsewhere</i> , Nellie Castan Gallery, Melbourne
		<i>Materiality</i> , Monash University Art Gallery, Melbourne
	2006	<i>Fletcher Jones Art Prize</i> , Geelong Gallery, VIC
AWARDS & RESIDENCIES	2026	Finalist, Geelong Contemporary Art Prize, Geelong Gallery, VIC
		Finalist, Bayside Painting Prize, Bayside Gallery, Melbourne
	2022	Finalist, Len Fox Painting Prize, Castlemaine Art Museum, VIC

AWARDS & RESIDENCIES (CONT)	2020	Finalist, John Leslie Art Prize, Gippsland Art Gallery, VIC
	2018	Finalist, John Leslie Art Prize, Gippsland Art Gallery, VIC
	2016	Finalist, Geelong Contemporary Art Prize, Geelong Gallery, VIC
	2014	Finalist, Geelong Contemporary Art Prize, Geelong Gallery, VIC
	2012	Second Prize, Waterhouse Natural Science Art Prize, South Australian Museum, Adelaide
		Finalist, R & M McGivern Prize, Maroondah Art Gallery, Melbourne
	1998	Winner, VICn Tapestry Workshop Small Tapestries Prize, VICn Tapestry Workshop, Melbourne
PUBLICATIONS	2025	Stéphanie Portal, <i>Pratique des Arts Magazine</i> , France
	2018	Bridget Macleod, <i>Adam Pyett, Artist Profile</i> , June/August
	2017	Lisa Sullivan, <i>Exhibition Catalogue for Adam Pyett – Still life painting</i> , Geelong Gallery
		Lauren Muscat, <i>Still life painting</i> ; Adam Pyett's solo survey exhibition, <i>Forté Magazine</i> , 17 June
	2015	Natalie Walton, <i>Artist Adam Pyett</i> , <i>Daily Imprint</i> , 25 September
	2011	Dan Rule, <i>The Age</i>
	2009	Simon Plant, <i>Herald Sun</i>
	2008	Frances Johnson, <i>The Age</i>
		Geraldine Barlow & Kyla McFarlane, <i>The Ecologies Project</i> , Melbourne, Monash University Museum of Art
	2007	Din Heagney (ed.), <i>Making Space: Artist-run initiatives in VIC</i> , VIA-N
		Frances Johnson, <i>The Age</i>
		Beth Watson, <i>The Bendigo Advertiser</i>
	2005	Megan Backhouse, <i>The Age</i>
		Penny Webb, <i>The Age</i>
	2000	Sue Walker (ed.), <i>Modern Australian Tapestries from the VICn Tapestry Workshop</i> , Melbourne, VICn Tapestry Workshop
COLLECTIONS		Artbank
		Art Gallery of Ballarat, VIC
		Bendigo Art Gallery, VIC
		Flinders Collection, Melbourne
		Geelong Art Gallery, VIC
		Joyce Nissan Collection, Melbourne
		Macquarie Bank Collection, Sydney

COLLECTIONS (CONT)

McClelland Gallery and Sculpture Park, VIC

Monash University Museum of Art, Melbourne

National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne

Tweed Regional Gallery, NSW

Private collections nationally and internationally