

David Griggs

The cubensis head butt

23 November – 11 December 2021

Jan Murphy Gallery is pleased to present *The cubensis head butt* by Sydney based artist David Griggs, his first solo exhibition with the gallery.

Paintings by David Griggs may be read as narratives, drawn from incidents he observes in the city streets that relate to the texture of our times. Even more they emerge from the painting itself, becoming explorations of the discoveries he makes along the way. Most recently his process is to make detailed paintings, before disrupting them with a more gestural application, to 'try to wash away the mechanisms we have as painters'. Blurring the traditional lines of portraiture and landscape, masculinity and femininity, his style is wide-ranging, restless and eclectic.

In *The cubensis head butt*, memories of faces and places collide with the artist's immediate surroundings. Created in a period of isolation for himself and many others globally, the artist was granted time to 'slow down' in the studio without distractions. Mirroring the mood of many during this period, Griggs spent many days meticulously painting detailed works which he would then contrast with wild abstract gestures, creating paintings that hold different moods on the same picture plane.

Griggs' work commonly references notions of classical ideals and visuals whilst using unconventional materials including gravel, glitter, resin and fabric. Known for his bold, punk and often humorous approach, Griggs latest works continue his exploration of the light and dark sides of the human existence and delve head first into the ever changing landscape of our society.

As the artist states "Find the maze, get out of the maze. Then enter a new maze. Repeat."

ABOUT THE ARTIST

David Griggs (b.1975) holds a Bachelor of Visual Art from Sydney College of the Arts (1999) and a Master of Fine Arts from the University of Sydney (2007). He won the Willoughby City Art Prize in 2001, and is a repeat finalist in The Archibald (2013, 2014, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019) and other national prizes. He spent twelve years in The Philippines following an Asialink residency (2005), revelling in the number of other painters at work there, and developing a billboard style aesthetic that conjures up the chaos of the city. A survey exhibition, David Griggs: Between Nature and Sin toured galleries in Australia (2017-2019), and his work has been curated into exhibitions in Paris, Copenhagen, Quezon City, Singapore, Sete, Manila, Bangkok, Graz, Berlin, San Francisco, Jakarta, and Miami.

Artwork by David Griggs are held in institutional collections all over Australia, notably QAGOMA, Brisbane, Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney and Museum of Old and New Art (MONA), Tasmania.