

Keith Burt

Variations

14 February – 4 March 2023

Jan Murphy Gallery is delighted to present *Variations*, an exhibition of new paintings by Keith Burt.

Variations is an exploration of calm moods and quiet corners in still life painting. Keith's latest body of work is characterised by the tactile quality of his subjects, from chalky white vessels and hollow glass, to scrunched paper and dried eucalypts. Other subjects, such as skulls and splayed fish hint at a memento mori trope; a reminder of the inevitability of death.

"I take a fairly considered approach to creating compositions; arranging the objects on makeshift stages with custom lighting is a process of constant revisions. Once I arrive at the final subject, I will start on a preliminary charcoal sketch or a small scale oil painting. I most often paint *alla prima* and always from direct observation, though occasionally I will revisit the work and add subsequent layers of paint. I strive to create a sense of visual harmony, void of clutter. I feel a work is finished when there is a quality of contemplative simplicity; a relief for the eyes!"

– Keith Burt, 2022

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Since 2010, Keith Burt has had solo exhibitions every year in Brisbane and, in 2017, also in Melbourne. In 2020, Burt won the Brisbane Portrait Prize with a portrait of Matthew and Daniel Tobin (founders of Urban Art Projects). He is a four-time Archibald Prize finalist (2017, 2019, 2021 and 2022), a finalist in The Churchie National Emerging Art Exhibition (2010, 2011) and the Clayton Utz Art Prize (2013). Keith Burt also features in a Thames and Hudson publication *Still Life* (2021) and has completed commissions for Brisbane Grammar School, the Mater Hospital, Brisbane, Churchie Grammar School and Spicers Potts Point.