

# India Mark

## *Silent form and slow time*

27 August – 14 September 2024

“This exhibition was prompted by my love of Romanticism in late 18th, early 19th century art, poetry and literature. Romanticist painting typically dwells in the realms of landscape rather than still life painting, but Keat’s poem Ode to a Grecian Urn reflects on traditional philosophy of memento mori and vanitas; objects and artefacts outlive their makers, owners and admirers. In a consumerist world, it’s terrifying to think that objects’ lives continue past our ownership of them. We are all overwhelmed by stuff. In my personal life, I try very hard to practice minimalism. Frustratingly minimalism is often at odds with the reality of making art, particularly still life. The objects I have in my studio for painting have been collected over the last ten years. A majority of them have been passed on to me by family and friends as part of their own decluttering efforts. The repetition of objects throughout my paintings mostly comes about from my stubbornness of not wanting to acquire new things to paint and has consequently resulted in a deeper appreciation for the things that I have.” – India Mark, 2024

When old age shall this generation waste,  
Thou shalt remain, in midst of other woe  
Than ours, a friend to a man, to whom thou say’st,  
‘Beauty is truth, truth beauty, - that is all  
Ye know on earth, and all ye need to know.’

- V, Ode to a Grecian Urn, John Keats

### ABOUT THE ARTIST

Born in 1993 in Gerringong, NSW and now residing in Wollongong, NSW, India Mark graduated with Master of Fine Art (Painting) from the National Art School in 2018. In 2023, Mark won the Ashurst Emerging Artist Prize (awarded through Art Gallery of Western Australia’s The Lester Prize) and was also shortlisted for the 2023 Brett Whiteley Travelling Art Scholarship and Portia Geach Memorial Award. In 2023 Mark’s works featured in the exhibition ‘Light & Life: Margaret Olley, Laura Jones, India Mark and Mirra Whale’ at Tweed Regional Gallery and Margaret Alley Art Centre. By special invitation, Mark spent a number of weeks in residency at the gallery and created new work in response to objects selected from the re-creation of Olley’s home studio. Her work is currently held in the collections of The National Art School, Tweed Regional Gallery and the Wollongong Art Gallery.