

# Monica Rohan

## *Visitors*

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28 October – 15 November 2025

*Visitors* is a series in which chairs appear in a variety of landscapes, uprooted from their familiar domestic context. Since removing the figures that have populated my works for the past 10 years, these chairs have taken on an anthropomorphic energy. As uncanny stand-ins for the human, they suggest both presence and absence, the invited and the forgotten.

"Bentwood chairs hold particular significance for me as they were the chairs around my family's kitchen table growing up. Their simple, elegant yet rickety forms play off against the landscape to express relationships between people, places and objects. I like to think of them as taking my family, my past and those memories of home with me to the places I visit. Congregating in rainforest pools, sinking into dawn soaked sand and emerging from dense, suburban shrubs, these ubiquitous objects bind together times and places of personal significance.

Taking myself out of my paintings has been freeing, allowing me to explore new ideas about the relationship between people and the landscape. The chairs themselves are so characterful that I feel like a director, shuffling the roles they're playing into different scenarios, searching for ways to evoke an emotional response to them. Each group of chairs has a unique expression. Some are precarious, and hastily piled up, some appear comfortably and steadfastly planted, others are already on their way out of the frame. In these different ways my paintings represent what it means to visit a place, to foster a connection there as well as moving on and what we leave behind." - Monica Rohan, 2025

### ABOUT THE ARTIST:

Monica Rohan has been a finalist in some of Australia's most prestigious art prizes including the Archibald Prize (2020 and 2016), Brisbane Portrait Prize (2025, 2024, 2022 and 2021) the Dobell Drawing Prize (2019), Sunshine Coast Art Prize (2018) the Sulman Prize (2017) and the Gold Award (2016).

She has exhibited extensively since 2010 and has been included in major public exhibitions including *Re-arrange: Art of the Flower*, Museum of Brisbane (2023), *Wrestlemania*, Rockhampton Museum of Art (2022) and *GoMA Q: Contemporary Queensland Art*, QAGOMA, Brisbane (2015).

Her work is held in private and public collections, including Artbank, University of Queensland Art Museum, QAGOMA, Museum of Brisbane, Tweed Regional Gallery, and the Griffith University Art Museum.