

Victoria Reichelt

Batch

25 March – 11 April 2026

Jan Murphy Gallery is delighted to present *Batch*, a new exhibition of paintings by Victoria Reichelt.

"Oldenburg and Rosenquist were both major mid-Century giants of Pop Art who used imagery of cakes in their work. Wayne Thiebaud also made a career painting cakes and sweets, but arguably all these greats of the twentieth century made these works from outside of the kitchen looking in. In this series of paintings, I am making these creations from so deep in the kitchen one can almost taste the bowl scraped clean, the cocoa, the cream, the butter and the sugar.

The loving attention to detail that informs these works exudes from the construction of the cakes themselves, the seemingly chaotic jellybeans and freckles to the carefully ordered perfectly spherical chocolates holding together the sugary painted layers of icing. Overflow with its dripping icing subtly takes these cakes from Pop to Abstract Expressionism, an aesthetic well known in the domestic world of parents and children.

These works represent the expectations of parenthood (the multiple cakes that must be constructed year after year), and hint at the rest of the world momentarily pushed to the side, as the busy bookshelves in the background sit untouched, but always in mind. The eschewing of a cool Minimalist aesthetic, quickly replaced by the Maximalism of the world of kids.

The presence of children is implied in the lovingly constructed creations and the inner life is there too, however blurred beyond recognition. The world of books are in a sense a memory that awaits a time to revisit, returning again to the pleasures of reading and time, while also cherishing the time devoted to the sweet joys of parenting." – Victoria Reichelt, 2026

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Victoria Reichelt studied Fine Art at the Queensland College of Art, graduating in 2005 having completed her Doctor of Visual Arts. She has exhibited extensively since 2001, attracting a number of awards in the process. In 2013 she won the Sulman Prize awarded by AGNSW and has been a finalist in numerous other prizes including the Ravenswood Australian Women's Art Prize, R & M McGivern Prize, Portia Geach Memorial Award, Arthur Guy Memorial Prize and Still: National Still Life Award and the Lester Prize.

A major survey exhibition of Victoria's work 'Archive – Victoria Reichelt', was presented at Tweed Regional Gallery in 2020-2021 and she was the subject of 'Colour Your Imagination – Just Add Books' at the HOTA Children's Gallery (2023-2024). Her work is included in collections both nationally and internationally, including Artbank, QAGOMA, HOTA Gallery, Tweed Regional Gallery, Rockhampton Art Gallery, University of Wollongong and Deakin University.