JAMES
MAKIN
GALLERY

NIC PLOWMAN : GARDEN

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28 MAY – 12 JUN 2022

Available works are subject to change, including prices and availability. All prices include GST.

“The whole universe is contained in a single flower” - Toshiro Kawase, Ikebana Master

For Nic Plowman, beauty and creativity have always lived happily next door to pain and vulnerability. Via neighbourly conversations through the fence between these two forces, Plowman finds solace - a melancholic happiness and honest vulnerability that embraces humanity in all its forms.

Where Plowman’s previous body of work spoke of an avalanche of life experiences, Garden narrates the complex process of growth in the aftermath. This body of work articulates a flourishing of the artist’s personal resilience, a resilience born from a recognition and acceptance of languish and weariness. For Plowman, this recognition tied his own personal experiences to the universal, placing himself in the ebb and flow of wider circumstances. In doing so, he found a connection, and from this connection a resilience - a dynamic harmony that vibrates with both pain and joy.

For the artist, the garden is an ideal metaphor for this harmonic vibration. In his own works, Plowman reflects “In my use of botanical imagery, I attempt to create a garden in which to find solace – a garden that grows in adjacent to the shitty and beautiful things life has to offer.” Finding solace is often hard to do. Life does not wait until one trial has been resolved before offering another and things quickly become layered. This is demonstrated in the execution of Plowman’s work and his use of flowers as a motif for life. Deceptively simple, flowers always offer much more than their initial beauty, whether it’s the circumstances and material in which they grow, or the intricate details revealed upon closer inspection. Finely rendered draftsmanship overlaid with freely drawn lines in unconventional drawing materials, Plowman’s work expertly captures this sentiment.

NIC PLOWMAN
Haven, 2022
135.3 x 100 cm
watercolour, charcoal, graphite, paint pen and enamel on 300 gsm cotton rag paper on canvas
$4,900

NIC PLOWMAN
Bloom, 2022
135.5 x 100 cm
watercolour, charcoal, graphite, paint pen and enamel on 300 gsm cotton rag paper on canvas
$4,900

NIC PLOWMAN
Escape, 2022
84 x 60 cm
watercolour, charcoal, graphite, paint pen and enamel on 300 gsm cotton rag paper on canvas
$3,600

NIC PLOWMAN
Spring, 2022
84 x 60 cm
mixed media on 310 gsm cotton rag paper
$3,600

NIC PLOWMAN
Remain, 2022
84 x 60 cm
mixed media on 310 gsm cotton rag paper
$3,600

NIC PLOWMAN
Live, 2022
84 x 60 cm
mixed media on 310 gsm cotton rag paper
$3,600

NIC PLOWMAN
Remember, 2022
42 x 30 cm
mixed media on 310 gsm cotton rag paper
$1,800

NIC PLOWMAN
Phase, 2022
42 x 30 cm
mixed media on 310 gsm cotton rag paper
$1,800

NIC PLOWMAN
Grow, 2022
42 x 29.5 cm
mixed media on 310 gsm cotton rag paper
$1,800

NIC PLOWMAN
Mend, 2022
42 x 29.5 cm
mixed media on 310 gsm cotton rag paper
$1,800

NIC PLOWMAN
Rest, 2022
42 x 29.5 cm
mixed media on 310 gsm cotton rag paper
$1,800

NIC PLOWMAN
Mirror, 2022
42 x 29.5 cm
mixed media on 310 gsm cotton rag paper
$1,800

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89 ISLINGTON STREET
COLLINGWOOD VICTORIA 3066
AUSTRALIA

NIC PLOWMAN

B. Brisbane, Australia, 1978

Lives and works, Melbourne, Australia

EDUCATION

2016 Certificate IV in Training and Assessment, Victoria University

2007 Graduate Diploma in Education Queensland, University Of Technology

2000 Bachelor of Visual Arts, University of Southern Queensland

- Recipient of the USQ Parvis Nikdin Prize for outstanding studio practice

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2020 Avalanche, James Makin Gallery, Melbourne

2018 Life Drawing Project, James Makin Gallery, Melbourne

2016 New Work, James Makin Gallery, Melbourne

Amid Love and Fear, USQ Art Gallery, University of Southern Queensland

2015 Figure: Drawings and Paintings, The Art Vault, Mildura

No Other Knowledge, Gallerysmith Project Space, Melbourne

2014 Kings, Popes and Other Fools, Anthea Polson Art, Gold Coast

2013 Nudes and Portraits, The Art Vault, Mildura

2011 Formula for Resurrection, Anthea Polson Art, Gold Coast

Blood is thicker than water, The Art Vault, Mildura

2010 The Darkness and the Beauty, Anthea Polson Art, Gold Coast

2008 Magic Sex Death, Jugglers Art Space Inc., Brisbane

2005 Selected Paintings, Bulimba Art Gallery, Brisbane

2004 Recent Paintings, Soapbox Gallery, Brisbane

2002 Paintings and Drawings, Antiquarian Galley, Brisbane

2000 Body-line, Toowoomba Regional Art Gallery, Toowoomba

COLLABORATIVE EXHIBITIONS

2017 Iconoclasts, Umbrella Studio Contemporary Arts/KickArts Contemporary Arts

2014 Rogues Gallery: Plowman and Van Dijk (with Jan Van Dijk) Lightspace, Brisbane

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2010 Two Needles One Yarn (with Sue-ching Lascelles), Jugglers Art Space, Brisbane

2009 Project 48, The Judith Wright Centre of Contemporary Arts, Brisbane

2003 Plowman & Eyles: Paintings (with Sam Eyles), Soapbox Gallery, Brisbane

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2022 Risographomania, Perc Tucker Regional Gallery, Townsville

2019 Summer New, James Makin Gallery, Melbourne

2018 Anon, The Good Space, Sydney; and Soma, Melbourne

2017 Tutor's Show, The Art Room, Melbourne

2016 A Conversation About Portraiture, Pine Rivers Regional Gallery, Moreton Bay

March Group Show, James Makin Gallery, Melbourne

Hand Drawn Big Fig Arts, The Bellingen Brewery & Co, Bellingen

Anthea Polson: comes to Melbourne Menzies Auction House, Melbourne

2015 Studio 99 Exhibition TheGRID: Hybrid Arts Collective, Toowoomba

2013 Brisbane Life Drawing Show Jugglers Art Space, Brisbane

Some kind of goodbye Love Love Studio, Brisbane

5th Anniversary Exhibition The Art Vault, Mildura

Perennials: Selected USQ Alumni Toowoomba Regional Art Gallery

2012 Director's Choice The Art Vault, Mildura

In The Mirror Brenda May Gallery, Sydney

2010 Seat of the soul The Centre for Arts, Beaudesert

New Works Of Erotica Flipbook Gallery, Brisbane

Artists in Residence 10, Jugglers Art Space Inc, Brisbane

2009 Special First Christmas Show Anthea Polson Art, Gold Coast

Day OF The Dead, Retrospect Galleries, Byron Bay

London Calling, Scream London Gallery, London

Hungry Like The Wolf, 19 Karen, Gold Coast

Semi Permanent 09, 19 Karen/Nine Lives Galleries, Gold Coast/Brisbane

Works On Paper, Kiln Gallery, Brisbane

Project 48, Jugglers Art Space Inc, Brisbane

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Dirty Show X,The National Grid Gallery, Sydney

AWARDS

2021 Lyn McCrea Drawing Prize - Finalist

2018 Doug Moran Portrait Prize, Moran House, Sydney - Semi Finalist

2015 Hurford Hardwood Portrait Prize, Lismore Regional Gallery, Lismore - Finalist

2014 Benalla Nude Art Prize, Benalla Art Gallery, Benalla - Finalist

2012 Doug Moran Portrait Prize, Moran House, Sydney - Finalist

2011 Duke Art Prize, The Arts Centre, Gold Coast - Finalist

Agendo Art Prize ,St Heliers Street Gallery, Abbotsford - Finalist

Sunshine Coast Art Prize, Caloundra Regional Gallery, Caloundra - Finalist

Lethbridge 10 000 Award Lethbridge Gallery, Brisbane - Finalist

Power of Self, Artist Wanted Collaborative New York - Finalist

2010 Redland Art Award, Redland Art Gallery Cleveland - Finalist

Sunshine Coast Art Prize, Caloundra Regional Gallery, Caloundra - Finalist

Lethbridge 10 000 Lethbridge Gallery, Brisbane - Finalist

2009 London Calling, Scream London Gallery, London - Finalist

Sunshine Coast Art Prize, Caloundra Regional Gallery_ Caloundra - Finalist

2008 Small Works ’08, Brunswick St Gallery Melbourne - Merit Award

2006 Brett Whiteley Travelling Art Scholarship, Brett Whiteley Studio, Sydney - Finalist

2003 Mel & Charlie Illustration Competition Triple J Radio, Australia - Winner

2002 Brett Whiteley Travelling Art Scholarship, Brett Whiteley Studio, Sydney - Finalist

2000 Lloyd Rees Memorial Youth Art Award, Ultimo Centre, Sydney - Selected Work of Distinction

MEDIA/Publications

2016 (Radio) The Arts Show with Alex McCulloch

2016 (Film) Resurrection: Nic Plowman, Peter Lamont and Handmade Films Australia

2014 (Film) Nic Plowman: Art and Life, Panoptic Press

(Blog) Relations of Mutual Resonance: Nic PLowman, Panoptic Press

2011 (Magazine) Afart: Issue 33, p 86 – 91. Denmark

(Newspaper) Sunrasia Daily, February 22, p 7, Victoria

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2010 (Feature Article) Art with Marina Saint Martin, Gold Coast Bulletin March 20

(Magazine) Ninety Two Magazine, Issue 3, p 58-60

2009 (Publication) In Retrospect 10, Retrospect Gallery Publication, p 105-108

2008 (Magazine) Empty Magazine The Aussie Issue, #13, p 20-23

(Magazine) Varsity Magazine September Issue, p 6-11

2007 (TV) Channel Seven Emerging Artists of Fortitude Valley, Great South East

RESIDENCIES

2016 Discovery College, Hong Kong

2015 The Art Vault, Mildura

2014 Rogues Gallery Project, Brisbane

2013 The Art Vault, Mildura

2011 The Art Vault, Mildura

2009 Project 48, The Judith Wright Centre of Contemporary Arts, Brisbane

COLLECTIONS

The Prince Charles Hospital

University of Southern Queensland

Jugglers Art Space

The Art Vault

Penleigh and Essendon Grammar

Private Collections: Australia, England, Ireland, Canada, USA and Mexico

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