

NIC PLOWMAN | BIO

"Drawing gives you nowhere to hide, but everywhere to run." Nic Plowman

Nic Plowman's work is full with observation and insight, describing time, memory and lived experience with both intimacy and visceral energy. Plowman is primarily known for his dedication to both traditional and experimental drawing. His broader practice includes painting, printmaking and sculpture.

Born with Tricuspid Atresia (congenital heart disease) into a strong matriarchal family environment, Nic grew up in an extended household of four women and five boys (His Mum, 2 Aunties, little brother and 4 older cousins); family finding strength in numbers after divorce, death and tragedy.

His narrative interests stem from his own life experiences which include two lots of open heart surgery; a six meter fall; and a recent punch-on with cancer. He uses these lived realities to approach his subjects with empathy and curiosity, and often explores themes of fear, triumph and vulnerability in himself and others - seeing his art-making as both symptom and remedy.

Nic Plowman has had 17 solo exhibitions, and exhibited work in more than 60 group shows. He has been a finalist in many art prizes, including the prestigious Dobell Drawing Prize (2023), The Kedumba Drawing Award (2023), The Doug Moran Portrait Prize (finalist 2012, semi finalist 2018), twice in the coveted Brett Whiteley Travelling Art Scholarship (2006; 2002,); and was selected with a distinction in the Lloyd Rees Memorial Youth Art Award (2000). He has been awarded residencies in Australia and Internationally. Nic's work has been acquired into many local and International collections, both public and private.

An active member of both the arts and education sectors, Nic teaches workshops locally, interstate and Internationally. He leads the life drawing program at independent art school, The Art Room in Melbourne, and has facilitated drawing sessions at the National Gallery of Victoria (NGV). Nic is also Head of Education at Zart, where he designs professional learning experiences for teachers and students across Australia.

Born in Brisbane, Nic lives and works in Melbourne.

He is represented by [James Makin Gallery](#)