

NIAGARA

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KEN WHISSON

Born in Lilydale, outside Melbourne, Ken Whisson (1927 - 2022) studied at Swinburne Technical College between 1944 and 1945. He received tuition from Danilla Vassilieff in the years 1945 and 1946, providing him with direct contact and influence from the seminal generation of Melbourne expressionists.

In 1977, Whisson moved to Perugia, Italy, where he lived for three and a half decades. He continued to exhibit regularly in Australia, building a significant reputation. In 1987 he was recipient of the Visual Arts Board Emeritus Award for his substantial contribution to Australian Art. He was the subject of a major survey exhibition in 2012 titled *Ken Whisson: As If*, jointly curated by Heide Museum of Modern Art, Melbourne and Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney. His work is represented in all major Australian public collections as well as the British Museum, London and the Chartwell Collection, New Zealand.

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2023	Sydney Contemporary Art Fair, presented by Niagara Galleries, Carriageworks, Sydney
2022	<i>A Tribute</i> , Liverpool Street Gallery, Sydney
2021	Niagara Galleries, Melbourne
2020	Niagara Galleries, Melbourne
2019	<i>Ken Whisson</i> , Sydney Contemporary, presented by Niagara Galleries, Melbourne
2018	Niagara Galleries, Melbourne
2016	Niagara Galleries, Melbourne <i>Ken Whisson</i> , Bank of America Merrill Lynch Art of Connecting, Sydney
2015	Watters Gallery, Sydney
2014	Niagara Galleries, Melbourne
2013	<i>Paintings and Drawings</i> , Watters Gallery, Sydney
2012	<i>Ken Whisson: As If</i> , Heide Museum of Modern Art, Melbourne and Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney Niagara Galleries, Melbourne
2011	<i>Ken Whisson: Paintings and Drawings</i> , Watters Gallery, Sydney
2010	Niagara Galleries, Melbourne
2009	Watters Gallery, Sydney
2008	Niagara Galleries, Melbourne <i>Ken Whisson</i> , The Australian Club, Melbourne
2007	Watters Gallery, Sydney
2006	Niagara Galleries, Melbourne
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2004	Niagara Galleries, Melbourne
2003	Watters Gallery, Sydney
2002	Niagara Galleries, Melbourne
2000	Niagara Galleries, Melbourne
1999	Watters Gallery, Sydney
1998	Niagara Galleries, Melbourne
1997	Richard Salmon Gallery, London

- 1996 Watters Gallery, Sydney
Niagara Galleries, Melbourne
- 1995 Watters Gallery, Sydney
- 1994 Niagara Galleries, Melbourne
- 1993 Watters Gallery, Sydney
- 1992 Pinacotheca, Melbourne
- 1991 Watters Gallery, Sydney
- 1990 *Ken Whisson: A survey*, Pinacotheca, Melbourne and touring
Ken Whisson, 20 Drawings from 1973 to 1989, Cannibal Pierce Galerie Australienne, St. Denis, France
- 1989 Watters Gallery, Sydney
Ray Hughes Gallery, Sydney
- 1988 *Ken Whisson Photographs*, Cannibal Pierce Galerie Australienne, St. Denis, France
- 1987 *Ken Whisson Paintings 1957–1985*, Broken Hill Art Gallery, New South Wales and touring
- 1986 Watters Gallery, Sydney
312 Lennox Street, Melbourne
- 1985 Ray Hughes Gallery, Sydney
- 1984 *The Paintings and Drawings of Ken Whisson*, Contemporary Art Society Gallery, Adelaide
- 1983 Watters Gallery, Sydney
Hughes Gallery, Sydney
Ray Hughes Gallery, Brisbane
Pinacotheca, Melbourne
Watters Gallery, Sydney
- 1981 Watters Gallery, Sydney
- 1980 Ray Hughes Gallery, Brisbane
Watters Gallery, Sydney
Ray Hughes Gallery, Brisbane
Ken Whisson: Selected Paintings, RMIT Gallery, Melbourne
- 1978 *Ken Whisson: Selected Paintings*, RMIT Gallery, Melbourne
- 1977 *Ken Whisson*, Ballarat Fine Art Gallery
- 1976 Ray Hughes Gallery, Brisbane
Macquarie Galleries, Sydney
- 1974 Macquarie Galleries, Sydney
Macquarie Galleries, Canberra
- 1973 Ray Hughes Gallery, Brisbane
Latrobe Valley Arts Centre, Victoria
- 1972 Gallery A, Melbourne
Macquarie Galleries, Sydney
- 1968 Strines, Melbourne
Chester Beatty Research Institute, London
- 1967 Macquarie Galleries, Sydney
- 1966 Gallery A, Melbourne
- 1965 Macquarie Galleries, Sydney
- 1963 South Yarra Gallery, Melbourne
- 1962 Barry Stern Galleries, Sydney
- 1961 Victorian Artists Society, Melbourne
- 1960 Victorian Artists Society, Melbourne
- 1957 Victorian Artists Society, Melbourne
- 1956 Victorian Artists Society, Melbourne
- 1952 Lower Kozminsky Gallery, Melbourne

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2023 *Blue Chip XXV: The Collectors' Exhibition*, Niagara Galleries, Melbourne

- 2022 *Eyes that see: Works from the collection of Norman Rosenblatt*, Bayside Gallery, Melbourne
Blue Chip XXIV: The Collectors' Exhibition, Niagara Galleries, Melbourne
- 2018 *Blue Chip XX: The Collectors' Exhibition*, Niagara Galleries, Melbourne
- 2017 *Ponyland: The Big Pony Show*, Logan Art Gallery, Queensland
Artist Profile, Australasian Painters 2007-2017, Orange Regional Gallery, New South Wales
A Selection From a Distinguished Private Collection, Watters Gallery, Sydney
Blue Chip XIX: The Collectors' Exhibition, Niagara Galleries, Melbourne
- 2016 *Recent Acquisitions: Port Phillip City Collection 2015-2016*, The Gallery, St Kilda Town Hall
- 2016 *KIAF 2016 / ART SEOUL*, Seoul COEX Hall A & B, Korea
Painting. More Painting, ACCA, Melbourne
Panorama, TarraWarra Museum of Art, Victoria
Blue Chip XVIII: The Collectors' Exhibition, Niagara Galleries, Melbourne
- 2015 *Country & Western: landscape re-imagined*, Perc Tucker Regional Gallery, Townsville, Queensland
Blue Chip XVII: The Collectors' Exhibition, Niagara Galleries, Melbourne
- 2014 *Melbourne Art Fair*, Royal Exhibition Building, Melbourne
Blue Chip XVI: The Collectors' Exhibition, Niagara Galleries, Melbourne
Solitaire, TarraWarra Museum of Art, Victoria
- 2013 *Australia*, Royal Academy of Arts, London
Blue Chip XV: The Collectors' Exhibition, Niagara Galleries, Melbourne
Sea of Dreams, Port Phillip Bay 1915-2013 (Part Two), Mornington Peninsula Regional Gallery, Mornington Peninsula, Victoria
- 2012 *Korea International Art Fair*, Niagara Galleries, COEX, Seoul, Korea
Melbourne Art Fair, Royal Exhibition Building, Melbourne
Blue Chip XIV: The Collectors' Exhibition, Niagara Galleries, Melbourne
- 2011 *Korea International Art Fair*, Niagara Galleries, COEX, Seoul, Korea
Out of Australia: Prints and Drawings from Sidney Nolan to Rover Thomas, British Museum, London
Heads, Utopia Art Sydney, Sydney
Blue Chip XIII: The Collectors' Exhibition, Niagara Galleries, Melbourne
- 2010 *Freehand: Recent Australian Drawing*, Heide Museum of Modern Art, Melbourne
Korea International Art Fair, COEX, Seoul, Korea
Melbourne Art Fair, Royal Exhibition Building, Melbourne
Blue Chip XII: The Collectors' Exhibition, Niagara Galleries, Melbourne
- 2009 *Making It New: Focus on Contemporary Australian Art*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney
Auckland Art Fair, New Zealand
Step Right Up!, Albury City Art Gallery, New South Wales and The Arts Centre, Melbourne
- 2008 *Order & Dissent: Works from the Heide Collection*, Heide Museum of Modern Art, Melbourne
Rimbaud/Rambo, Neon Park, Melbourne
Melbourne Art Fair, Royal Exhibition Building, Melbourne
- 2007 *Bloodlines: Art and the Horse*, Hawkesbury Regional Gallery, New South Wales and touring
- 2006 *The Fleurieu Art Prize Exhibition*, McLaren Vale, South Australia
Melbourne Art Fair, Royal Exhibition Building, Melbourne
- 2005 *Aerial View: The Reconfiguring of Painting*, Hayward Gallery, London
- 2004 *Artists for Kids Culture: 2005 Annual Art Exhibition and Auction*, Melbourne
Home Sweet Home: Works from the Peter Fay Collection, National Gallery of Australia, Canberra
Drawing Biennale, ANU Drill Hall Gallery, Canberra

- Penetralia: Art and Psychoanalysis in Melbourne, 1940–2004*, RMIT Gallery, Melbourne
- 2003 *Blue Chip V: The Collectors' Exhibition*, Niagara Galleries, Melbourne
- 2002 *Melbourne Art Fair*, Royal Exhibition Building, Melbourne
- 2001 *Blue Chip IV: The Collectors' Exhibition*, Niagara Galleries, Melbourne
The Sense We Make: Australian Art from the Orica Collection, The Ian Potter Museum of Art, Melbourne
Octane: Celebrating 80 Years of the Royal Australian Air Force, Global Arts Link, Ipswich, Queensland
- 2000 *Melbourne Art Fair*, Royal Exhibition Building, Melbourne
- 1999 *On the Road: The Car in Australian Art*, Heide Museum of Modern Art, Melbourne
- 1998 *The Laverty Collection*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney
- 1997 *The Urban Edge: Historical and Contemporary Works from the Queensland Art Gallery Collection*, Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane
A Face in the Crowd, National Portrait Gallery, Canberra
- 1996 *Hidden Treasures 11: Art in Corporate Collections*, S.H. Ervin Gallery, Sydney
- 1995 *Summer 95–96*, Watters Gallery, Sydney
- 1994 *Drawing on Inspiration*, Ivan Dougherty Gallery, Sydney
- 1993 *Works from the Collection*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Brisbane
- 1992 *Contemporary Australian Drawings from the Collection*, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney and touring
- 1991 *Cross Currents: Contemporary New Zealand and Australian Art in the Chartwell Collection*, Waikato Museum of Art & History, Hamilton, New Zealand
Her Story: Images of Domestic Labour in Australian Art, S.H. Ervin Gallery, Sydney
- 1990 *Harbour Hymns, City Songs; Visions of Sydney from the Collection*, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
Art on the Campus, Ivan Dougherty Gallery, Sydney
Gallery 5, Vidal, Venice, Italy
- 1989 *Prints and Australia: Pre-settlement to Present*, National Gallery of Australia, Canberra
Joseph Brown Collection, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
The Jack Manton Exhibition: Recent Works by Twelve Australian Artists, Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane
- 1988 *Creating Australia: 200 Years of Art*, Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide and ICCA
Seventeen Australian Artists, Gallery 5, Vidal, Venice, Italy
The Great Australian Art Exhibition 1788–1988, touring all state galleries
Drawing in Australia from 1770s to 1980s, National Gallery of Australia, Canberra
- 1987 *Painters and Sculptors: Diversity in Contemporary Art*, Queensland Art Gallery and Museum of Modern Art, Saitama, Japan
Contemporary Art in Australia – A Review, Museum of Contemporary Art, Brisbane
- 1984 *The Australians*, CDS Gallery, New York
- 1983 *Twelve Australian Painters*, Western Australian Art Gallery, Perth and Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane
- 1983 *Some Recent Australian Works on Paper*, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
Recent Australian Painting: A Survey, 1970–1983, Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide
- 1982 *Australian Painting and Sculpture 1956–1981*, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
The Seventies: Australian Paintings and Tapestries from the Collection of the National Australia Bank, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne
- 1981 *Australian Perspecta 1981*, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
Some Australian Drawings 1880–1980, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
- 1979 *Images: Aspects of Image Painting in the 1960s*, Victorian College of the Arts Gallery, Melbourne
- 1978 *Pemandangan alam dan Khayal/Landscape and Image: A Selection of Australian Art of the 1970s*, touring Indonesia

COLLECTIONS

Allen Allen & Hemsley, Sydney
Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide
Art Gallery of Western Australia, Perth
Ballarat Fine Art Gallery, Victoria
Bank of America Merrill Lynch Art Collection, Sydney
Bathurst Art Gallery, New South Wales
British Museum, London
Broken Hill Art Gallery, New South Wales
Burnie Art Gallery, Tasmania
Centre for Contemporary Art, New Zealand
Chartwell Collection, Auckland Art Gallery, Toi o Tamaki, Auckland, New Zealand
Dalby Regional Art Gallery, Queensland
Kedumba Gallery, New South Wales
Geelong Art Gallery, Victoria
Heide Museum of Modern Art, Victoria
Latrobe Valley Arts Centre, Victoria
Leeuwin Estate, Western Australia
McClelland Art Gallery, Victoria
Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney
Muswellbrook Regional Arts Centre, New South Wales
National Australia Bank, Sydney
National Gallery of Australia, Canberra
National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne
Newcastle Regional Art Gallery, New South Wales
NRMA, Sydney
Orange Regional Art Gallery, New South Wales
Parliament House, Canberra
Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane
Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane
Singleton Municipality, Queensland
Southern Cross University Art Museum, Queensland
State Bank
Sydney College of Advanced Education, New South Wales
Sydney University, New South Wales
Te Papa Tangarewa, Museum of New Zealand, Wellington
University Art Museum, Queensland
University of New England, New South Wales
University of New South Wales, Sydney
Warrnambool Art Gallery, Victoria
Private collections, Australia and overseas

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CATALOGUES/BOOKS

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Ponyland: The big pony show, exhibition catalogue, Logan Art Gallery, Queensland, 2018
Artist Profile, Australasian Painters 2007-2017, exhibition catalogue, Orange Regional Gallery, New South Wales, 2017
Recent Acquisitions: Port Phillip City Collection 2015-2016, exhibition catalogue, The Gallery, St Kilda Town Hall, 2016, pp.18-19

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Stephanie Berlangieri, 'Ken Whisson', *Painting. More Painting*, exhibition catalogue, ACCA, 2016, p. 148

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Blue Chip XVI: The Collectors' Exhibition, exhibition catalogue, Niagara Publishing, Melbourne, 2014

Solitaire, exhibition catalogue, TarraWarra Museum of Art, Victoria, 2014

Sea of Dreams, Port Phillip Bay 1915-2013 (Part Two), exhibition catalogue, Mornington Peninsula Shire, Victoria, 2013

Ken Whisson: Paintings and Drawings, exhibition catalogue, Watters Gallery, Sydney, 2013

Australia, exhibition catalogue, Royal Academy of Arts, London, 2013

Blue Chip XV: The Collectors' Exhibition, exhibition catalogue, Niagara Publishing, Melbourne, 2013

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Glenn Barkley and Lesley Harding, *Ken Whisson: As If*, exhibition catalogue, Heide Museum of Modern Art, Melbourne and Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney, 2012

Blue Chip XIV: The Collectors' Exhibition, exhibition catalogue, Niagara Publishing, Melbourne, 2012

Ken Whisson: Paintings and Drawings, exhibition catalogue, Watters Gallery, Sydney, 2011

Stephen Coppel, *Out of Australia: Prints and Drawings from Sidney Nolan to Rover Thomas*, exhibition catalogue, British Museum, London, 2011

Blue Chip XIII: The Collectors' Exhibition, exhibition catalogue, Niagara Publishing, Melbourne, 2011

Linda Michael, *Freehand: Recent Australian Drawing*, exhibition catalogue, Heide Museum of Modern Art, Melbourne, 2010

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Blue Chip XII: The Collectors' Exhibition, exhibition catalogue, Niagara Publishing, Melbourne, 2010

Bettina MacAulay and Brett Adlington, *Twelve Degrees of Latitude: Regional Gallery and University Art Collections in Queensland*, exhibition catalogue, Museum and Gallery Services Queensland Limited, Brisbane, 2009

Glen Barkley, *Making it New: Focus on Contemporary Australian Art*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney, 2009

Greg O'Brien, 'This thing the brush does', *Making it New: Focus on Contemporary Australian Art*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney, 2009

Step Right Up!, exhibition catalogue, Albury City Art Gallery, New South Wales, 2009

Order & Dissent, exhibition catalogue, Heide Museum of Modern Art, Melbourne, 2008

The John McCaughey Memorial Prize: 50 Years, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, 2008

Peter Fay, 'Freshly dropped dung', and Glenn Barkley, 'A Game of dreams within dreams', *Bloodlines: Art and the Horse*, Hawkesbury Regional Gallery, New South Wales, 2007

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Jingzhe Li, *Australian Contemporary Painting: The Classic Work of 42 Excellent Artists*, Shanghai People's Fine Arts Publishing House, China, 2006

Gina Lee, 'Ken Whisson', *2004 Drawing Biennale*, ANU Drill Hall Gallery, Canberra, 2004

Ken Whisson: Paintings 1947-1999 with Writings and Talks by the Artist, Niagara Publishing, Melbourne, 2001

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Mary Eagle and John Jones, *A Story of Australian Painting*, Macmillan, New South Wales, 1994

Peter and Susan Ward, *A Different Light: Australian Artists Working in Italy*, University of Queensland Press, Brisbane, 1991

John McDonald, 'Ken Whisson and the life of forms', *Ken Whisson: A Survey*, Pinacotheca, 1990

K Shepherd, 'A soldier at war with the picture', *Ken Whisson, 20 Drawings from 1973–1989*, Cannibal Pierce Galerie Australienne, St Denis, France, 1990

Daniel Thomas, *Creating Australia: 200 Years of Art 1788–1988*, International Cultural Corporation of Australia and Art Gallery of South Australia, Sydney, 1988

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Robert Lindsay, 'Notes on the artists and their works', *The Seventies: Australian Paintings and Tapestries from the Collection of National Australia Bank*, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, 1982

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