

FRANCES KEEVIL GALLERY

MICHAEL SIMMS

Michael Simms is a multi-award winning artist based in Sydney whose work is characterised by dream-like depictions of the human figure. Ranging from traditional portraiture to explorations of identity in the digital age and queer culture, his diverse paintings and drawings combine elements of classicism, romanticism, surrealism and psychology.

Michael completed a degree in psychology in his hometown of Adelaide before winning a scholarship for Sydney's historic Julian Ashton Art School. In 2018, he was awarded the Royal Art Society of NSW Young Artist Prize, the inaugural SBS Portrait Prize, and the EBNA Portrait Prize. Michael has been a finalist in several major art awards, including the Doug Moran, Black Swan and Kilgour prizes and has put several notable Australians onto canvas such as Thomas Keneally, Liz Ellis, Paul Capsis and Genevieve Lemon.

He is a resident artist at Project 504, an experimental art collective in North Sydney.

EDUCATION

- 2011 - 14 Diploma of Fine Arts, The Julian Ashton Art School, Sydney
(Recipient of the Sydney Mechanics School of Art Scholarship)
- 2006 - 11 Bachelor of Behavioural Science and Bachelor of Arts, Flinders University, Adelaide

SELECT AWARDS AND PRIZES

- 2018 The Young Artist Prize, The Royal Art Society of NSW - Winner
SBS Portrait Prize, Southern Buoy Studios, VIC – Winner
EBNA 2018 First Prize, YSC Consultancy, NSW – Winner
EBNA 2018 People's Choice, YSC Consultancy, NSW - Winner
Kilgour Art Prize, Newcastle Gallery, NSW – Finalist
Hurford Harwood Portrait Prize, Lismore Regional Gallery, NSW -Finalist
- 2017 Doug Moran National Portrait Prize, NSW – Finalist
Lethbridge 10,000, Lethbridge Gallery, QLD – Highly Commended
Mosman Art Prize, Mosman Art Galley, NSW – Finalist
Fisher's Ghost Art Prize, Campbelltown Arts Centre, NSW – Finalist
Lyn McCrea Drawing Prize, Noose Regional Gallery, QLD – Finalist
Manning Art Prize, Manning Regional Gallery, NSW – Finalist
Marie Ellis Drawing Prize, Jugglers Art Space, QLD - Finalist
- 2016 Cliftons Sydney Art Prize, Cliftons Sydney – Winner
Cliftons Sydney People's Choice Award, Cliftons Sydney – Winner
Cambridge Studio Gallery Portrait Prize, VIC - Winner
Black Swan Prize for Portraiture, Art Gallery of WA, Perth – Finalist
Emerging Artist Award, Fortyfivedownstairs, Melbourne – Finalist
Percival Tucker Portrait Prize, Perc Tucker Regional Gallery, QLD - Finalist
Blacktown Art Prize, Blacktown Arts Centre, Sydney – Finalist
Calleen Art Award, Cowra Regional Art Gallery, Cowra - Finalist

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SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2018 Interfacing, Stanley Street Gallery, Sydney
2017 Brink, Cambridge Studio Gallery, Melbourne
2016 Reverie, ArtWorld Studio Gallery, Brisbane

SELECT GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2018 Undercurrents, Flinders Lane Gallery, Melbourne
Temporal, Lethbridge Gallery, Brisbane
2017 Exploration 17, Flinders Lane Gallery, Melbourne
The Other Art Fair, Australian Technology Park Eveleigh, Sydney
2016 Uncovered, Project [504], St Leonards, Sydney

SELECT PUBLICATIONS AND MEDIA

- The Music, 'Top Talents to Watch in 2018', January 2018
Talking With Painters The Podcast, Episode 24, 2017
ABC Weekend Breakfast, 15 October 2017
The Guardian Australia, 11 October 2017

COLLECTIONS

- The Thomas Keneally Centre at the Sydney Mechanics' School of Arts
Cliftons, Sydney
YSC Consulting, Sydney