

David Griggs

# David Griggs

B. 1975 • Australia

Paintings by David Griggs may be read as narratives, drawn from incidents he observes in the city streets that relate the texture of our times. Even more they emerge from the painting itself, becoming explorations of the discoveries he makes along the way. In his practice, he 'reaches behind daily observations to give them a good tug'. Griggs uses an ambitious scale to draw viewers in, with subjects including people, politics, sex and phobias, abstracted and smashed together with surreal conjunctions. Most recently his process is to make detailed paintings, before disrupting them with a more gestural application, to 'try to wash away the mechanisms we have as painters'. His style is wide-ranging, restless and eclectic.

Griggs (b.1975) has been making art since he was a schoolboy. He holds a Bachelor of Visual Art from Sydney College of the Arts (1999) and a Master of Fine Arts from the University of Sydney (2007). He won the Willoughby City Art Prize in 2001, and is a repeat finalist in the Archibald Prize (2013, 2014, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019) and other national prizes. He spent twelve years in The Philippines following an Asialink residency (2005), revelling the number of other painters at work there, and developing a billboard style aesthetic that conjures up the chaos of the city. A survey exhibition, David Griggs: Between Nature and Sin toured galleries in Australia (2017-2019), and his work has been curated into exhibitions in Paris, Copenhagen, Quezon City, Singapore, Sete, Manila, Bangkok, Graz, Berlin, San Francisco, Jakarta, and Miami.

He works in painting, video, sculpture and photography, and his work is in institutional collections all over Australia, notably QAGOMA, Brisbane and the Museum of Contemporary Art and Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre, Sydney.



David Griggs, *Untitled*, 2024, acrylic and oil on polyester, 149 x 447 cm  
USD \$20,000 ex tax









David Griggs, *Untitled*, 2024, acrylic and oil on polyester, 198 x 183 cm  
USD \$15,000 ex tax









David Griggs, *Untitled*, acrylic and oil on polyester, 198 x 183 cm  
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# Biography

## EXHIBITIONS

- 2024 *Marcel Proust Mini DV*, Jan Murphy Gallery, Brisbane, Australia
- 2021 *The Cubensis Head Butt*, Jan Murphy Gallery, Brisbane, Australia  
*The Ashtray Reader*, STATION Gallery, Melbourne, Australia
- 2020 *Mankini Island*, Roslyn Oxley9 Gallery, Sydney, Australia
- 2019 *BETWEEN NATURE AND SIN*, Campbelltown Arts Centre, NSW; Glasshouse Regional Gallery, NSW; Northern Centre for Contemporary Art, NT; Redland Art Gallery, QLD; Cairns Art Gallery, QLD; Lismore Regional Gallery, NSW; Griffith Regional Art Gallery, NSW, Australia
- 2018 *Heroes*, Roslyn Oxley9 Gallery, Sydney

- 2017 *Palmtree, Bass, Budda*, Roslyn Oxley9 Gallery, Sydney, Australia  
*BETWEEN NATURE AND SIN*, Campbelltown Arts Centre, NSW, Australia
- 2016 *Horror Business*, GAGPROJECTS/Greenaway Art Gallery, Adelaide, Australia
- 2014 *Magic is Mentally Ill*, STATION, Melbourne, Australia  
*Frustrated Poverty Porn Bubble Gang*, Future Perfect Gallery, Singapore

## GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2024 *Untitled Art Fair*, PIERMARQ\*, Miami, USA
- 2023 *Lies, Magicians and Blind Faith*, QAGOMA, Brisbane, Australia
- 2022 *Nationalism in the Wake of Covid*, Macquarie University Art Gallery, Sydney, Australia
- 2019 *City Prince/sses*, Palais De Tokyo, Paris  
*Nothing human is alien to me*, Artspace, Ideas Platform, Sydney, Australia

- 2018 *Becoming Animal*, Den Frie Centre of Contemporary Art, Copenhagen, Denmark  
*The Art of Living*, Arts Project Australia, Melbourne
- 2016 *Primavera at 25: MCA Collection*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney, Australia  
*DOUBLE VISION*, Lee Kong Chian Gallery, NUS Museum, Singapore

## PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

- Queensland Art Gallery / Gallery of Modern Art, Brisbane  
Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney  
University of Queensland, Brisbane  
Joyce Nissan Collection, Melbourne  
Powerhouse Museum, Sydney  
Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre, NSW  
Tamworth Regional Gallery, Tamworth