

## Oliver Watts

b. 1976 Sydney, Australia  
Lives and works in Sydney, Australia

### EDUCATION

2016 MFA in Painting at Sydney College of the Arts, Rozelle  
2010 PhD in Art History and Theory, The University of Sydney (submission August 2009)  
"Images on the Limit of Law: Sovereignty, Modernism and the Effigy"  
2001 Bachelor of Law (Honours), The University of Sydney  
1998 Bachelor of Arts, Art History and Theory (Honours), The University of Sydney

### SOLO EXHIBITIONS

Forthcoming 2026 *Solo Exhibition* with CHALK HORSE, Sydney  
2024 *The Return, This is No Fantasy*, Melbourne  
*Me in place and the place in me*, Grace Cossington Smith Gallery, Wahroonga  
2023 *In a Dark Swamp*, Chalk Horse, Sydney  
*At Redleaf, This is No Fantasy*, Melbourne  
2022 *Felling the Boundary Pines*, Chalk Horse, Sydney  
2021 *Sweet is the Swamp, This is No Fantasy*, Melbourne  
2020 *The Retreat*, Chalk Horse, Sydney  
2019 *Autopilot Steering*, Chalk Horse Gallery, Sydney  
2016 *House Model*, Chalk Horse Gallery, Sydney  
2015 *Cordelia/Fool series*, exhibited with Chalk Horse at Sydney Contemporary and at the Sydney College of the Arts Postgraduate Exhibition, Sydney  
2013 *Stone Blue*, Helen Gory Galerie, Melbourne  
*Kafka's Painter*, Helen Gory Galerie, Melbourne  
2011 *The Elevator's Song*, Ecosse Gallery, Exeter  
*Wattle, The Space*, Hong Kong  
*Commentary on the Royal Wedding*, Gregory and Watts, Oxford Art Factory, Sydney  
2010 *Nothing is True, Everything is Permitted*, Chalk Horse, Sydney  
2009 *Three Suns*, Helen Gory Galerie, Melbourne  
*The Golden Probe*, Chalk Horse, Sydney  
*Ps: Potential Spaces* with Neeson Murcutt Architects, Sydney  
*Horn of Plenty*, Parasite Gallery, Hong Kong  
2008 *Barres Trial*, Cat Street Gallery, Hong Kong  
*Crimes Against Dada*, Chalk Horse Gallery, Sydney  
2006 *Miniatures*, Ivan Dougherty Gallery, Sydney  
2004 *Driftwood* (with Jasper Knight), MOP Projects, Sydney  
2003 *Pioneers*, MOP Projects, Sydney  
*Hairbrush*, Gallery Wren, Sydney

### SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2025 Art SG with CHALK HORSE, Sydney  
Sydney Contemporary with CHALK HORSE, Sydney  
2024 *New South - Recent Paintings from Southern Australia*, Hazelhurst Arts Centre, Gymea  
2023 *Orbit, This Is No Fantasy*, Melbourne  
*Spring1883 Art Fair*, Chalk Horse Gallery, Melbourne

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	<i>Spring1883 Art Fair, This Is No Fantasy, Melbourne</i>
2021	<i>Art16 London, This Is No Fantasy, Melbourne</i>
2016	<i>At this time, This Is No Fantasy, Melbourne</i>
2015	<i>Laugh Out Loud, La Trobe Regional Gallery, Gippsland</i>
2013	<i>Group Show, Helen Gory Galerie, Melbourne</i>
2012	<i>Nothing is True, Everything is Permitted, Chalk Horse, Sydney</i>
2011	<i>Wattle: Contemporary Art in China, The Space, Hong Kong</i> <i>Triplicated, Chalk Horse, Sydney</i>
2010	<i>Smoking Guns, Cat Street Gallery, Hong Kong</i>
2009	<i>Horn of Plenty</i> (performance), curated by Dougal Phillips, Para/Site, Hong Kong <i>Frontier Photobooth</i> (performance), 1/2 Doz. Festival, Blankspace Gallery, Sydney
2005	<i>Australia Day</i> (performance), Museum of Sydney, Sydney

## GRANTS | AWARDS | RESIDENCIES

2024	The Glover Prize (finalist) The Archibald Prize, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney (finalist)
2023	The Archibald Prize, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney (finalist)
2021	The Archibald Prize, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney (finalist)
2019	Doug Moran Portrait Prize (finalist)
2005	NAVA Marketing Grant Brett Whitley Travelling Scholarship (finalist)
2004	Helen Lempiere Travelling Scholarship (finalist) Australian Post-Graduate Award
1998	Mary Makinson Award Art History
1998	Noel Chette Award Fine Arts

## PRESS | PUBLICATIONS

2021	Brennan, Joseph. "Sweet Is the Swamp." <i>Art Almanac</i> , June 2021.
2020	Brennan, Joseph. "Real Made Strange." <i>Art Collector</i> , May 2020. Mial, Nina. "Oliver Watts: The Retreat." <i>Art Collector</i> , May 2020.
2017	Hill, Wes. "Around Town." <i>Frieze</i> , no. 186 (April 2017).
2014	Goldspink, Sebastian. "Art School Confidential: The Rise of the Sydney Grad Show." <i>Raven: A Platform for Contemporary Art and Events</i> , 2014.
2012	Boyce, Roger. "Oliver Watts at Helen Gory Galerie." <i>Art in America</i> , online review, Pages Digital, 2012. Craven, Owen. "Oliver Watt's Kafka's Painter." <i>Art Almanac</i> , February 14, 2012.
2010	Nelson, Robert. "Kafka's Painter." <i>The Age</i> , February 29, 2010.

## COLLECTIONS

Artbank, Australia  
National Museum of Australia  
Sydney University Collection  
The Reserve Bank of Australia