

OLIVER WATTS

b. 1976

Sydney, Australia

Lives and works in Sydney, Australia

EDUCATION

2016	Master of Fine Arts (Painting), Sydney College of the Arts, Rozelle <i>Power and Misrecognition: The Cordelia/Fool Series</i>
2010	PhD (Art History and Theory), The University of Sydney <i>Images on the Limit of Law: Sovereignty, Modernism and the Effigy</i>
2001	Bachelor of Laws (Honours), The University of Sydney
1998	Bachelor of Arts (Art History and Theory) (Honours), The University of Sydney

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2024	<i>The Return</i> , This Is No Fantasy, Melbourne <i>Me in place and the place in me</i> , Grace Cossington Smith Gallery, Wahroonga, Sydney
2023	<i>In a Dark Swamp</i> , CHALK HORSE, Sydney <i>At Redleaf</i> , This Is No Fantasy, Melbourne
2022	<i>Felling the Boundary Pines</i> , CHALK HORSE, Sydney
2021	<i>Sweet is the Swamp</i> , This Is No Fantasy, Melbourne
2020	<i>The Retreat</i> , CHALK HORSE, Sydney
2019	<i>Autopilot Steering</i> , CHALK HORSE, Sydney
2016	<i>House Model</i> , CHALK HORSE, Sydney <i>Cordelia/Fool Series</i> , Sydney Contemporary with CHALK HORSE, Sydney <i>Cordelia/Fool Series</i> , Sydney College of the Arts' Postgraduate Exhibition, Sydney
2013	<i>The Sea Hare</i> , CHALK HORSE, Sydney <i>Kafka's Painter</i> , Helen Gory Galerie, Melbourne <i>Stone Blue</i> , Helen Gory Galerie, Melbourne
2011	<i>The Elevator's Song</i> , Gallery Ecosse, Exeter <i>Commentary on the Royal Wedding</i> , with Tim Gregory, Oxford Art Factory, Sydney <i>Nothing Is True, Everything Is Permitted</i> , CHALK HORSE, Sydney <i>Wattle</i> , The Space, Hong Kong
2010	<i>I Am Tristan Tzara</i> , CHALK HORSE, Sydney <i>Three Suns</i> , This Is No Fantasy, Melbourne
2009	<i>The Golden Probe</i> , CHALK HORSE, Sydney <i>PS: Potential Spaces</i> , Neeson Murcutt Architects, Sydney <i>Horn of Plenty</i> , Parasite Gallery, Hong Kong <i>Barres Trial</i> , Cat Street Gallery, Hong Kong
2008	<i>Crimes Against Dada</i> , CHALK HORSE, Sydney <i>Poos on Sticks</i> , Next Wave Festival, Melbourne
2006	<i>Miniatures</i> , Ivan Dougherty Gallery, Sydney
2004	<i>Driftwood</i> , with Jasper Knight, MOP Projects, Sydney
2003	<i>Pioneers</i> , MOP Projects, Sydney <i>Hairbrush</i> , Gallery Wren, Sydney

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2026	<i>Level Two</i> , CHALK HORSE, Sydney Aotearoa Art Fair with CHALK HORSE, Auckland
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2025	ART SG with CHALK HORSE, Sydney
2024	<i>There are lots of people around me, sometimes there are none</i> , CHALK HORSE, Sydney <i>New South: Recent Painting from Southern Australia</i> , Hazelhurst Arts Centre, Gymea NSW
2023	SPRING1883 with CHALK HORSE, Melbourne <i>Wild at Heart</i> , CHALK HORSE, Sydney <i>Orbit, This Is No Fantasy</i> , Melbourne
2017	Art Central Hong Kong with CHALK HORSE, Hong Kong
2016	Art16 London with <i>This Is No Fantasy</i> , London
2015	Sydney Contemporary with CHALK HORSE, Sydney <i>At this time...</i> , <i>This Is No Fantasy</i> , Melbourne
2014	Melbourne Art Fair with CHALK HORSE, Melbourne
2011	<i>Come Together</i> , CHALK HORSE, Sydney
2010	Melbourne Art Fair with CHALK HORSE, Melbourne <i>Triplicated</i> , CHALK HORSE, Sydney
2008	<i>Chalk Reindeer</i> , CHALK HORSE, Sydney

GRANTS | AWARDS | RESIDENCIES

2021	The Archibald Prize, Art Gallery of New South Wales (finalist)
2019	Doug Moran Portrait Prize (finalist)
2005	NAVA Marketing Grant Brett Whitley Travelling Scholarship (finalist) Helen Lempiere Travelling Scholarship (finalist)
2004	Australian Post-Graduate Award
2002	Mary Makinson Award Art History
1998	Noel Chette Award Fine Arts

PRESS | PUBLICATIONS

2022	Dr Joseph Brennan, "Oliver Watts: Real Made Strange," <i>Art Collector</i> 92, April–June 2022.
2021	Dr Joseph Brennan, "Sweet Is The Swamp," <i>Art Almanac</i> , 10 July 2021.
2012	Owen Craven, "Oliver Watts: Kafka's Painter", <i>Art Almanac</i> , 14 February 2012.

LECTURES | PROJECTS

2024	Conversation – <i>Talking Painting with James Powditch and Oliver Watts</i> , Goulburn Regional Art Gallery, Goulburn NSW, 24 February 2024.
2018	Conversation – <i>In Conversation: Dr Oliver Watts and Arlo Mountford</i> , Goulburn Regional Art Gallery, Goulburn NSW, 1 June 2018.
2016	Talk – <i>Blurry Scenes: The Invisibility of Art in TV and Film</i> , Vivid Ideas, Copyright Agency, 28 July 2016.

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Senior Lecturer, Head of Performance Practices, National Institute of Dramatic Arts (NIDA), Sydney
Head Curator, Artbank, Sydney

COLLECTIONS

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