

MCLEAN EDWARDS

McLean Edwards studied at the Canberra School of Art. Since that time he has exhibited his work in numerous group and solo shows including the Archibald Prize at the AGNSW in 2004, 2006, 2007, 2010 and 2013. McLean currently lives and works in Sydney.

Born: 1972 Darwin, Northern Territory
Lives: Sydney, Australia

Education: Canberra School of Art

SOLO EXHIBITIONS:

- 2016 *Knock Knock*, Nicholas Projects, Melbourne
- 2014 *Local Heroes*, Martin Browne Contemporary, Sydney
- 2013 *The Art of Connecting: McLean Edwards*, Bank of America Merrill Lynch, Sydney
- 2013 *Imaginary Friends and Black Portraits*, Martin Browne Contemporary, Sydney
- 2012 *Here Comes Everybody*, Martin Browne Contemporary, Sydney
- 2011 *Dream Juggler*, Gallery Ecosse, Exeter, NSW
- 2011 *Basic Instinct*, Karen Woodbury Gallery, Melbourne
- 2010 *Bad Habits*, Goulburn Regional Art Gallery, Goulburn, NSW
- 2010 *Bad Habits*, Martin Browne Fine Art, Sydney
- 2009 Martin Browne Fine Art, Sydney
- 2008 *The End*, Martin Browne Fine Art, Sydney
- 2007 *New Works*, Martin Browne Fine Art, Sydney
- 2006 *Non Fiction*, Martin Browne Fine Art, Sydney
- 2005 *The Revenge of Maggie Dubrovnik*, Martin Browne Fine Art, Melbourne
- 2004 *Mexican Brides*, Martin Browne Fine Art, Sydney
- 2003 *Down and Dirty for the Lord*, Martin Browne Fine Art, Sydney
- 2003 *Opening Exhibition*, Martin Browne Fine Art, Sydney
- 2002 *Year of the Rat*, Martin Browne Fine Art, Sydney
- 2002 *Recent Paintings and Drawings*, Chapman Gallery, Manuka ACT
- 2002 *Australian Contemporary Art Fair*, Martin Browne Fine Art, Sydney
- 2001 *Headway*, Legge Gallery, Sydney
- 2000 *I wanted to be normal for You*, Legge Gallery, Sydney
- 2000 *The trembling man paintings* Chapman Gallery, Canberra
- 1999 *Recent works*, Legge Gallery, Sydney
- 1998 *Nudes and other recent works*, Chapman Gallery, Canberra
- 1998 *New Paintings*, Legge Gallery, Sydney
- 1998 *Give 'em hell* Galeri Tenguh, Jakarta, Indonesia
- 1997 *Pygmalion*, Legge Gallery, Sydney
- 1996 *Silly boy paintings*, Legge Gallery, Sydney
- 1995 *Portraits*, Legge Gallery, Sydney

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS:

- 2016 *Salon des Refuses*, SH Ervin Gallery, Sydney
- 2016 *Winter Exhibition*, Heiser Gallery, Brisbane
- 2015 *Art Month Collectors' Space*, The Hughes Gallery, Sydney

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2015 *Five Artists*, Gallery Ecosse, Exeter, NSW
 2014 *Doug Moran National Portrait Prize*, Juniper Hall, Sydney
 2013 *Archibald Prize*, Art Gallery of New South Wales
 2010 *Archibald Prize*, Art Gallery of New South Wales
 2010 *Quirky from the Collection*, Newcastle Regional Art Gallery, Newcastle
 2009 *The University of Queensland National Artist's Self-Portrait Prize*, Brisbane
 2009 *Linde Ivimey and McLean Edwards*, Martin Browne Fine Art, Sydney
 2008 *Autumn Exhibition*, Martin Browne Fine Art, Sydney
 2008 *New Works by Gallery Artists*, Martin Browne Fine Art, Sydney
 2007 *Summer Exhibition*, Martin Browne Fine Art, Sydney
 2007 *Autumn Catalogue*, Martin Browne Fine Art, Sydney
 2007 *Winter Catalogue*, Martin Browne Fine Art, Sydney
 2007 *Archibald Prize*, Art Gallery of New South Wales
 2006 *Archibald Prize*, Art Gallery of New South Wales
 2004 *Archibald Prize*, Art Gallery of New South Wales
 2004 *Sulman Prize*, Finalist, Art Gallery of NSW, Sydney
 2003 *A Selection of 20th Century Contemporary Australian and New Zealand Art*, Martin Browne Fine Art, Sydney
 2003 *A Selection of Important 20th Century Australian Paintings*
 2003 Martin Browne Fine Art, Sydney
 2002 Seventh Australia Contemporary Art Fair, Melbourne
 2002 *A Summer Show*, December, Martin Browne Fine Art, Sydney
 2001 Seventh Australian Contemporary Art Fair, Melbourne
 2001 *Sulman Prize*, Finalist, Art Gallery of NSW
 1999 *Contemporary Art: Allen Allen & Hemsley Collection*, UTS Gallery Sydney
 1998 Sixth Australian Contemporary Art Fair, Melbourne
 1997 Yogyakarta Art Fair 1997 *Five Painters*, Legge Gallery
 1997 *Sanguine Valediction*, Legge Gallery
 1996 *Kings Art Prize*, Kings College
 1996 Fifth Australian Contemporary Art Fair, Melbourne
 1995 *Summer Exhibition*, Legge Gallery
 1994 Travelling Art Scholarship, Works Gallery, UNSW
 1994 *Artists Don't Believe In Sanity Clause*, Legge Gallery

COLLECTIONS:

1346 Venice Collection
 Australian War Memorial Museum, Canberra
 Newcastle Region Art Gallery, Newcastle
 Allens Arthur Robinson
 Artbank
 Bond University
 BHP Collection
 Deutsche Bank
 Dubbo Regional Gallery
 Germanos Collection, Sydney
 Gold Coast City Gallery
 Goulburn Regional Art Gallery
 Hong Kong investors
 Orange Regional Gallery
 PT Kodel (Indonesia)
 Private Collections in Australia, New Zealand, UK, U.S.A and Indonesia
 University of Queensland Art Museum

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SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY:

- Erik Jensen, 'McLean Edwards' portrait in the Salon', *Look magazine*, Art Gallery Society of New South Wales, December 2016/January 2017 issue
- Helena Geilinger, 'McLean Edwards, 'Knock Knock' August 2016
- Carrie McCarthy, 'McLean Edwards, Delightfully Dishevelled' *Cultural Flanerie*, 21 July 2014
- Elizabeth Fortescue, 'Portrait of the artist and his imaginary friends' *Daily Telegraph*, 30 May 2013
- Nick O'Malley 'Palettes loaded, lines drawn', *Sydney Morning Herald*, 27 December 2011 p. 4-5
- Andrew Frost, 'Head-into the Black: McLean Edwards', *Art Monthly Australia*, Issue 237 March 2011, p. 23-25
- Andrew Frost 'McLean Edwards: Eventually No More', *Art Collector magazine* Issue 57, July-September 2011
- Steve Lopes, 'McLean Edwards', *Artist Profile magazine*, Issue 08 2009 p. 54-58
- Dr Marcus Bunyan, 'Review McLean Edwards: Songs from the Ghost Ship at Karen Woodbury Gallery, Melbourne', *Art Blart* June 2009
- Daniel Smith, "The Sitting" *Harper's Bazar Australia*, April 2006, p 34 – 40 and cover
- Elizabeth Fortescue, "Right on Topsy of his World" *Daily Telegraph*, 21 April 2006
- Sebastian Smee, "Old masterful vision with stories full of colour" *The Australian*, 11 April 2006
- Megan Doherty, *Canberra Times*, 29 April 2006
- The Art Life "The Darkness" April 2006
- The Art Life "Eyes are Hard to Paint" March 2006
- John McDonald, "Year of the very Big Head" *Sydney Morning Herald*, 17 March 2006 p. 14
- Sophie Tedmanson, "Artist's mate puts Cate in the Archibald picture" *The Australian*, 8 March 2006
- "Archies Pack 'em in" *Weekend Australian*, 11 – 12 March 2006 p. 31
- Clay Lucas, "Studio Chaos suits Edwards' Style" *The Age*, 30 May 2005, Metro section p. 5
- McLean Edwards – Paintings 2002-2005*, Martin Browne Fine Art 2005 c ISSN 1323-7675, Design Strategy, Sydney, Australia
- John Kavanagh, *Blue-Chip Contemporary* 18 -24 December 2003, BRW
- Sony Barron, *Flaws Fail to deter Queues* 16 January 2002 Canberra Times
- Ron Cerabona, *A Challenging Display* 10 January 2002 Canberra Times Australian Style Magazine, June 2002

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McLEAN EDWARDS

Born in Darwin in 1972, McLean Edwards studied at the Canberra School of Art and had his first solo exhibition in Sydney in 1995. Known for his theatrical, darkly humorous take on figurative painting and his bold use of colour, he has had over 20 solo shows and is collected widely by private institutions across Australia and is in many International and Australian private collections.

A newspaper reviewer once commented that McLean Edwards' strange psychological portraits 'had the ability to expose an essential vulnerability of the human condition, and that his comic sense of social realism presented individuals as refugees of a bygone era floating anchorless in today's ostensibly classless society.' (SMH 10.2.1995)

An Australian arts reviewer stated his work has the 'same sour humour as Samuel Beckett's plays and prose, an absurd, theatrical sadness that celebrates idiosyncrasy while acknowledging the seeming impossibility of fighting the universe...His work is marked with a palpable sense of mortality and humility, a tragicomedy of figures and apparitions, thought-bubbles and asides, a diary of his anxieties and dreams.' (Art Collector Australia, Issue 57 2011)

Painting in oil on canvas, Edwards's works are fluid and change sometimes dramatically as those thoughts and ideas correspondingly reform. He also scribes his age in the artwork, often in the corner of the canvas as a countdown to his mortality and signature of his work. Edwards paints in an intriguing manner, his brush strokes are confident and loose and yet by contrast are reinforced with delicate lines and considered details. He skilfully makes this technique look easy, however this approach is achieved through his many years of painting full time.

Edwards' practice to date has concentrated on the human figure - especially the history of portraiture. There are allusions to European art history as 'old master paintings' are subverted and the sitters are made to look impotent and ridiculous as characters set in a dark comedy on stage. Their features are often exaggerated; bulbous noses with swollen ears are paired with comic sullen expressions juxtaposed with a carnivalesque colour palette and/or heightened through a dark background.

Edwards' influences are wide ranging as he reads and watches media constantly. Edwards' does not hide his influences through art history and viewers associate Ingres to modern greats Picasso and Bacon to contemporary painter Condo with his work. Australian artists such as Sidney Nolan, Donald Friend, and William Dobell also can be traced as influences. As such direct comparisons can be made with historical iconic paintings often providing a uniquely European and ultimately ambiguous, yet compelling quality to the work of the Australian artist.

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