

JULIAN LAFFAN

Julian Laffan is a printmaker who specialises in woodcuts and drawings, exploring themes of history and identity. Julian hand-carves his woodcuts and often chooses not to print his blocks, instead creating unique works by directly colouring the woodblock with pencil, oil and gouache. This is a conscious decision to reference the historical use of the woodcut for the dissemination of information and images. He is inspired by his surroundings, carefully capturing scenes from his travels as well as the intimacy of his home. His pieces are a "reflection of place and time in a single captured moment carved and suspended as an image in timber". Julian seeks to replace the instantaneous circulation of information and imagery, so common today, with prolonged meditation; a single tableau documented through deliberate labour.

Canberra based artist Julian Laffan graduated from the Australian National University with a Bachelor of Arts (Visual) in 2004. He held his first solo exhibition the following year in 2005 and since then has exhibited frequently, particularly within the Canberra region. Julian is currently undertaking a PhD at the Australian National University, examining "the liminality between the woodblock matrix, the print and the tree." He has worked on cross-cultural print based projects in East Timor, Indonesia and the Thai-Burma border and travels regularly. In 2024, Julian attended the International Mokuhanga Conference in Japan, participating in workshops on traditional Japanese papermaking and woodblock techniques. Julian's work is held in the collections of the Canberra Museum and Gallery as well as the Print Council of Australia.

BIOGRAPHY

- 1992-4 Bachelor of Teaching and Education, Australian Catholic University, Canberra
- 1995-15 Primary School Teacher, St Bede's Primary School, Braidwood. St Thomas More's, Sacred Heart, St Michael's and Rosary primary schools
- 1999 Intensive Indonesian Language Diploma I, University Satya Wacana, Java, Indonesia
- 1999-2004 Bachelor of Arts (Visual), Australian National University
- 2002 Exchange, Academy of Fine Arts Prague, Czech Republic
- 2005 Residency, Canberra Contemporary Art Space, Canberra
- 2006 Residency, Megalo, Canberra
- 2008 Residency, East Timor
- 2009-12 Teacher, Megalo Access Arts
- 2010 Teacher, Printmaking Department, National Art School, Sydney
Judge, National Youth Self-Portrait Prize, National Portrait Gallery, Canberra
Peer Reviewer, Visual Arts Panel, Arts ACT
- 2012 Assistant Principal, St Bede's Primary School, Braidwood
- 2013-17 Board Member, Megalo, Canberra
- 2019 Residency, ANU School of Art & Design, Canberra
- 2021- PhD candidate, Australian National University
- 2023 Lecturer and tutor, Australian National University
- 2024 International Mokuhanga Conference, Japan

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2024 "Tree Songs", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
- 2022 "The familiar road", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
- 2020 "Homefront" (gallery focus), Beaver Galleries, Canberra
"Voyages", May Space, Sydney
- 2019 "Illuminated artefacts", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
- 2017 "Le Monde: observations of place", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
- 2016 "Momento", Suki and Hugh Gallery, Bungendore, NSW
- 2013 "Radio City", Altenburg Gallery, Braidwood, NSW
- 2012 "Future Archaeology", Megalo Gallery, Canberra
- 2007 "Inside Information", The Hive, Canberra
- 2006 "The Fast and the Furious", Canberra Contemporary Art Space, Canberra
- 2005 "Recent Excavations", Bowerhouse Gallery, Milton

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2023 "Small works 2023", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
- 2022 "Small works 2022", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
- 2020 "More than human: the animal in the age of the Anthropocene", ANU School of Art & Design Gallery, Canberra
- 2018 Sydney Contemporary 2018, Carriageworks, Sydney (Beaver Galleries)

- "Straight outta Canberra", May Space, Sydney
"Celebration: 100 works from the collection", Canberra Museum and Gallery, Canberra
"The evening", Altenberg and co., Braidwood, NSW
"Crossing paths", Scratch Space, Sydney
2017 Capital Arts Patrons Organisation (CAPO), Canberra
"Playing with the Past", The Left Hand Gallery, Braidwood, NSW
2016 "Small works 2016", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
"Panopoly", Metropolis Gallery, Geelong
2015 "small works", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
"Footy Fever", Canberra Contemporary Art Space, Canberra
"World Series", M16 Gallery, Canberra
2014 "Here and There", Altenburg Gallery, Braidwood
2013 "The Triangle", Canberra Contemporary Art Space, Canberra
2012 "The Almost Naked Art Prize", The Left Hand, Braidwood, NSW
"Culture Kitchen, Contemporary Australian Drawing 2: Drawing as notation, text and discovery", University of Arts, London, UK
2011 "Familiar/Unfamiliar", 45th Anniversary of the Print Council of Australia, Melbourne
"Imitation of Life", Canberra Museum and Gallery, Canberra
"Drawn in the Moment", Left Hand Gallery, Braidwood, NSW
"Two Fires Festival", Left Hand Gallery, Braidwood, NSW
2010 "Print Big", Kingston Fitters Hall, Canberra
"2622", Goulburn Regional Gallery, NSW
"Culture Kitchen, Contemporary Australian Drawings 1", RMIT, Melbourne and University of Arts, London, UK
2009 CPM National Print Award
"Culture Kitchen", School of Art Gallery Foyer, Australian National University, Canberra
2008 "Capital Arts Patron Organisation", National Archives of Australia, Canberra
"The Silver Light", Megalo Gallery, Canberra
"M16 Drawing Prize", M16 Gallery, Canberra
"Recovering Lives, Floating Lives", National Institute of the Arts Gallery, Australian National University, Canberra
2007 "Capital Arts Patrons Organisation", National Portrait Gallery, Canberra
"Matrix 6 – Artists in Residence", Megalo Arts, Canberra
"Culture Kitchen", Human Rights and Art Festival, Bus Gallery, Melbourne
"Thresholds of Tolerance", National Institute of the Arts Gallery, Canberra
"We Refuse to Become Victims", National Gallery of Australia Print Symposium, Canberra
2005 "Retroactive", Canberra Contemporary Art Space, Canberra
"The Front", The Front Gallery, Canberra
2004 "Graduate Exhibition", Canberra School of Art, Australian National University, Canberra
"Every Other Day – Woodcuts and Drawings", Elmgrove Gallery, Yass, NSW
"Canberra Contemporary Art Space Member's Show", Canberra Contemporary Art Space, Canberra

AWARDS / COMMISSIONS

- 2024 Vice Chancellor's grant recipient
Arts ACT grant recipient
2018 Capital Arts Patron Award
2015 Commission, Judith Wright Gardens, Braidwood
2014 Commission, WalawaaniYaranbul Garden, St Bede's Primary School, Braidwood, NSW
2013 1st Prize, NSW Schools Reconciliation Challenge, Australian Museum, Sydney
2012 Public Art Project with Geoff Farquhar-Still, Scullin, ACT
2011 Commission, "Tree of Hope", St Bede's Primary School, Braidwood, NSW
2009 Commission, Reid Pre-School, Canberra
2008 Arts ACT Grant
2004 Bowerhouse Gallery Exhibition Award
Vice Chancellors Letter of Commendation
Highly Commended, Canberra Contemporary Art Space, Member's show

PUBLICATIONS

- 2024 "Laffan paints in praise of rural trees", Kerry-Anne Cousins, citynews.com.au, 28 May 2024

- 2022 "Julian Laffan's The familiar road conveys emotion through careful carving", Sasha Grishin, *The Canberra Times*, 17 Sep
- 2017 "Glimpsing the reality that lies beyond", Sasha Grishin, *The Canberra Times*, 30 May
- 2013 "The Triangle", Alexander Boynes, Canberra Contemporary Art Space
- 2012 *Contemporary Australian Drawing 2*, Irene Barberis
"Political Capital", Alison Alder, *Imprint*, Winter issue
- 2011 "Imitation of life", exhibition catalogue, Deborah Clark, Canberra Museum and Gallery
- 2010 "Print Big", exhibition catalogue, B McConchie, Kingston Fitters Hall, Canberra
- 2008 "Drawing on Tolerance", A Bexley, *The Canberra Times*, Nov 22
- 2006 "The Fast and the Furious", S Velez Canberra Contemporary Art Space

COLLECTIONS

Canberra Museum and Gallery, Canberra; Print Council of Australia