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Joel Rea

Born – 1983
Queensland, Australia.

Joel Rea graduated from Queensland College of Art with a Bachelor of Fine Art in 2003.

Identifying as a contemporary surrealist painter, Rea creates imagined scenarios that represent and deal with the issues of the present. All constructed in his recognizable hyperrealistic style, Rea's work is a meld of political, social and environmental commentary.

"My working life as an artist consists of meticulously moving paint whilst absorbing numerous sources of audio information via the internet. My hunger for knowledge grows at an accelerated rate but ultimately I am within a universe of constant distraction, a mental state of constant fantasy, memory and imagination constraint by my animal body.

I attempt now in my new work to open doors to these many windows of sublime curiosity, to commentate... We've travelled millions of years to get here, a race with amnesia pelting forward and fooled by a blue-sky vale. Our personal needs made paramount over investigating the human consciousness, the most miraculous creator ever present."

Rea has exhibited throughout Australia and more recently in the UK and US. In 2013 Rea was the Winner of the 2013 ANL Maritime Art Award (VIC), and has been a finalist in numerous prestigious Australian art prizes including the Moran National Portrait Prize (NSW), Salon Des Refuses (NSW), Black Swan Art Prize (WA), Fleurieu Landscape Prize (SA) and the Sulman Prize (NSW).

Awards / Residencies

2016 Finalist, Doug Moran National Portrait Prize, Juniper Hall, Sydney
2016 Finalist, Mosman Art Prize, Mosman Art Gallery, Sydney
2015 United States, New York City Residency and Solo Exhibition
2014 Winner, Black Swan Prize for Portraiture, People's Choice Award, Perth
2014 Finalist, Sulman Prize, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
2013 Winner, ANL Maritime Art Award, Melbourne
2013 Finalist, Fleurieu Art Prize, Adelaide
2013 Finalist, Salon Des Refuses, Archibald Prize, S.H. Ervin Gallery, Sydney
2013 Finalist, Black Swan Prize for Portraiture, Perth
2012 Semi-Finalist, Moran Portrait Prize, Sydney
2012 Highly Commended, Clayton Utz Art Award, Brisbane
2011 Highly Commended, Metro Art Award, Melbourne
2011 Winner, Gold Coast Rotary Young Achiever in Vocational Excellence, Fine Art
2011 Finalist, Prometheus Visual Art Award, Gold Coast
2011 Finalist, Clayton Utz Art Award, Brisbane
2010 Finalist, Metro Art Award, Metro Gallery, Melbourne
2010 Finalist, Redland Gallery Art Award, Biennial Contemporary Painting Competition, Cleveland

2003 Awarded Golden Key International Honour Society membership for outstanding scholastic achievement and excellence

2003 Granted the Griffith Award for academic excellence in Fine Art, Queensland College of Art

Solo Exhibitions

2015 Beasts of Arcadia, Jonathan LeVine Gallery, New York, USA

2014 Eternal, Gallery One, Gold Coast

2014 The Other Side, Gallery One, Melbourne Art Fair, Royal Exhibition Building, Melbourne

2013 Beneath the Blue, Gallery One, Gold Coast

2012 Existence of Reality, Lethbridge Gallery, Brisbane

2010 Monuments and Miniatures, Lethbridge Gallery, Brisbane

2009 The Balance Divine, Lethbridge Gallery, Brisbane

2007 Where There's Fire, Art Melbourne07, Royal Exhibition Building, Melbourne

2006 High Fidelity, Lethbridge Gallery, Brisbane

Exhibitions

2015 Paintguide, International Group Exhibition, The Unit Gallery, Soho, London

2015 Cutback: Surfing Through Art, Group Exhibition, Gold Coast City Art Gallery, Gold Coast

2014 Conquest of Space: Science Fiction and Contemporary Art, COFA, UNSW, Sydney

2014 Based on Actual Events, Group Exhibition, Jonathan Levine Gallery, New York

2014 Sulman Prize, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney

2014 Black Swan Portrait Prize, Finalists Exhibition, Perth

2013 Another Time Another Place, Group Exhibition, Metro Gallery, Melbourne

2013 Fleurieu Art Prize, Finalists Exhibition, Adelaide

2013 Maritime Art Award, Finalists Exhibition, Melbourne

2013 Black Swan Portrait Prize, Finalists Exhibition, Perth

2013 Salon Des Refuses, S.H. Ervin Gallery, Sydney

2012 Art on Art, Group Exhibition, Gold Coast City Art Gallery, Gold Coast

2012 San Diego Contemporary Art Fair, California, USA

2012 Clayton Utz Art Award Finalists Exhibition, Brisbane

2012 Art Melbourne 2012, Royal Exhibition Building, Melbourne

2011 Metro Gallery Art Award Finalists Exhibition, Melbourne

2011 Art Melbourne11, Royal Exhibition Building, Melbourne

2011 Clayton Utz Art Award Finalists Exhibition, Brisbane

2011 Lethbridge 10000 Art Award Finalists Exhibition, Brisbane

2011 Prometheus Visual Art Award Finalists Exhibition, Gold Coast

2010 Art Sydney10, Royal Hall of Industries, Sydney

2010 Redland Gallery Art Award, Biennial Contemporary Painting Competition, Finalists Exhibition, Cleveland

2010 Metro Art Award Finalists Exhibition, Metro Gallery, Melbourne

2010 Group Exhibition, Astras Galleries, Gold Coast

2010 Netanya Resort Conference, Hastings Street, Noosa

2009 New Paintings, Coda Gallery, Palm Desert, California, USA

2009 Art Melbourne 09, Royal Exhibition Building, Melbourne

2009 New Paintings, Lethbridge Gallery, Brisbane

2008 Art Sydney08, Royal Hall of Industries, Sydney

2008 Art Brisbane08, Convention & Exhibition Centre, Brisbane

2008 Art Melbourne08, Royal Exhibition Building, Melbourne

2008 New Paintings, Lethbridge Gallery, Brisbane

2007 Art Sydney07, Royal Hall of Industries, Sydney

2007 New Paintings, Lethbridge Gallery, Brisbane

2007 Art Melbourne07, Royal Exhibition Building, Melbourne

2006 Sajen Legal Art Show, Maroochydore, Sunshine Coast

2006 Art Melbourne06, Royal Exhibition Building, Melbourne

2006 New Paintings, Lethbridge Gallery, Brisbane
2006 St. Margaret's Art Show, Ascot, Brisbane
2006 Art Sydney06, Royal Hall of Industries, Sydney
2005 Brisbane Art Fair, Convention & Exhibition Centre, Brisbane
2005 Art Sydney05, Royal Hall of Industries, Sydney
2005 Melbourne Affordable Art Show, Royal Exhibition Building, Melbourne
2005 New Paintings, Lethbridge Gallery, Brisbane
2004 Mentorship, Brett Lethbridge, Brisbane
2004 Departure Lounge Group Exhibition, Gold Coast
2004 Border Art Prize, Tweed River Art Gallery