

Joshua Yeldham cradling his sculpture  
*White Owl* — Morning Bay, 2010.





*Morning Bay — Lovers Rock, 2010.*

## Joshua Yeldham

The Sydney-based painter, sculptor and photographer — who describes himself as a storyteller — discovered art accidentally. The 40-year-old's first love was filmmaking and his debut, *Frailejón*, a short about a Venezuelan hermit called Jesus, won him an Emmy.

Yeldham, filled with self-confidence and a grant to pursue a feature film, spent 18 months painting and working on the script, only to have it rejected. His devastation turned to hope when his sister Ali offered to exhibit the paintings in her Arthouse Gallery in Sydney, which now represents him, and life as a landscape painter began. His lyrical and primitive canvasses tend towards owls, oyster leases and mangroves. Since then he has held 16 shows, all of them sell-outs, and he commands \$10,000–\$60,000 a painting.

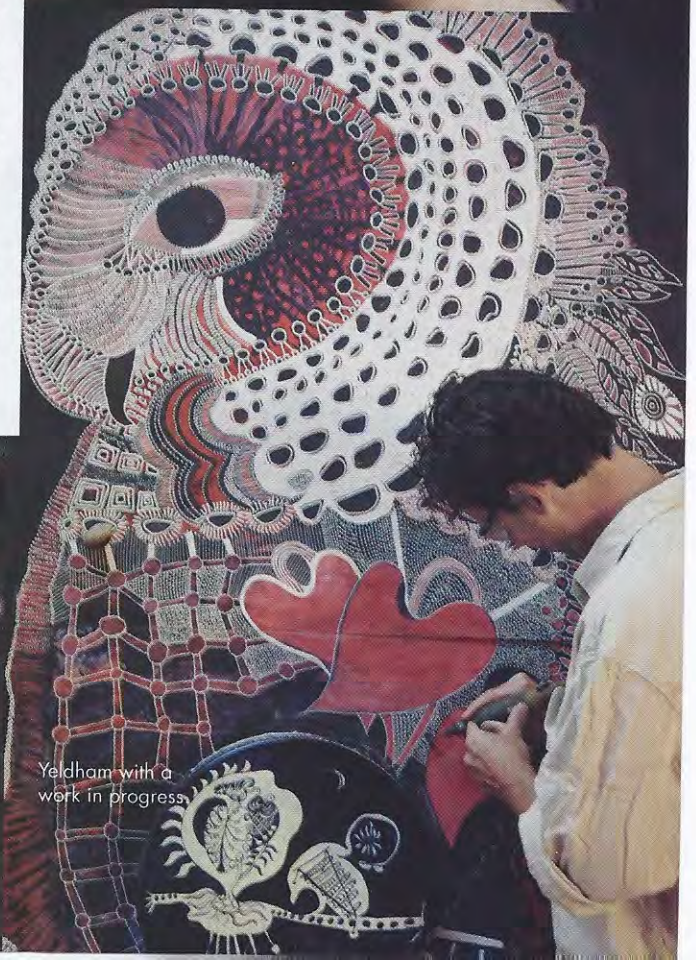
But life hasn't been easy. Yeldham was born into a high-profile family, and endured years of bullying at school. His family was later struck by tragedy when his aunt Margaret Wales-King and her husband, Paul King, were murdered by their son Matthew. Not long after, Yeldham and his wife suffered their own heartache when they discovered he was infertile, and so began years of IVF. They were ultimately blessed with children, but it was a gruelling process, relieved only by Yeldham's immersion in his art.

"I paint in a frame of ritual to allow me to push forth with a sense of hope, and I pray for things such as fertility," says Yeldham, who finds inspiration in northern Sydney's Hawkesbury River region, and camps out for days at a stretch while he's working.

This year he will paint at the Dragon River in China for Two Rivers, his first solo show at Hong Kong's Cat Street Gallery. He's excited about immersing himself in an ancient landscape but his tryst with fertility isn't over. "Fertility is an abundance of nature, so it's a natural transition to dive deeper into the landscape so I can create by virtue of exploring and dreaming." — Jane Albert  
*Joshua Yeldham is represented by Arthouse Gallery, Sydney.* ▶



*Pittwater, 2010.*



*Yeldham with a work in progress.*

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