



Ralph Heimans

Born in Sydney in 1970, Ralph Heimans studied Fine Arts and Pure Mathematics at the University of Sydney and later at the Julian Ashton Art School. He received his first commission in 1988, beginning a series of portraits, still lifes and figurative works for private collectors in Sydney. By 1996, his commissions included paintings of leading Australian public figures for institutions such as the Compensation Court of NSW and the Australian Army. Three portraits of this period hang in the National Portrait Gallery of Australia: former minister Tom Uren, Anthropologist Derek Freeman, and High Court Judge Justice Kirby, a work which has received much popular support.

Ralph Heimans moved to Paris in 1997, following a commission from the European Court in Luxembourg and began a string of portraits for London-based collectors. Demand for his large-scale group portraits led to new commissions in New York, Boston, Santa Fe and Paris, whilst maintaining links with Australia ensured further commissions in Sydney and Melbourne. Amongst these works, Ralph Heimans' self portrait was exhibited in the National Portrait Gallery in London, and his portrait of the French National Rugby team was hung in the Hotel de Ville in Paris.

Recent projects include a major corporate commission in Dubai, portraits for the Australian National Trust and the University of Melbourne. The first official portrait of Princess Mary of Denmark represents Ralph Heimans' most

prestigious commission to date. Unveiled by the Princess on 7th April 2006 at the National History Museum of Denmark, the painting was celebrated as representing an innovative approach to the genre of Royal Portraiture. It received widespread critical acclaim in Danish, European and Australian Media.

Ralph Heimans' work has been described to have a disarming quality, recalling the methods and conventions of 16th and 17th century European portraiture, while at the same time playfully undermining those traditions. Although his technical approach pays homage to masters like Caravaggio and Velazquez, particularly in the use of chiaroscuro, his subject matter is distinctly contemporary, drawing inspiration from technology and images of modern life. His work is a departure from the way in which portraiture, and the process of commissioning art, is generally understood. Rather than conventionally depicting his subjects, his paintings offer a detailed narrative about their character and life story. Subjects are often portrayed in action or in a context containing clues about their lives. These settings are reconstructed, either from the imagination, or by altering places of actual significance, which contributes to the surreal quality of some of his work. The play of strong light and shadow, a dominant recurring theme, further enhances the sense of an imagined reality.

SELECTED COMMISSIONS

- Portrait of the Hong Tan family, Perth
- Portrait of Rohan Chowdry, Sydney
- Portraits for the Ginges family, Sydney
- Portraits for the Richards family, Sydney



2006

- Portrait of Crown Princess Mary of Denmark, The National History Museum, Frederiksborg Castle, Denmark
- Portrait of Professor Robin Marks, Faculty of Medicine, The University of Melbourne
- Portrait for M. Griffiths QC, London
- Portrait of Lord Casey, Trinity College, Melbourne
- Portrait of Sonia Marquis, Sydney

2005

- Portrait for George Philips, London
- Painting for Privity Holdings Ltd, Dubai
- Portrait of Caroline Simpson, The Australian National Trust, Lindsay House, Sydney
- Portrait for the McCarthy family, London
- Portrait of Caroline Simpson, The Mint, Sydney
- Portrait of R. Stitt QC, Sydney
- Self Portrait in the Metro, exhibited at the National Portrait Gallery, London
- Still Life for William Smadja, Paris

2003

- Preparation sur la Terre Rouge (Portrait of the French Rugby Team), EDF Art collection, Paris
- Painting for D. Joseph QC, London
- Portrait for G. Galambos, Sydney
- Portrait of M. Dyer, Sydney
- Portrait for Kaldor family, London
- Portrait of Henri Claudel, Paris
- Portrait for Cunningham family, New York
- Portrait for Andreeva Fine Art Portraits, Santa Fe
- Portrait for Dr Daniel Bley, Boston

2002

- Figurative painting for Vladimijr Attard, London
- Portrait of David Hakim, Sydney
- Portrait of Meg Sinclair, Melbourne
- Portrait for George Philips, London

2001

- Portrait for Blaustein family, New York
- Portrait for Hasan Financial Corporation, London
- Painting for Simon Haynes-Oliver, London
- Portrait for George Phillips, London
- Portrait of Ken Dyer, Sydney

2000

- Portrait of Bill Waterhouse, Sydney
- Portrait of Kate Waterhouse, Sydney
- Portrait of Eli Amson, Paris
- Portrait of Michael Biss, Toronto
- Portrait for Kate Cornet, London



1999

- Still life for R. Wilson, London
- Portrait of Harry Amson, Paris
- Portrait of Dr J. Joseph, London
- Portrait of the McCardel family, Melbourne
- Portrait for Margaret Wu, Melbourne
- Portraits for Foeden family, Melbourne
- Portrait of Thomas Sinclair, Melbourne

1998

- Portrait of Mr and Mrs Nootenboom for Hean Studios, Herefordshire
- Portrait of Alice Middleton, Sydney
- Still Life for G. Chowdry, Sydney
- Portrait of Gay Newlands, Sydney

1997

- Portrait of Lord Slynn of Hadley, Luxebourg, The European Court
- Portrait of Jackie Smith-Maxwell, London
- Portrait of Sue Deeb, London
- Portrait of Melissa Cosby, London
- Portrait of Justice Michael Kirby, Canberra, The National Portrait Gallery of Australia
- Portrait of Derek Freeman, Canberra, The National Portrait Gallery of Australia
- Portrait of Sgt-Major Peter Prewett for Sydney, The Australian Army
- Portrait of Chief Justice Michael Campbell, Sydney, NSW Compensation Court

1996

- Portrait of Chief Justice Christopher Langsworth, Sydney, NSW Compensation Court
- Portrait of Cindy Dyne, Sydney
- Portrait of Tom Uren, Canberra, The National Portrait Gallery of Australia

1994

- Portrait of Franco Belgiorno-Nettis, Sydney

1993

- Still Life for Bejamin family, Sydney

1992

- Still Life for Mansell family, Sydney

1991

- Painting for Alex Hopkins, Sydney

1990

- Stained Glass Window II for Dr Les Bokey, Sydney

1989

- Stained Glass Window I for Dr Les Bokey, Sydney
- Portrait of Trevor Howells, Sydney University lecturer in the History of Architecture, Sydney



EXHIBITIONS

2006

- Exhibition at the National History Museum at Frederiksborg Castle, Denmark, in conjunction with the unveiling of the portrait of HRH Crown Princess Mary.
- Solo exhibition, The Queen's Room, Middle Temple, London
- Private exhibition organised by Eugenie Vrisakis, agent, Sydney

2005

- Fine Art Commissions exhibition, 20th Century Theatre, Nottting Hill, London

2004

- Self Portrait in the Metro, BP Portrait Prize, The National Portrait Gallery, London

2003

- 'Art Emmele', Hotel de Ville, Paris

2002

- Fine Art Commissions exhibition at the Arndean Gallery, Cork street, London

2001

- Permanent acquisition of portrait of Emeritus Professor Derek Freeman, National Portrait Gallery of Australia

2000

- Permanent acquisition of portraits of Tom Uren and Justice Michael Kirby, National Portrait Gallery of Australia
- Solo exhibition at The Australian Embassy, The Ambassador's Residence, Paris

1998

- Doug Moran National Portrait Prize Finalists, National Gallery of Victoria, State Library NSW

1996

- Doug Moran National Portrait Prize Finalists, National Gallery of Victoria, Sydney Opera House



EDUCATION

1993-94

- Diploma in Education (Mathematics), University of New England

1992-93

- Julian Ashton Art School, Sydney

1989-92

- Bachelor of Arts (Fine Arts & Pure Mathematics), Sydney University

1988-96

- Private tuition in oil painting techniques, Sydney