



Julian Christopher Meagher

Julian Meagher makes inquiries about the human body and spirit by addressing the relationship between the internal and external workings of the body. He draws on the field of medical imaging, namely anatomical studies, to explore the ways in which the body is depicted by artists.

In his latest series the artist renders perfectly described body parts in isolation which bear intricate tattoos. The physical and the creative are a powerful duality in Meagher's work and the results are unexpected and engaging. The tattooed limbs combine an ornate beauty with a great strength. What is at stake in these works is the surface of the skin as the mediator between the inside and the outside, the abject and the symbolic, the face onto the world and the bones beneath.

The word 'tattoo' comes originally from the Samoan for 'open wound'; similarly the Japanese term for tattoo means insertion of ink. Both terms suggest the probing of the bodies surface, on the threshold. There is an ambiguity in the tattoo over whether it is part of the body or

an extra supplement to that person. The permanence and graphic qualities of the tattoo have of course made it a symbol of community, love and religion through the ages; the way the tattoo scars the body, forever, is what gives it its powerful aura. The tattoo becomes part of the person who wears it.

In terms of painting then, the tattoo is a perfect metaphor; painting too is about mediating between the surface and the body. Is painting merely a surface and mask or does it somehow represent the body and soul of the sitter? In tattooing there is a reversal too where the body becomes the canvas for another representation, so there is a doubling of meaning between the person and the image.

Meagher is a classically trained contemporary Australian artist based in Sydney has exhibited in numerous solo and group shows both in Australia and overseas.

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2008

- The best gesture of my brain, Chalk Horse Gallery, Sydney
- Scrub Series, Upstairs Flinders Gallery, Melbourne

2007

- Integument, Chalk Horse Gallery, Sydney

2006

- Scanning, SNMI 06, Jamshedpur, India
- Dissections, Depot II Gallery, Dank Street, Sydney

2003

- Sketches from India, New York & Jupiter, Knot Gallery, Sydney

2002

- Double Exposure Oils on X Ray, Pavillion Gallery, Bondi Sydney

2000

- Artist in Residence, Sydney Grammar School, Sydney



GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2008

- My Body, My Business, At The Vanishing Point Gallery, Sydney

2007

- Chalk Reindeer, Chalk Horse Gallery, Sydney

- Australia Council of the Arts Window Box Show, Sydney

- New Artists Collective Exhibition, McCulloch Gallery, Melbourne

- Cross Sections II Collector's Choice, Rex-Livingston Gallery, Sydney

2006

- Matchbox Project, People to People, Place to Place. Kudos Gallery, Sydney

- November Art Show, Francis Keevil Art Show, Queens Street, Sydney

PRIZES/COLLECTIONS

Australia Council Emerging Artist New Work Development Grant, 2008
Artbank

St Vincent's Private Hospital

2003 Salon Des Refuses Finalist, S.H Erwin Gallery, Sydney

2002 Salon Des Refuses Finalist, S.H Erwin Gallery, Sydney

Private collections Sydney, Melbourne, Paris and Hong Kong

**PORTRAIT
COMMISSIONS**

2008

- Dr David Daintree, Rector St John's College, Sydney University

2007

- Professor Barry Marshall, AO, Nobel Laureate

2004

- Dr Ivan Head, Warden of Saint Paul's College, Sydney University

2002

- John Sackar QC

2001

- The Hon Justice Roderick Meagher

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Medicine/Bachelor of Surgery,

University of New South Wales, 1997-2003

Portrait Painting at Charles H Cecil Studios, Florence, Italy, 2000

Part time student at Julian Ashton Art School, 1994-1997