



James McGrath

Born in Sydney, the work of Australian artist James McGrath takes as its starting point Baroque painting and architectural traditions. The artist deftly navigates an accomplished old master technique with contemporary materials and innovative spatial techniques, simultaneously deconstructing the notion of the Baroque original and modernising it.

In 2010, McGrath was granted special access to the Strahov Baroque Monastic Library in Prague. Set within this notable historic building, the monastery's ornate libraries hold over 125,000 volumes of the world's best collections of philosophical and theological texts. McGrath studies of these centuries old parchments, illuminated manuscripts and first editions, form the basis of his latest body of work, 'Ex Libris'. It is against this timeless backdrop that McGrath overlays his recurring flora-and-fauna motifs, presenting a heightened, surrealistic vision of this potent visual world.

McGrath studied the techniques and principles of the sixteenth- and seventeenth-century masters at the studio school of Patrick Betaudier in Paris. Before graduating as an architect he worked as a studio assistant with Australia's greatest expressionist painter, Arthur Boyd. While a lecturer at New South Wales University he was awarded several prizes for architecture and art, including the Australian Postgraduate Award and a residency in Paris. Over the last ten years he has exhibited in New York, London, Sydney and Paris. He has also produced highly original digital installations and videos commissioned by several Australian museums and subsequently presented at the J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles, in 2000.



Selected Exhibitions / Installations / Screenings

- 2011 'Ex Libris', The Cat Street Gallery, Hong Kong, Hong Kong
 'Ex Libris', Tim Olsen Gallery, Sydney, Australia
- 2010 'Cranium', Arterreal Gallery, Group show, Sydney, Australia
- 2009 'Ghost Nets', Sculpture by the Sea, Site specific digital performance,
 Tamaramma Beach, Sydney, Australia
 'carriageARTworks', Carriage works , Group show, Sydney, Australia
 'Chiaroscuro', Arterreal Gallery, Group show, Sydney, Australia
- 2008 'Recent Work', Tim Olsen Gallery, Sydney, Australia
- 2007 'Pozzo's Shadow', Gibsone Jessop Gallery, Toronto, Canada
- 2006 '400 Years', Gibsone Jessop Gallery, Toronto, Canada
- 2005 'Variations on Baroque Ceilings' Michael Carr Art Gallery, Sydney,
 Australia
- 2004 'Vision & Verse' Nevill Keating Gallery, London, UK
 'Baroque Ensembles', MCG Galleries, New York, USA
- 2003 'Quadratura', Michael Carr Art Gallery, Sydney, Australia
- 2002 'Dutchscapes', MCG Galleries, Solo show, New York, USA
- 2001 'Infra-red Baroque', Michael Carr Art Gallery, Sydney, Australia

- 2000 'Baroque and modernity', Screening of "theatres of anatomy", J.Paul Getty Museum & Laguna Art Museum, Los Angeles, USA
- 'Harbour/Metropolis', Audio Visual installation 'tidal vectors', Museum of Sydney, Sydney, Australia
- National Digital Art Awards Group Show, Queensland Museum of modern Art, Brisbane, Australia
- 'Cusp- a study of folds and flora', solo painting show, Michael Carr Art Gallery, Sydney, Australia
- 1999 'Theatres of anatomy', digital animation D.art 99, Twin Academy, Paddington, Sydney Film Festival, Sydney , Australia
- "CUSP#2", Site-specific digital performance, Sculpture by The Sea festival, Tamaramma Beach, Sydney, Australia
- 1998 Queen Street Fine Art, Sydney, Australia
- 1996 Cite Internationale des Arts, Paris, France
- 1995 Queen Street Fine Art, Sydney, Australia

Awards/Prizes

- 2003 Blake Finalist Exhibition, Sydney
NSW Ministry of Arts Project grant
- 1999 Australian Arts Council new media Commission, Sydney
1st Class Honours UNSW, B.Arch.
- 1998 National Digital Art Award, Brisbane
- 1997 Sculpture By the Sea Directors Award (video installation)
Australian Post Graduate Award
- 1996 Moya Goring Paris Studio residency, Cite des Arts, Paris
- 1990 Bioloa International Design Award

Museum commissions

- 2002 Customs House, "Digital Hall of mirrors", City Exhibition Space Sydney
- 2001 "Titians" gaze, Korossy residence, New York
- 2000 Museum of Sydney "Tidal Vectors", Harbour / Metropolis Exhibition"
- 1999 Customs House "City drape" City Exhibition Space, Sydney
"BTF" East Circular Quay The Colonnade Sydney
- 1998 "Wink" Cnr. Bligh and Hunter Street Sydney CBD"

Published/Reproduced

- 2003 Art Review Magazine, London, Feb/ March, Artist Profile
- 2001 Sydney: metropolis/ suburb /harbour, Peter Emmett, , Museum of Sydney, Australia
-book on series of exhibitions in which the work "tidal vectors"
The Australian, "Medium subverts message", Benjamin Genocchio