



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Kevin Robertson: Paintings 1984- 2022

10 September- 10 December 2022

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN ARTIST KEVIN ROBERTSON REFLECTS ON LIFE'S WORK IN NEW MID-CAREER SURVEY EXHIBITION SPANNING 38 YEARS

Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery at The University of Western Australia presents a major mid-career survey exhibition of Western Australian artist Kevin Robertson. The exhibition highlights the development of Robertson's painting since graduating from Curtin University in 1984 to more recent work developed for the exhibition.

Robertson emerged as an artist in the 1980s, at a time when figurative painting was having a resurgence internationally. The return of the image in painting stood in sharp contrast to a Minimalist or formalist conception of the work of art as an autonomous entity, coolly separate from the messy world. In the spirit of the postmodern 1980s, artists internationally were finding highly individual means of expression, using imagery from mass media, and from art history to create their own distinctive styles.

In the 1980s Robertson was part of a group known as the 'Oddfellows', who created figurative paintings of the local urban and suburban environment. In this period Robertson produced a series of enigmatic images of figures in the interior, and continued this theme in Sydney in the 1990s, infusing those interior spaces, and interactions between figures, with psychological meaning and expression. Fascinated also by architecture, Robertson has produced painting series depicting New York, and the suburbs of Perth.

From 2002 Robertson's range of subject matter increased in breadth of view, becoming ever more complex and multidimensional in its design and execution. Robertson began to introduce a sense of movement into his paintings, through a variety of methods, and in subjects ranging from suburban and cityscapes, to landscapes

and cloudscapes. As curator, Dr Sally Quin comments: 'Robertson's work is distinguished by its breadth and diversity, producing intimate domestic scenes, both moody and enigmatic, as well as large-scale paintings of clouds painted in real-time as they moved across the sky, viewed from his Gotham studio'.

Though Robertson is an artist interested in depicting the world through direct observation, the work is not purely representational – the artist creates his own universe in his paintings, making and adding props to the stage-like settings of his interior scenes, or altering the colour and form of objects in the world to serve a specific aesthetic purpose.

'Robertson is an artist who has a very sophisticated approach to painting, interested in observation, but also in what representational painting means – its limits and complexities. These ideas are beautifully demonstrated in his 'pictures within pictures' paintings, for which he made a series of hard-edged abstract artworks in order to place them in interior settings, which he would then paint'.

Over four decades, Robertson's painting practice has continued to evolve, utilising traditional aspects of the craft, exploring a whole spectrum of aesthetic possibilities and proposing new ways of visualising the world in all its mystery.

Over the past decade, there has been a renewal of interest in figurative painting, with many young and emerging artists dedicating themselves to the practice. Hence the exhibition is timely – reflecting on the enduring power of the painted image, despite the multitude of images we face in our everyday lives.

"Preparing for this exhibition has been an incredible experience and I am extremely fortunate to be given the chance to reflect on this expedition through time, from art school till now" said Robertson.

"I am also lucky that through painting I found a meaningful way to process my experience, to think about the culture I am immersed in and to dream about the future. This exhibition is about this experience, the emotional responses that drove the paintings and ideas that informed my way of working inside and outside of Perth."

The exhibition will be officially opened by Megan Salmon - Fashion designer, long-standing friend and colleague.

Exhibition launch opening date and time: [Friday 9 September 6-8pm](#)

Exhibition dates: 10 September- 10 December 2022

The Gallery is open Tuesday to Saturday, 12pm to 5pm, and admission is free

For more information, visit the LWAG website: uwa.edu.au/lwag

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Images: [Images available here please note all images must be accompanied by captions provided](#)

Website: uwa.edu.au/lwag/Exhibitions/Kevin-Robertson-Paintings-1984-2022

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Kevin Robertson is an artist member and board member of Art Collective WA.

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