

ADAM CULLEN

Early in his career, Adam Cullen became renowned as an enfant terrible in the Australian art world. He has never been afraid to skirt around danger in his aesthetics and his practice. He gained early fame in his art school days by dragging a rotting pig's head around chained to his ankle. He raised eyebrows by collaborating with the infamous Mark 'Chopper' Read for their children's book, *Hooky the Cripple*. He was well established as a Sydney 'grunge' artist when he won the prestigious Archibald Prize for his portrait of actor David Wenham in 2000, raising hackles amongst the more conservative members of the Australian art world.

But regardless of the bad boy posturings, there is also an extraordinary sense of both humour and pathos about Cullen's work. He plays a delicate balancing act between punk-brashness and a terrifying, relentless honesty, expressing his own grave doubts about himself and the world around him.

There is a sense of despair running through the work, but with its extraordinary vigour, Cullen manages to overcome the negatives, creating a world of leaping leprechauns and bizarre figurines.

In the 2004 monograph *Scars Last Longer*, the author, Ingrid Periz, refutes the bad boy image, revealing an artist of extraordinary skill and sensitivity.

"Dead cats, bloodied 'roos, inflatable men and headless women," Periz writes. "Sydney painter Adam Cullen likes to conjure up the elements of a place called 'Loserville', pipe in some lounge music and depart the scene, but not for anywhere better."

Cullen's highly personal language ends up becoming universal. His schoolboy humour is matched by a highly sophisticated expression of moods and responses to society, moments of anger balanced with hilarity; an asylum turning into a festival. And it is all expressed with a powerful, gestural mark and bold colouration.

Adam Cullen was born in Sydney in 1965. He graduated from the City Art Institute with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in 1986, a Diploma of Professional Art Studies from the City Art Institute in 1987 and a Master of Fine Arts from the University of New South Wales in 1999. He has shown in numerous individual and group exhibitions throughout Australia and New Zealand.

In 2002 he represented Australia at the 25th Biennale de Sao Paulo *Iconografias Metropolitanas*.

ADAM CULLEN

1965 Born, Sydney
1999 Master of Fine Arts (UNSW)
1987 Grad Dip of Professional Art Studies (City Art Institute)
1986 Bachelor of Fine Arts (City Art Institute)
Represented by Tolarno Galleries, Melbourne

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2009** *They You Trust, Them You Don't* Tolarno Galleries, Melbourne
A DEATH LIKE NO OTHER, Greenaway Art Gallery, Adelaide
- 2008** *Let's get lost*, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
- 2007** *I AM THE CHEESE*, Kaliman Gallery, Sydney
Stupid Heaven, Greenaway Art Gallery, Adelaide
- 2006** *Between the Lines: Works on Paper 1995 – 2005*, Tolarno Galleries, Melbourne
Between the Lines: Works on Paper 1995 – 2005, Penrith Regional Gallery & Lewers Bequest, Sydney
- 2005** *Product of Compulsion*, Michael Reid Art Dealer, Redfern
Let Me Tell You About My Day, Greenaway Gallery, Adelaide
Maintaining The Rage, Kaliman Gallery, Sydney
- 2004** *Pure Sanctimony*, Tolarno Galleries, Melbourne
On my Knees Looking Up, Yuill/Crowley Gallery, Sydney
- 2003** *Future Dirt*, Contemporary Art Centre South Australia
Far and Away, Yuill Crowley Gallery, Sydney
Our Place in the Pacific, touring show to regional galleries in Newcastle, Cairns, Gold coast and Toowoomba.
- 2002** *UnAustralian*, Yuill/Crowley Gallery, Sydney
- 2001** *Night and Day*, Yuill/Crowley Gallery, Sydney
The Placebo Effect, Artspace, Sydney
- 2000** *Value*, ACCA, Melbourne
Miss Gin Gin Showgirl (with Dale Frank), Hazelhurst Regional Gallery
Interpersonal, Yuill/Crowley Gallery, Sydney
- 1999** *Blind Side*, Experimental Art Foundation, Adelaide, SA; IMA, Brisbane, Qld
Hotel/Motel, Yuill/Crowley Gallery, Sydney, NSW
Genuine Imitation, First Floor, Melbourne, VIC
- 1998** *Amateur Exorcist*, Dunedin Public Art Gallery, Dunedin, NZ
Self-Loving, Fiat Lux, Auckland, NZ
Touch and Go, Level 2 Project, Art Gallery of NSW, Sydney, NSW
World Fantasy, Yuill/Crowley Gallery, Sydney, NSW
- 1997** *Special*, Yuill Crowley Gallery, Sydney
I Only think about you when I'm drunk, Test Strip, Auckland
Life Fitness, Artspace, Sydney
- 1996** *The Australian Labor Party*, Yuill/Crowley Gallery, Sydney, NSW
Live Rock, CBD Gallery, Sydney, NSW
- 1995** *Class*, Yuill/Crowley Gallery, Sydney, NSW
Peace is Cool, CBD Gallery, Sydney, NSW
- 1994** *Soft Material Facts*, Yuill/Crowley Gallery, Sydney, NSW
Special Galore Type, 200 Gertrude Street, Melbourne, VIC
Homoerotic, CBD Gallery, Sydney, NSW
- 1993** *Software*, Selenium Gallery, Sydney, NSW
August, CBD Gallery, Sydney, NSW
Lucifer (with Matthys Gerber), Yuill/Crowley Gallery, Sydney, NSW
Heterocampstick, Black Gallery, Sydney, NSW

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2009** Hybrid, Arterreal Gallery, Sydney
- 2008** Leading Lights, Ivan Dougherty Gallery, College of Fine Arts, The University of NSW
True Crime: murder and misdemeanour in Australian Art, Geelong Gallery, Geelong
Woollahra Small Sculpture Prize, Redleaf Council Chambers, Sydney
Blake Prize, NAS Gallery, Sydney
Bon Scott Project, Fremantle Arts Centre, WA
- 2007** Who let the dogs out, Lake Macquarie City Art Gallery, NSW
Salon Des Refuses, S.H. Ervin Gallery, Sydney
- 2006** The Kilgour Prize, Newcastle Region Art Gallery, Newcastle
Fantastic Voyage, Kaliman Gallery, Sydney
The Archibald Prize, Art Gallery of NSW, Sydney
- 2005** A Special Exhibition, Kedumba Gallery, Wentworth Falls
Unscripted, A.G.N.S.W., Sydney
Special Affects, MOP Projects, Redfern
The Sound of Painting, The Art Centre, Melbourne
Campbelltown Bling, Campbelltown City Gallery
Extinction Denied, Art House Hotel, Sydney
Icons Framed, S.H. Ervin Gallery, Observatory Hill, Sydney
Salon Des Refuses, S.H. Ervin Gallery, Observatory Hill, Sydney
Art On The Rocks, Sydney Visitor's Centre, The Rocks, Sydney.
Identity and Desire A.G.S.A, Adelaide
The Grey Voice, Tin Sheds, University of Sydney
Interesting Times, MCA, The Rocks, Sydney.
Wild Beasts Grey Matter, Glebe
- 2004** *Extinction Denied*, Arthouse, Sydney
Art and About, Various outdoor locations, Sydney
The Visibility of Practice, Cell Block, National Art School, Sydney
- 2003** *The Meaning of Everything*, Yuill Crowley Gallery, Sydney
The Archibald Prize, Art Gallery of N.S.W.
The Sulman Prize, Art Gallery of N.S.W.
Six Degrees of Separation, Yuill Crowley Gallery, Sydney
Foxed, Yuill Crowley Gallery, Sydney
Anita and Beyond, Penrith Regional Gallery
- 2002** *The Archibald Prize*, The Art Gallery of NSW, Sydney, NSW
Hooky the Cripple, published with Mark Read, Pluto Press, Sydney
Bitter Sweet, The Art Gallery of NSW, Sydney, NSW
25th Bienal de Sao Paulo, Sao Paulo, Brazil
ARCO 2002, Madrid Art Fair, Madrid, Spain
Kedumba Drawing Prize, Kedumba Gallery, N.S.W.
Group Exhibition, Yuill Crowley Gallery, Sydney

SELECTED PRIZES

- 2000 Winner Archibald Prize
- 1997-2004 Finalist Archibald Prize
- 2004 Finalist Sulman Prize
- 2002 Finalist Doug Moran Prize (highly commended)
- 2002 Finalist Blake Prize

PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

Monash University Gallery
The Art Gallery of SA
The Art Gallery of Western Australia
Art Bank, NSW
AMP Australia
Kedumba Gallery
Australian National Gallery, Canberra, ACT
The Gold Coast City Art Gallery, QLD
Griffith University, QLD
Geelong Art Gallery, VIC
The Art Gallery of NSW
The National Gallery of Victoria