

BENJAMIN ARMSTRONG

Benjamin Armstrong's sculptures slide between the homely and the uncanny. Writing about *Conflict* (Monash University Collection), 'in which a pair of eyeballs shaped from wax sit at the edge of an egg shaped table top supported by impossibly thin legs', Dr Kyla McFarlane noted that Armstrong triggers both an emotional and intellectual response in viewers ... an 'involuntary physical shudder of horror and delight registers deep in our own bodies'.

Dr Kyla McFarlane, *Swells and Shudders, Before the body - Matter 2006*

Born in 1975, Benjamin Armstrong lives and works in Melbourne. He has participated in numerous exhibitions including *NEW09* at the Australian Centre of Contemporary Art, Melbourne and *Primavera*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney 2006. In 2010 his work was included in *Before & After Science*, the 2010 Biennale of Australian Art. His works are represented in key public and private collections including Monash University Museum of Art, The University of Queensland, Queensland Art Gallery, Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney, Art Gallery of South Australia, Art Gallery of Western Australia, Buxton Contemporary and the British Museum, London.

BENJAMIN ARMSTRONG

Born 1975, Melbourne, Australia
Lives and works in Melbourne

Benjamin Armstrong is represented by Tolarno Galleries, Melbourne

EDUCATION

1996

Bachelor of Fine Arts, Victorian College of the Arts, Melbourne

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2022

Pictures for Thinking, Tolarno Galleries, Melbourne

2021

Disparate Chapters, Australian Print Workshop, Melbourne

2020

Under the Southern Sky, Tolarno Galleries, Melbourne (online)

2018

Invisible Stories: Meditations on Port Essington, Tolarno Galleries, Melbourne

2012

Conjurers, Tolarno Galleries, Melbourne

2010

Walking backwards to the place I come from, Tolarno Galleries, Melbourne

2009

Hold Everything Dear, Perth Institute of Contemporary Art, Perth

2008

The shape of things to come, Tolarno Galleries, Melbourne
Sorcery, Studio 12, Gertrude Contemporary, Melbourne

2006

Benjamin Armstrong, Project Space, RMIT, Melbourne

2005

Gathering, Project Space, RMIT, Melbourne

2002

Drawings, T.C.B. Gallery, Melbourne

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2020

Talismans for uncertain times, Bendigo Art Gallery, Victoria

2019

The lover circles his own heart, Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney, NSW

Ways of Seeing, Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide, South Australia

Serial, McClelland Gallery. Langwarrin, Victoria

GNAP 2019, Ballarat Art Gallery, Ballarat, Victoria

2018

The Shape of Things to Come, Buxton Contemporary, Melbourne

Another Dimension, McClelland Sculpture Park + Gallery, Victoria

Imagine, Gippsland Art Gallery, Victoria

2017

Versus Rodin: bodies across space and time, Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide

2016

WE ARE HERE: An exploration of contemporary portraiture as a response to hatred and hope, Glen Eira City Council Gallery, Caulfield

2014

You Imagine What You Desire, 19th Biennale of Sydney, AGNSW, Sydney

2013

Melbourne Now, National Gallery Of Victoria, Melbourne

Sydney Contemporary, Tolarno Galleries, Sydney

2012

ROUNDTABLE: The 9th Gwangju Biennale, Gwangju, Republic of Korea

Becoming: worlds in flux, C24 Gallery, New York, USA

The Sleep of Reason, Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide, Australia

2011

ART#2, for the Australian Centre for Contemporary Art, Horsham Art Gallery and Warrnambool Art Gallery

Hong Kong Art Fair, Tolarno Galleries, Hong Kong

2011

A First Life Residency Project in Landscape, Xin Dong Cheng Space for Contemporary Art, 798 Art District, Beijing, China

2010

Still Vast Reserves, Gertrude Contemporary, Melbourne, Australia

Fully Booked, Arts Project Australia, Melbourne, Australia

Before and After Science, Adelaide Biennial of Australian Art, Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide, Australia

2009

New 09, University of Queensland Museum, Brisbane, Australia
Still Vast Reserves, Magazzino d'Arte Moderna, Rome, Lazio, Italy
Mystique, Tolarno Galleries, Melbourne, Australia
New Acquisitions, Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney, Australia
NEW 09, Australian Centre for Contemporary Art, Melbourne, Australia

2008

Better Places, Perth Institute of Contemporary Art, Perth, Australia
Gertrude Studios, Gertrude Contemporary, Melbourne, Australia
Revolving Doors, Uplands Gallery, Melbourne, Australia

2007

Gertrude Studios, Gertrude Contemporary, Melbourne, Australia
A room inside, Ian Potter Museum of Art, University of Melbourne, Melbourne, Australia
Before the body - Matter, Monash University Museum of Art, Melbourne, Australia

2006

Primavera, Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney, Australia

2003

Benjamin Armstrong & Katherine Huang, Project Space, RMIT, Melbourne, Australia

2002

Works on Paper Exhibition, Rex Irwin Gallery, Sydney, Australia

1998

SLIP, Stripp Gallery, Melbourne, Australia

COLLECTIONS

Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide, Australia
Art Gallery of Western Australia, Perth, Australia
Bendigo Art Gallery, Victoria, Australia
British Museum, Prints and Drawings Department, London, England
Ian Potter Museum of Art, Melbourne University, Melbourne, Australia
Monash University Museum of Art, Melbourne, Australia
Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney, Australia
Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane, Australia
University of Queensland Art Museum, Brisbane, Australia

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

2018

Stephens, Andrew, *Meditations from the Edge*, Imprint Magazine, Winter 2018, pp 14-17

2013

Melbourne Now, (exh. cat.), National Gallery Of Victoria, Melbourne, Australia. NGV Publications 2013

2012

McFarlane, Kyla, *From the Depths of the Sea*, *Australian Art Collector*, Issue 60, April-June 2012, pp. 112-119.

2010

Day, Charlotte and Benjamin Armstrong, *Conversation, Holding a Thread*, Emblem Books, 2010.

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Engberg, Juliana, *Insinuate, Holding a Thread*, Emblem Books, 2010, pp. 6-18.

Weaver, Rachael, *Hold Everything Dear*, *Before and After Science*, Adelaide: Art Gallery of South Australia, 2010, 42-43.

Wright, Alexis, *Benjamin Armstrong's world of holding everything dear*, *Art & Australia*, Vol. 47, No. 3, Autumn 2010, pp. 470-473.

2009

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Day, Charlotte, *NEW 09* (exhibition catalogue), Australian Centre for Contemporary Art, 2009.

Kent, Rachel, *MCA New Acquisitions 2009*, Sydney: Museum of Contemporary Art, 2009.

Levine, Michael, *Hold Everything Dear*, Perth: Perth Institute of Contemporary Arts, 2009.

McKenna, Mark, 'Hold Everything Dear', *NEW 09*, Australian Centre for Contemporary Art, 2009, pp. 48-49.

Miller, Toby, *Sorcery* (exhibition catalogue), Gertrude Contemporary Art Spaces, 2009.

Pryor, Gregory, *Better Places*, *Artlink*, Vol. 29, No. 1, March 2009, p. 91.

West Coast Rules, *Art Monthly Australia*, No 223, 2009, pp. 17-19.

2008

Clemens, Justin, *New Work*, *Art World Magazine*, Issue 1, Feb/March 2008, pp.138-141.

Crawford, Ashley, *Armstrong's Anatomia*, *Eyeline*, No. 66, 2008, pp. 53-55.

Edmond, Maura, 'Benjamin Armstrong', *Art & Australia*, Vol. 45, No. 4, Winter 2008, pp. 646-647.

Gertrude Studios 2008, Gertrude Contemporary Art Spaces, 2008.

Hammond, Kirrily, 'Benjamin Armstrong; The shape of things to come', *Imprint*, Vol. 43, Autumn, 2008, p. 26.

Keys, Melissa, *Better Places*, Perth: Perth Institute of Contemporary Art, 2008.

Moore, Ross, 'Weird Science', *The Age*, 15 February 2008, p. 15.

Smee, Sebastian, 'Return to paint', *The Australian*, 1 March 2008, pp. 18-19.

'Tolarno's new home so Soho', *The Age*, 15 February 2008, p. 15.

2007

'Before the Body – Matter', *Art & Australia*, Vol. 44, No. 4, Winter 2007, p. 617.

Gertrude Studios 2007, Gertrude Contemporary Art Spaces, 2007.

Keehan, Reuben, 'Radical Opacity', *Broadsheet*, Vol. 35, No. 4, 2007, pp. 226-227.

'Psychogothical', *Art Monthly Australia*, No. 204, October 2007, pp. 24-26.

Serisier, Gillian, 'Artist Profile: Benjamin Armstrong', *Australian Art Market Report*, Vol. 25, Spring 2007, p. 38.

2006

Armstrong, Benjamin, and Aaron Seeto, *Primavera*, Sydney: Museum of Contemporary Art, 2006, pp. 38-39.

Barlow, Geraldine, and Kyla McFarlane, *Before the body – Matter*. Monash University Museum of Art, 2006.

Benjamin Armstrong (exhibition catalogue), Melbourne: RMIT Project Space, 2006.

Hill, Peter, 'Make the trek: Sydney art scene full in spring', *The Age*, 29 September 2006, pp. 22.

Seeto, Aaron. *Primavera*. Sydney: Museum of Contemporary Art, 2006.

2005

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Learner, Ruth, 'Gathering Benjamin Armstrong', *Un magazine*, Issue 5, 2005, pp. 34-35.

1998

O'Connell, Stephen, *Rubik 1*, Julia Gorman, James Lynch, Andrew McQualter, Ricky Swallow (eds.), Melbourne, 1998.