

Ian Wells

The artistic works of Ian Wells are primarily concerned with paint and the act of painting as an end in itself. Balancing the notion of risk taking with the certainty that comes from experience is a core tenet in his work. His process oscillates between embracing moments of serendipity, chance and accident and relying on known quantities. As such, the picture plane is a constant site of negotiation.

Wells produces modernist work of a self referential nature that is concerned with the formal qualities that occur within the parameters of the pictorial field. The proportions of the picture plane are intuitively selected for their awkward dimensions, frequently referencing a root square or root cube ratio. By contrast, previous works incorporated the golden ratio, ISO ratios or cinema screen or aspect ratios such as 'Panavision'.

Engaging with the rigorous science of century old traditional painterly techniques, the artist's practice demonstrates an intimate relationship with materials. This resolute commitment to process is evident in the diverse array of mediums used, these include hand ground pigments, watercolour, oil paint, Indian ink and metalpoint that is applied to a gesso ground, frequently bound with linseed oil, gum arabic and casein.

Solo and Group Exhibitions:

Subject to Change, Solo, Five Walls Footscray, 2022

A Proposed Idea, Solo, Five Walls, Footscray, 2019

Somewhat Transparent, Five Walls, Footscray, 2018

Abstraction 2018, Curated group show, Five walls, Footscray

Black & White and Red all over, Curated collection show, Justin Art House Museum, Feb - Jun 2018

Small Works, a survey, Curated group show, Red Rock Gallery, April 2018

The Difficult Third, Solo show, Five Walls Projects, Aug – Sep 2017

Shades of Grey 3, Curated group show, Tacit Gallery, Aug 2017

Chromatopia – a history of colour, Curated group show, Tacit Gallery, Jun 2017

C3, Faux studio, Group show, fundraiser, Dec 2016

Drawing and the Image, Group show, Reveries, Marong Nov 2016

NEO-0-10, Works on Paper. Group show, Stephen McLaughlin Gallery, May 2015.

Pared, Show with Louise Blyton at St.Helliers at the Abbotsford convent Apr 2015.

Allot, Fundraising Auction and Show. Trocadero Art Space and Five Walls Projects Dec 2014.

Tangible, Reductive Survey Show Trocadero ArtSpace May 2014 Curated by Ian Wells

Split Level, Group show, Five Walls Projects. Feb 2014

Allot, Fundraising Auction and Show. Trocadero Art Space and Five Walls Projects Dec 2013

Standard Glass, Solo show, Five Walls Projects. Oct 2013

Minor Context, Solo show, Five Walls Projects. Sep – Oct 2012

The Anatomy Lesson, Ian Potter Museum. Sep – Jan 2013. Collaborative work w/ Ruth Hutchinson.

Risk and Certainty, solo show, Red Gallery Fitzroy. Aug – Sep 2012

TLF Exchange exhibition, Gatakers Artspace, Qld. 2011

Myegallery Group Show, Scope gallery, Warrnambool. 2011

Myegallery Group Show, Capital Theatre, Bendigo. 2011

Palette Show, St Luke, Fitzroy. 2012, 2011, 2010, 2009, 2008, 2007

Solo Show, Alluvial Gallery, Bendigo. 2007

Group show, Fresh Gallery, Fitzroy. 2006

Solo Show, Red Gallery, Fitzroy. 2006

Dagmar Art Consultants Group Show, North Melbourne. 2006

Melbourne Abstraction, Red Gallery Fitzroy. 2005

Group show with Kim Vernon, Michael Mark and Louise Blyton.

“Sarah Menelaus, Neil Williams, Ian Wells”, Chapman & Bailey. 2004

Red Stocking Group Show, Red Gallery, Fitzroy. 2004

Melbourne Abstraction, Red Gallery Fitzroy. 2004

Group show with Kim Vernon and Michael Mark.

Peepshow, Federation Square, Melbourne Town Hall, New Quay, 2003

Public Performance / installation with Megan Beckwith.

White Cube Project, group show, Dante’s Upstairs Gallery, Fitzroy. 2003

Solo show, Ume Nomiya Gallery and Bar, Fitzroy. 2003

Solo show, Spencer Street Gallery, Melbourne. 2002