



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 Exhibitions

2025

Blocked, Five Walls Gallery, Footscray

2023

Next, Five Walls Gallery, Footscray

2022

Subject to Change, Five Walls Gallery, Footscray

2019

A Proposed Idea, Five Walls Gallery, Footscray

2018

Somewhat Transparent, Five Walls Gallery, Footscray

2016

The Difficult Third, Five Walls Projects, Footscray

2013

Standard Glass, Five Walls Projects, Footscray

2012

Minor Context, Five Walls Projects, Footscray

Risk and Certainty, Red Gallery, Fitzroy

FIVE WALLS

level 1/119 Hopkins Street Footscray 3011 | flvewalls.com.au | wed-sat 12-5pm

**2007**

Solo exhibition, Alluvial Gallery, Bendigo

2006

Solo exhibition, Red Gallery, Fitzroy

2003

Solo exhibition, Ume Nomiya Gallery and Bar, Fitzroy

2002

Solo exhibition, Spencer Street Gallery, Melbourne

Group, Curated, and Collaborative Exhibitions**2025**

Spring 1883 Art Fair IX, curated group exhibition, Hotel Windsor (Five Walls Gallery, Footscray), Melbourne

2018

Abstraction 2018, curated group exhibition, Five Walls Gallery, Footscray

Black and White and Red All Over, curated collection exhibition, Justin Art House Museum

Small Works: A Survey, curated group exhibition, Red Rock Gallery

2017

The Difficult Third, solo exhibition, Five Walls Projects, Footscray

Shades of Grey 3, curated group exhibition, Tacit Gallery, Collingwood

Chromatopia: A History of Colour, curated group exhibition, Tacit Gallery, Collingwood

2016

C3, group exhibition (fundraiser), Faux Studio

Drawing and the Image, group exhibition, Reveries Gallery, Marong

2015

NEO-0-10: Works on Paper, group exhibition, Stephen McLaughlin Gallery, Melbourne

Pared, two-person exhibition with Louise Blyton, St Heliers, Abbotsford Convent, Collingwood

2014

Allot, fundraising auction and exhibition, Trocadero Art Space and Five Walls Projects, Footscray

Tangible: Reductive Survey, curated exhibition (curated by Ian Wells), Trocadero Art Space, Footscray

Split Level, group exhibition, Five Walls Projects, Footscray

2013

The Anatomy Lesson, collaborative exhibition with Ruth Hutchinson, Ian Potter Museum of Art, Melbourne

2012

Palette Show, group exhibition, St Luke's, Fitzroy

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**2011**

Myegallery, group exhibition, Scope Gallery, Warrnambool
Myegallery, group exhibition, Capital Theatre, Bendigo
Palette Show, group exhibition, St Luke's, Fitzroy

2010

Palette Show, group exhibition, St Luke's, Fitzroy

2009

Palette Show, group exhibition, St Luke's, Fitzroy

2008

Palette Show, group exhibition, St Luke's, Fitzroy

2007

Palette Show, group exhibition, St Luke's, Fitzroy

2006

Group exhibition, Fresh Gallery, Fitzroy
Dagmar Art Consultants, group exhibition, North Melbourne

2005

Melbourne Abstraction, group exhibition, Red Gallery, Fitzroy
Group exhibition with Kim Vernon, Michael Mark, and Louise Blyton, Melbourne

2004

Sarah Menelaus, Neil Williams, Ian Wells, group exhibition, Chapman and Bailey, Melbourne
Red Stocking, group exhibition, Red Gallery, Fitzroy
Melbourne Abstraction, group exhibition, Red Gallery, Fitzroy
Group exhibition with Kim Vernon and Michael Mark, Melbourne

2003

Peepshow, group exhibition, Federation Square / Melbourne Town Hall / New Quay, Melbourne
Public performance and installation with Megan Beckwith, Melbourne
White Cube Project, group exhibition, Dante's Upstairs Gallery, Fitzroy

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