

KIRSTY BUDGE

ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

Kirsty Budge's paintings combine deep introspection, external observation and an interest in psychoanalysis and philosophy that embraces the richness of the world. They are a complex and ambiguous mix of figuration and abstraction referencing nature, connectivity, eerie repetitions and a quest for meaning.

Budge embraces intuitive painting methods that are steeped in a ritualistic daily practice and a faith in the transcendental nature of this process. This embodied methodology mirrors a complex inner geography within the paintings and an elaborate scaffolding of the psyche which can take imaginative leaps and emerges with a strange offbeat beauty. The language of image, symbol and feeling combined with acute exploration in tone and varied painting techniques creates a liminal space that operates as an exploration of realms of possibility.

In Budge's process, the removal of paint is equal to its application. Layering and excavation are vital to the construction of the composition, as forms that initially appear to be at the forefront of the work are actually exposed remnants of the past underpainting. "It's important to me to make paintings that reference their own making in order to initiate a non-linear narrative, like a field of broken time. My work acts as some kind of connective tissue between the past and the present as well as a paradoxical intention to transcend both."

Kirsty Budge is an Aotearoa New Zealand-born, Australian artist. Recent exhibitions include: Melbourne Art Fair (Daine Singer, 2024, 2020 and 2022); Brown Mirror: Paintings from behind (2024), (I've got) half a mind (2022), If you're gonna spew, spew into this (2020); The Doing (2019), Gawkalitis (2017), Daine Singer, Melbourne; FAIR by NADA, New York (Daine Singer, 2020); NADA New York (Daine Singer, 2018); The Painters are In, Spring 1883 (Daine Singer, 2016), and I'm not desperate, you're desperate, Sarah Scout Presents (2016). Her work has been exhibited in group exhibitions at Bendigo Art Gallery, Chapter House Lane, Margaret Lawrence Gallery, the Australian Centre for Contemporary Art, Spinnerei Leipzig, Arndt Artbarn, Tristian Koenig, McClelland Sculpture Park + Gallery and Darren Knight Gallery.

In 2021 Kirsty Budge won the Arthur Guy Memorial Painting Prize. She has undertaken residencies at the Cité Internationale des Arts, Paris, as the recipient of an Art Gallery of New South Wales Studio Scholarship (2018), and at the Caselberg Trust on the Otago Peninsula, New Zealand (2019).

Budge has a Bachelor of Fine Arts (Painting) from the Victorian College of the Arts, where she was recipient of the 2014 Stirling Collective Award for Painting. Her work is held in the Artbank, Bendigo Art Gallery and City of Port Phillip collections.