

Treasured
the ideas and process of
ALAN JONES
27 July to 15 August 2023



Painting 290 (The Treasure Chest), 2021, acrylic on linen, 110 x 101 cm

Treasured

Our experience

The Young Curators' creative journey alongside Alan Jones has been an enlightening experience of vision and collaboration. Exploring the rich tapestry of Jones's artistic expression, we ventured from viewing the Max Germanos collection at the Macquarie University Art Gallery to the artist's very new studio. Here, we had the unique privilege of witnessing the seamless fusion of Jones's thoughts, emotions and craftsmanship as he shared his masterful works with us. This exciting opportunity has not only granted us insight into the inner workings of the contemporary Australian art scene, but has further inspired us in the curating and integration of Alan Jones's remarkable work in this exhibition.

We would like to thank Alan Jones, Max Germanos and Gaibrielle Germanos for facilitating this experience of curatorial collaboration.

The ideas and process of Alan Jones

The exhibition *Treasured* offers insight into the rich and diverse practice and artmaking inspiration of Alan Jones. Since his early experience in the art world, on his award of the Brett Whiteley Travelling Scholarship to Paris in 2004, he has been compelled by ideas of originality and the origin of ideas and inspiration. Key to this is *Drawing #12*, 2004, revealing the interpretation of a masterpiece in a simplistic 'little sketch'.

Despite his love of traditional painting – citing it as “the ultimate challenge” – Jones views experimentation as a mutually important endeavour, a facet of his artistic process warmly welcomed for its ability to simultaneously achieve functionality and creativity. He describes his portraits as a “jigsaw puzzle”; the slotting together of thin plywood boards mirroring his lifelong interest in collage. In conversation, Jones stated that his goal was to “... do something different and ... reinvent the wheel and ... explore something new, something I haven't seen before.”

Much of the work of Alan Jones is intensely personal and his etchings are a creative faucet portraying nostalgia for his years spent in the Sydney suburb of Cherrybrook. His series of etchings reveal he has “drawn inspiration from places and times where recent history and family history connect.” In the height of Covid, Alan Jones's outlook towards subject matter made an unforeseen shift— he began observing the presence of things immediately surrounding him, rather than further and beyond. This shift provoked the creation of his striking and intense still life paintings. This is specifically seen in *Painting 290 (The Treasure Chest)* 2021, which has a touching backstory of how Jones's young son's carefree craftwork stimulated the stunted creativity of his “overthinking” father. Alan Jones teaches us that when one loses sight in their artmaking process, the key to being re-inspired is to embrace the simplicity of their life's natural course; perhaps the most fascinating and divine ideas can only be discovered in the obscure and unexpected moments of the everyday. Throughout his artmaking process, Alan Jones has collaborated with artists and photographers. *Treasured* presents two works created in a collaborative 'swap' with multiple prize-winner artist Nicole Kelly. In this collaboration, each artist has exchanged a painting to be reworked in their own studio spaces. *White Sand Creek* and *Painting 179 – Coogee* reveal a contrast yet cohesion between the two artists' styles as they contributed new ideas and perspectives to each other's works. Collaboration is a key aspect of Jones's practice as it stimulates the development of ideas and material practice.

Collaborative writing by Abbotsleigh and Hornsby Girls High School Young Curators



Abbotsleigh Young Curators: Sigrid Boehme, Naomi Chang, Ines Hasler, Fay Iskandar, Alisha Parker, Aneesha Reddy, Isabella Wu, Camille Murray, Penelope Hu. Grace Chen, Vivian Li.

Hornsby Girls High School Young Curators: Arnetta Angelica, Apple Cong, Riah Kang, Senoli Mohotti, Scarlett Shin, Rachelle Wu.

Alan Jones with Abbotsleigh and Hornsby Girls High School Young Curators

Drawing after Bonnard, 2003, ink, charcoal, pastel and paper collage on paper, 83.5 x 69 cm

Drawing #12, 2004, graphite on paper, 21 x 14 cm

Figure #2, 2004, oil on linen, 130 x 96 cm

Painting 69 (Darren), 2007, oil on linen, 87.5 x 91.5 cm

Mum and Granny in about 1969 #1, 2010, oil on linen, 168 x 170.5 cm

Painting 114 (Brooke), 2013, acrylic on polyester, 102.5 x 87 cm

Self-portrait 5, 2015, acrylic on board, 51 x 45.5 cm

Head, 2015, porcelain, 10 x 8 x 8.5 cm, edition 10 + 2 A/P

Painting 150 (Ingo), 2015, oil and acrylic on linen, 117.5 x 112.5 cm

Painting 259 (Beechwood Parade), 2019 acrylic on board, 101 x 110 cm

Painting 262 (Beechwood Parade), 2019 acrylic on board, 101 x 110 cm

Painting 282 (Familiar to Millions), 2021, acrylic on linen, 160 x 121 cm

Painting 286 (My Octopus Teacher), 2021, acrylic on linen, 186 x 186 cm

Painting 287 (Well Well Well), 2021 acrylic on linen, 160 x 121 cm

Painting 290 (The Treasure Chest), 2021, acrylic on linen, 110 x 101 cm

The Treasure Chest, cardboard, cello tape, marble, 5 x 5 x 5 cm (Artist Ingo Jones)

Painting 291 (God), 2021, acrylic on linen, 190.5 x 143.5 cm

Painting 296 (This Moment Is Precious), 2022, acrylic on linen, 110 x 101 cm

Painting 303 (This Moment Is Precious Don't Waste It), 2022, acrylic on linen, 110 x 101 cm

White Sand Creek, 2021, oil and acrylic on canvas, 97.5 x 122 cm (Collaboration with Nicole Kelly)

Painting 179 (Coogee), 2016-2021, acrylic on board, 86.5 x 90 cm (Collaboration with Nicole Kelly)

The Fire Trail 1, 2019, lithograph, paper size 80 x 99.5 cm, edition of 10 (unframed)

Greenway Park 2, 2019, etching, paper size 51 x 55 cm, image size 34.5 x 39.5 cm, edition of 20 (unframed)

Greenway Park 3, 2019, etching, paper size 51 x 55 cm, image size 34.5 x 39.5 cm, edition of 20 (unframed)

The Fire Station 1, 2019, etching, paper size 51 x 55 cm, image size 34.5 x 39.5 cm, edition of 20 (unframed)

The Fire Station 2, 2019, etching, paper size 51 x 55 cm, image size 34.5 x 39.5 cm, edition of 20 (unframed)

The Fire Trail, 2018, lithograph, paper size 57 x 64.5 cm, image size 41 x 48.5 cm, edition of 8 (unframed)

The Fire Trail 2, 2019, paper size 51 x 55 cm, image size 34.5 x 39.5 cm, edition of 20 (unframed)

Adam Goodes collage elements

Collage pieces for paintings

Available works are subject to change, including prices and GST. All prices include GST
All works are courtesy the artist and Olsen Gallery, Sydney and copyright the artist.



Alan Jones

Alan Jones is best known for his figurative work and self-portrait paintings. His artistic practice also includes landscape painting, sculpture and printmaking. Jones works across a broad spectrum of mediums and takes a personal approach to the subject matter. His work explores notions of identity, and he has a particular interest in his colonial past. Jones aims to communicate the intricacies of human connections and how his roots subsequently influence his work.

Jones holds degrees from the National Art School Sydney. His awards include the 1997 Pat Corrigan Travelling Art Scholarship, the 2004 Brett Whiteley Travelling Art Scholarship, the 2008 Paddington Art Prize, 2011 Fisher's Ghost Art Award, 2014 Kilgour Prize and the 2015 Mosman Art Prize. He has been a finalist in the Archibald Prize (2016, 2014 and 2013), Wynne Prize (2017) and Sulman Prize (2020, 2019 and 2005) at the Art Gallery of New South Wales. Jones has held numerous solo and group exhibitions nationally and internationally and his work is featured in notable collections. He resides and works in Sydney.

Alan Jones is represented by Olsen Gallery, Sydney.

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3:33 Art Projects

3:33 Art Projects created the innovative art program, the Young Curators, to partner with secondary schools to support education in the arts and provide unique experiences for the students, the school and the broader community while supporting Australian artists. The program connects students with a leading Australian visual artist to host an art exhibition at their school, working as a curatorial team to research, develop, select and stage the exhibition, providing valuable insights into various perspectives of the creative art industry.

Abbotsleigh and Hornsby Girls High School students visited the studio of Alan Jones and the exhibition, at Macquarie University Art Gallery, of the art collection of 3.33 Art Projects Founder Max Germanos. They also met at the Grace Cossington Smith Gallery to plan their curation of *Treasured*.

Go Figure: The Germanos Collection
curated by Euan Macleod at
Macquarie University Art Gallery,
March 2023.



Gallery hours Tuesday to Saturday 10 am-5 pm | FREE ENTRY | Gate 7 1666 Pacific Highway Wahroonga | 02 9473 7878
gcsgallery@abbotsleigh.nsw.edu.au | www.gcsgallery.com.au | An Anglican Pre K-12 Day and Boarding School for Girls

The Grace Crossington Smith Gallery acknowledges the Dharug People as the Traditional Custodians of the land upon which the gallery rests. We acknowledge the Elders, past and present.