

AUSTRALIAN GALLERIES

JOHN KELLY

Born 1965, Bristol, UK

BIOGRAPHY

John Kelly was born in Bristol, UK in 1965. His family immigrated to Australia the same year. In 1985 Kelly obtained a Bachelor of Arts (Visual Arts – Painting) from RMIT University, Melbourne, where he also completed his Master of Arts in 1995. As a winner of the 1995 Anne & Gordon Samstag International Visual Arts Scholarship, he travelled to London to study as an Affiliate Student at the Slade School of Art from 1996 to 1997.

Kelly held his first show at Niagara Galleries, Melbourne in 1988 and later his first UK one-man show at the Piccadilly Gallery, London. Kelly is best known for his paintings and large sculptures of Williams Dobell's cows, papier-mâché used during WWII to confuse enemy aircrafts of the location of the Australian airbases. His sculpture of these cows have made their way to exhibitions of the Champs Elysees, Paris in *Les Champs de la Sculpture* (2000) and Monte Carlo in *La Parade des Animaux*, (2002). More recently, however, Kelly's work has been based on specific motifs, most notably the logo of the Arts Council of Australia.

He currently lives with his family in Cork, Ireland.

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2018 'John Kelly: Sculptures', Sotheby's Australia, Melbourne
'West Cork and other places', Redfern Gallery, London, UK
- 2017 'Sunshine and Moonlight', Australian Galleries, Melbourne
'The Moo Brew Etchings', Australian Galleries, Sydney
- 2016 'John Kelly: Sculptures', Sotheby's, Sydney
'The Moo Brew Etchings', Australian Galleries, Melbourne
'Hanging Rock', Australian Galleries, Melbourne
'The Moo Brew Etchings', Bett Gallery, Hobart
'Out There', Oliver Sears Gallery, Dublin, Ireland
- 2015 'From under my mother's bed including recent etchings and steel cut outs',
Australian Galleries, Royston Street, Sydney
- 2014 'Castlehaven', The Doswell Gallery, Cork, Ireland
'From under my mother's bed', Australian Galleries, Derby Street, Melbourne
- 2013 'Sticks and Stones', Oliver Sears Gallery, Dublin, Ireland
'Look and Put (Irish Landscapes)', Liverpool Street Gallery, Sydney
- 2011 'Enterprise', Michael Koro Gallery, Melbourne
- 2010 'Probe', Agnews Gallery, London, UK
- 2009 'Self Portrait from Afar', third project from Kelly's Garden curated series, Salamanca
Arts Centre, Battery Point, TAS
'Double Bill', Niagara Galleries, Melbourne
- 2008 'Self Portrait from Afar', Liverpool Street Gallery, Sydney
- 2007 'Cow up a Tree', Musée d'Art Moderne de Contemporaine, Nice, France
'There was an Australian, an Englishman and an Irishman...', The Piccadilly Gallery,
London Dolliver Design Studio, Cork, Ireland
'John Kelly', The Room, Brighton, VIC
- 2006 'Deconstructing Australia', McClelland Gallery + Sculpture Park, Melbourne

- 'Sun of Moonboy', Niagara Galleries, Melbourne
 'There was an Australian, an Englishman and an Irishman...', The Piccadilly Gallery, London Dolliver Design Studio, Cork, Ireland
- 2005 'Project x 2', Niagara Galleries, Melbourne
 'Three Cows in a Pile', Goodenough College, London
 'Australian Cultural Product', Liverpool Street Gallery, Sydney
 'Incorrect Usage', The Piccadilly Gallery, London, UK
- 2004 'The Drawing Room', Project Space, RMIT, Melbourne
 'John Kelly', The Essoign Club, Owen Dixon Chambers, Melbourne
 'The Irish Rover', Niagara Galleries, Melbourne
- 2003 'The Nice Paintings – From The Top Paddock', Liverpool Street Gallery, Sydney
- 2002 'Culture Jam', The Piccadilly Gallery, London, UK
 Niagara Galleries, Melbourne
- 2000 The Piccadilly Gallery, London, UK
 'More Fucking Cows!', Niagara Galleries, Melbourne
 'John Kelly', L'espal centre culturel, Le Mans, France
- 1998 Niagara Galleries, Melbourne
- 1997 'Painting the Dead Horse', The Piccadilly Gallery, London, UK
- 1996 Masters Exhibition, RMIT, Melbourne
 Niagara Galleries, Melbourne
- 1995 Niagara Galleries, Melbourne
 The Piccadilly Gallery, London, UK
- 1993 Niagara Galleries, Melbourne
- 1990 Niagara Galleries, Melbourne
 The Essoign Club, Owen Dixon Chambers, Melbourne
- 1988 Niagara Galleries, Melbourne

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2017 'Canicular Days', Queenscliff Gallery & Workshop, Queenscliff, VIC
 'Sculpture: medium and small scale – Mixed Sculptors', Australian Galleries, Sydney
- 2016 'Fleurieu Art Prize', Anne & Gordon Samstag Museum of Art, Adelaide
 'Conjuring, Alchemy and Allure', Australian Galleries, Melbourne
- 2015 'Horse', Void Gallery, Derry, Ireland
- 2014 'one of each', Australian Galleries, Derby Street, Melbourne
 'Australia Day 2014 Celebratory Exhibition', Australian Galleries, Derby Street, Melbourne
- 2011 Crawford Art Gallery, Cork, Ireland
 Goteborg International Biennial for Contemporary Art, Goteborg, Germany
- 2010 'At the Crossroads', National Taiwan Museum of Fine Arts, Taiwan
 'Blue Chip: Collectors' Exhibition', Liverpool Street Gallery, Sydney
- 2009 'Summer exhibition', Liverpool Street Gallery, Sydney
 'Today I joined the gang the woods', curated by Emma M I ahoney, Cork Printmakers and Tristel Arts Centre, Cork, Ireland
- 2008 'Farewell to Post Colonialism', The Third Guangzhou Triennial, Guangzhou Museum of Art, Guangzhou, China
 Melbourne Art Fair, Royal Exhibition Building, Melbourne
 'Ship of Fools, Ship of Hope, One World', Yarra Sculpture Gallery, Melbourne
 The Helen Lempriere National Sculpture Award 2008, Werribee Park, Melbourne
 'Blue Chip X: The Collectors' Exhibition', Niagara Galleries, Melbourne
- 2007 'Bloodlines: Art and the Horse', Hawkesbury Regional Gallery, Hawkesbury, NSW
 Auckland Art Fair, Auckland, NZ
 Toorak Festival of Sculpture, Toorak, Melbourne
 'Death and Desire', Sirius Arts Centre, Cork, Ireland

- 'The Green Fields', Glastonbury Festival, Glastonbury, UK
 'Looking forward – 25 British Artists', Agnew's, London, UK
 'How Now Cow', Ballarat Fine Art Gallery, Ballarat, VIC
 'Den Haag Sculptuur 2007', The Hague, Netherlands
 Montalto Sculpture Prize: Finalist Exhibition, Red Hill, VIC
- 2006
 'Sculpture by the Sea: Tenth Annual Exhibition, Sydney
 '10 x 10 Identity in Contemporary Ireland', Belfast Print Workshop, Belfast, Ireland
 'Fetish in a Box', The Triskel, Cork, Ireland
 'Cork-Belfast Printmakers Exchange', Belfast Print Workshop, Belfast, Ireland
 Melbourne Art Fair, Melbourne
- 2005
 'McClelland Contemporary Sculpture Survey and McClelland Award Exhibition',
 McClelland Gallery, Langwarrin, VIC
 'Taking Stock', Halsinglands Museum, Hudiksvall, Sweden
- 2004
 'The Green Fields', Glastonbury Festival, Glastonbury, UK
 'Taking Stock', The Triskel, Cork, Ireland
 Melbourne Art Fair, Melbourne
- 2003
 'Imaging the Apple', Ballarat Fine Art Gallery, Ballarat, VIC and touring
 'Blue Chip VI: The Collectors' Exhibition', Niagara Galleries, Melbourne
 'A Modelled World', McClelland Gallery, Langwarrin, VIC
- 2002
 'Fair Game: Art & Sport', National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne
 'Blue Chip V: The Collectors' Exhibition', Niagara Galleries, Melbourne
 'Parade des Animaux', Monte Carlo, Monaco
 'Ready, Set, Go! Sporting Life and Australian Art', Ipswich Global Arts Link, Ipswich,
 QLD
 Basel Art Fair, Basel, Switzerland
- 2000
 'Summer Exhibition', Royal Academy, London, UK
 'Summer Exhibition', Royal Academy, London, UK
 Sulman Prize Exhibition, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
 'Paysage', Fondation Coprim, Paris, France
 'Accents Australiens', l'Espace, Adamski Designs, Paris, France
- 1999
 'Blue Chip II: The Collectors' Exhibition', Niagara Galleries, Melbourne
 'Horses for Courses', Mornington Peninsula Regional Gallery, Mornington, VIC
 'Salon Grands et Jeunes d'Aujourd'hui', Espave Eiffel, Paris, France
 'Les Champs de la Sculpture II', Paris, France
 Basel Art Fair, Basel, Switzerland
- 1998
 'Summer exhibition', Royal Academy, London
 Sulman Prize Exhibition, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
 Wynne Prize Exhibition, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
 Salon des Refusés, SH Ervin Gallery, Sydney
 Sixth Australian Contemporary Art Fair, Melbourne
 Basel Art Fair, Basel, Switzerland
 Access Gallery, Sydney
 Hill-Smith Gallery, Adelaide
 Virgin Airlines, Gatwick Airport, London
- 1997
 'Figuring it Out', Hammerson, 100 Park Lane, London, UK
 'Proposition Australiennes', Galerie Luc Queyral, Paris, France
 'Kuhkunst', Gallerie Commercio, Zurich, Switzerland
 'Oh La Vache!', Halle Saint Pierre, Paris, France and Strausborg, France
 Basel Art Fair, Basel, Switzerland
 'Vaches du XXe Siecle et Droles de Bovides', Musée Municipal A.G. Poulain,
 Normandie, France
 Glasgow Art Fair, Glasgow, Scotland
 Wynne Prize Exhibition, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
- 1996
 'Royal Overseas League Exhibition', London, UK and Edinburg, UK
 '20th Century British Art Fair', Royal Colege of Art, London, UK

- 'Royal Overseas League Exhibition', London, UK and Edinburgh, UK
 Basel Art Fair, Basel, Switzerland
 Wynne Prize Exhibition, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
 '12th Biennial Spring Festival of Drawing', Mornington Peninsula Regional Gallery,
 Mornington, VIC
 Fifth Australian Contemporary Art Fair, Melbourne
 1995 The Herald Sun Art Prize, Melbourne
 Access Gallery, Sydney
 'Royal Overseas League Exhibition', London, UK and Edinburgh, UK
 Piccadilly Gallery, London
 Basel Art Fair, Basel, Switzerland
 'Deakin University: Recent Acquisitions', Geelong Art Gallery, Geelong, VIC
 'Piccadilly Gallery at Art '95', Piccadilly Gallery, London, UK
 'Australian Felix', Benalla Visual Arts Festival, Benalla, VIC
 Sulman Prize Exhibition, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
 Dobell Drawing Prize Exhibition, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
 'St Kilda Postcard Show', Linden Gallery, Melbourne
 1988-1994 Various group exhibitions in Australia

COLLECTIONS

Artbank, Australia
 Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
 Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide
 Baker and McKenzie, London, UK
 Ballarat Fine Art Gallery, Ballarat, VIC
 Benalla Art Gallery, Benalla, VIC
 Bendigo Art Gallery, Bendigo, VIC
 City of Yarra Collection, VIC
 Deakin University Art Collection, VIC
 Guangdong Museum of Art, Guangzhou, China
 Gold Coast City Art Gallery, Gold Coast, QLD
 Gallery of Sport, Melbourne Cricket Ground, Melbourne
 Holmes a Court Collection, Cowaramup, WA
 La Trobe University Collection, VIC
 Leeuwin Estate, Margaret River, WA
 Maharam Collection, New York, USA
 McClelland Sculpture Park and Gallery, Langwarrin, VIC
 Murdoch Collection, Australia
 Musée Municipal A G Poulain, Normandie, France
 Museum of Old and New Art, Moorilla, Hobart
 National Gallery of Australia, Canberra
 National Sports Museum, Melbourne Cricket Ground, Melbourne
 Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery, Launceston, TAS
 Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane
 Tasmania Museum and Art Gallery, Hobart
 Trinity College Collection, Melbourne
 Western Mining Collection, Australia
 Numerous private and corporate collections in Australia, Europe and USA

COMMISSIONS, GRANTS AND AWARDS

- 2016 Fleurieu Art Prize (Finalist), Anne & Gordon Samstag Museum of Art, Adelaide
 2015 'Man lifting cow' for Brimbank Council

2005	'Moo Brew', paintings for Moorilla Estate, TAS
2002	Professional Development Grant, Visual Arts/Craft Board, Australia Council
2001	Project Grant, South East Arts
1995	Anne and Gordon Samstag International Visual Arts Scholarship Award St Kilda Postcard Show
1994	Barcelona Studio, Visual Arts/Craft Board, Australia Council
1993	City of Richmond Acquisitive Art Award John Storey Memorial Scholarship, The Queen's Trust Grant, RMIT
1992	The Melbourne Theatre Company 1992-1993 Season Programme, I Hate Hamlet
1988	Project Grant, Visual Arts Board, Australia Council

BIBLIOGRAPHY

CATALOGUES, BOOKS AND FILMS

- John Doggett-Williams, Deconstructing John Kelly, Fine Eye Productions, Melbourne, 2008
- Self Portrait from Afar (exhibition catalogue), Liverpool Street Gallery, Sydney, 2008
- The Helen Lempriere National Sculpture Award at Werribee Park 2008 (exhibition catalogue), The Helen Lempriere National Sculpture Award, Melbourne, 2008
- Sonia Payes, Untitled: Portraits of Australian Artists, Macmillan Publishing, Melbourne, 2007
- Robert Lindsay, Deconstructing Australia (exhibition catalogue), McClelland Gallery and Sculpture Park, Melbourne, 2006
- Australian Art Pack Animals 1788 – 21st Century, The Creative School Supply Company, 2007
- Gordon Morrison, How Now Cow, Ballarat Fine Art Gallery, Victoria, 2007
- Sun of Moonboy (exhibition catalogue), Niagara Publishing, Melbourne, 2006
- Australian Cultural Product (exhibition catalogue), Niagara Publishing, Melbourne, 2004
- The Nice Paintings – From the Top Paddock (exhibition catalogue), Niagara Publishing, Melbourne, 2003
- Laura Murray Cree, Awesome! Australian Art for Contemporary Kids, Craftsman House, Sydney, 2002
- More Fucking Cows! (exhibition catalogue), Niagara Galleries, Melbourne, 2000
- John Kelly – New Paintings and Sculpture (exhibition catalogue), The Piccadilly Gallery, London, 2000
- Cow up a Tree, Niagara Galleries, Melbourne, 1999
- Basel Art Fair (exhibition catalogue), 1998
- John Kelly (exhibition catalogue), Niagara Galleries, Melbourne, 1998
- Royal Overseas League (exhibition catalogue), London, 1997
- Anne and Gordon Samstag International Visual Arts Scholarship (exhibition catalogue), University of South Australia, 1996
- Barry Humphries, The art of John Kelly (exhibition catalogue), The Piccadilly Gallery, London, 1997
- John Kelly (exhibition catalogue), Niagara Galleries, Melbourne, 1995
- Royal Overseas League (exhibition catalogue), London, 1995
- Australia Felix (exhibition catalogue), Benalla, 1995
- Australian Arts Diary, illustrated, 1995
- Moet et Chandon (exhibition catalogue), 1994
- Neville Drury, Images 2 – Contemporary Australian Painting, Craftsman House Press, 1994
- John Kelly (exhibition catalogue), Niagara Galleries, Melbourne, 1993
- Moet et Chandon (exhibition catalogue), 1988

ARTICLES AND REVIEWS

- Sally Glaetzer, "How a beer label led to Leigh Carmichael's brilliant new career", The Mercury, 29 October 2016
- Margaret Burin, "Australian artist John Kelly brings cows home to mark humble beginnings", ABC News, 20 August 2016
- Kylie Northover, "Cow-up-a-tree-artist John Kelly – Australia's most famous artist you never knew", The Age, 18 December 2015

Capone, Alesha, "Artist John Kelly begins work on Man lifting cow statue for Sunshine", Brimbank Leader, 11 November 2015

James Cockington, "Art to Adore for Heifer and Heifer", Sydney Morning Herald, 'Money', 22 October 2014

John P O'Sullivan, "Enjoy the View", The Sunday Times, 03 August 2014

Fergal Gaynonr, "Crawford Open 2007 – the sleep of reason", Circa 123, Spring 2008

"It's a date: Helen Lempriere Centenary Exhibition at Werribee Park", Royal Auto, April 2008

Harbant Gill, "Peril vaults back", Herald Sun, 18 February 2008

Katrina Stickland, "No sacred cows", The Australian Financial Review, 6 December 2007

Brian O'Connell, "Pull the udder one", The Irish Times Magazine, 7 April 2007

Ailin Quinlan, "Artist brings animal attraction home", Irish Examiner, 2 April 2007

Harbant Gill, "Now it's three cows up a tree", Herald Sun, 26 Marh 2007

Jeff Makin, "Pun in the moonlight", Herald Sun, 20 November 2006

Harbant Gill, "So who's a silly moo?", Herald Sun, 28 June 2005

Louise Bellamy, "A gain for the galleries", The Age, 25 June 2005

Harbant Gill, "Having a cow of a time", Herald Sun, 28 January 2004

Geoff Maslen, "Gavel fails to fall for most vendors", The Age, 1 December 2003

Patricia Anderson, "Apparitions and metaphors", The Australian, 15 November 2003

Terry Ingram, "Merger streamlines art market", The Australian Financial Review, 14 November 2003

Alison Harper, "Interview with John Kelly", The Australian Art Market Report, Issue 10, 2003

John McDonald and John Kelly, "Branding time at the oz co. corral", Australian Art Review, November 2003

John Kelly, "Letters", Art Monthly Australia, August 2003

Georgina Safe, "Painter mocks arts council bull", The Australian, 20 June 2003

Bob Hart, "In the bid time", Herald Sun, 3 May 2003

Louise Bellamy, "Bull market for Niagara", The Age, 24 April 2003

"Market perspective", The Australian Art Market Report, Issue 5, 2002

Alison Harper, "Market perspective", The Australian Art Market Report, Issue 4, 2002

Jeff Makin, "Roses all the way", Herald Sun, 4 February 2002

Susan McCulloch-Uehlin, "Packing art and leaving home", The Weekend Australian, 2 June 2001

"Docklands is out on a limb for art", Melbourne Yarra Leader, 12 February 2001

Jeff Makin, "Suspended animation", Herald Sun, 20 November 2000

Robert Nelson, "Shock of the moo", The Age, 8 November 2000

Anna Clabburn, "Stripes and squares animate landscape carnival", The Australian, 10 November 2000

"John Kelly dans le cadre des Champs de la Sculpture 2000", press book, comprehensive collation of international media coverage, Agence Hymann, Renault Associees, Paris, 2000

"John Kelly L'Australie Aux Champs", Connaissance Des Arts, No 561, May 1999

"Kelly: London to Brighton", Artlink, volume 18, No. 4, 1998

"The weekend's best: Art", The Age, 28 November 1998

Susan McCulloch, "Metaphorically Phar-fetched", The Australian, 4 November 1997

Andrew Block, "Cudding Edge", Herald Sun, 1 March 1996

Anna Clabburn, Asian Art News (Australian Supplement), May 1995

Robert Nelson, "Moet has depth and seduction", The Age, 4 January 1995

Chris Johnston, "Painting a cows tale", Western Independent, Melbourne

Openline, RMIT "John Storey winner milks memories of wartime cows", RMIT University, 16 June 1993

Anna Clabburn, "Laughing at national sacred cows", The Melbourne Times, 23 June 1993

Alison Barclay, "Cow of a job for a talented artist", Herald Sun, 8 June 1993

Gary Catalano, The Age, 17 February 1988

WRITINGS BY THE ARTIST

"The Garden Shed", Visual Arts News, November-December 2011

"PAN DEMON i UM: The Goteborg International Biennale of Contemporary Art", www.recirca.com, September 2011

"Artist and the State and the State of the Arts", www.papervisual.com, September 2011

“Art, Branding and Camouflage Cows”, [The Art Life](#), August 2011
“The Golden Thread: Hany Armanious at the Venice Biennale”, [The Art Life](#), July 2011
“Memory Places”, [Art Monthly Australia](#), April 2011
“Flying High I & II: Airplane, the Terminal Convention and Sirium Matters”, [The Art Life](#), February 2011
“Close Examination, Fakes, Mistakes and Rey Mysterio – A year in review”, [The Art Life](#), December 2010
“William Dobell, An artist’s life, Book review”, [Art Monthly Australia](#), November 2010
“The Caretaker and the Guesthouse”, [The Art Life](#), June 2010
“Thingamajig, the secret life of objects”, [The Art Life](#), May 2010
“From Melbourne to Monaco (via Princess Grace boulevard)”, [The Art Life](#), April 2010
“Bacon ‘n’ Eggs”, [Art Monthly Australia](#), March 2010
“Letter from an Australian”, originally published in [Art Monthly](#), Issue No 322, December 2009/January 2010, p 38
“Not exactly about cricket”, [The Art Life](#), 2009
“On the beach – a letter from Nice”, [Recirca.com](#), 2009
“Grin and bear it”, [Circa magazine](#), Ireland, Summer 2009
“Is that your dog”, A Biennale Romance, [www.recirca.com](#), 2009
“The Beauty of Distance”, [Art Monthly Australia](#), July 2009
“Prayer for the Potato Crop”, [Art Monthly Australia](#), March 2009
“First Past the Post-Colonial”, [Art Monthly Australia](#), November 2008
“The impossibility for shopping in the mind of a stuffed d’oh eyed panda”, [Circa magazine](#), Winter edition Ireland, 2008
“Sean Lynch”, [Circa magazine](#), Ireland 2008 Summer edition
“Wotif, Wotif...”, [The Artlife](#), 2008
“An Open Letter From John Kelly to the PM”, [The Art Life blogspot](#), 2008
“The spectacle of expectation in public”, [Recirca.com](#), 2008
“If I were you I wouldn’t start from here – The way things go”, [Recirca.com](#), 2008
“Making a meal of sculpture”, [Recirca.com](#), 2008
“In advance of the Crawford open”, [Recirca.com](#), 2007