

AUSTRALIAN GALLERIES

RODNEY FORBES

Born 1951, Melbourne, Australia

1997-99	Master of Arts, Fine Art (by research), Faculty of Art and Design, Monash University, Melbourne
1980-82	Diploma Arts (Visual Arts), Gippsland Institute of Advanced Education, Gippsland, VIC
1983	Graduate Diploma (Visual Arts), Gippsland Institute of Advanced Education, Gippsland, VIC
1995- 2008	Lecturer in Visual Arts, Gippsland Centre for Art and Design, Faculty of Art and Design, Monash University, Melbourne
2007-2008	Acting Head, Gippsland Centre for Art and Design, Faculty of Art and Design, Monash University, Melbourne
2008-2013	Director, Gippsland Centre for Art and Design, Faculty of Art and Design, Monash University, Melbourne
2014-2015	Director, Gippsland Centre for Art and Design, Faculty of Arts and Education, Federation University Australia
2015 – present	Adjunct Research Fellow, Institute of Education, Arts and Community, Federation University Australia

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2025	Australian Galleries, Melbourne, 'Reasons to Be Cheerful'
	Glenn Green Galleries, New Mexico, USA, 'LOVE & WORK'
2023	Australian Galleries, Melbourne, 'Too True to Be Good'
2022	Glenn Green Galleries, New Mexico, USA, 'Signs & Wonders'
2021	Australian Galleries, Melbourne, 'Once is Lucky, 3 Times a Charm'
	Gippsland Art Gallery, Sale, VIC, 'Rodney Forbes: In My Life'
2019	Australian Galleries, Melbourne, 'CHOICE LANGUAGE'
2017	Australian Galleries, Melbourne, 'THE SEA, THE SEA'
	Glenn Green Galleries, Santa Fe, USA, 'Art from Down Under: Paintings by Rodney Forbes'
2015	Arc Yinnar, Yinnar, VIC, 'The Lost White Woman of Gippsland'
	Gippsland Art Gallery, Sale, VIC, 'The Lost White Woman of Gippsland'
2014	Australian Galleries, Derby Street, Melbourne, 'Lohan-Tuka: The Lost White Woman of Gippsland'
2012	Australian Galleries, Derby Street, Melbourne, 'No coyotes no roadrunners'
2011	Gippsland Gallery, Sale, VIC, 'Kids Cube: Rodney Forbes, 'Tellers and Listeners''
2010	Australian Galleries, Derby Street, Melbourne, 'Breathe'
2008	Australian Galleries Painting & Sculpture, Melbourne, 'Slow Painting'
2007	Australian Galleries Painting & Sculpture, Sydney, 'Dumb tidings'
2006	Latrobe Regional Gallery, Morwell, VIC, 'Rodney Forbes: 1995 – 2005'
	Australian Galleries Painting & Sculpture, Melbourne, 'Two rivers'
2004	Australian Galleries, Melbourne, 'When you're a boy'
2002	Australian Galleries, Melbourne, 'Rocket Science'
2001	Australian Galleries, Melbourne, 'More songs about dancing and horses'
2000	Faculty Gallery, Faculty of Art and Design, Monash University, Melbourne, Masters Research Exhibition
1998	Australian Galleries, Melbourne, 'Like Ice, Like Fire'

1995	Australian Galleries, Melbourne, 'Recent paintings'
1994	Australian Galleries, Melbourne. 'Recent paintings'
	Latrobe Regional Gallery, Morwell, VIC; touring to Mornington, VIC; Mildura, VIC and Wangaratta, VIC, 'Rodney Forbes; Paintings 1983-1993' (survey exhibition)
1992	Australian Galleries, Melbourne, 'Recent paintings'
1991	Australian Galleries, Melbourne, 'Recent paintings'
1989	Australian Galleries, Melbourne, 'Paintings and Drawings'
1987	Latrobe Valley Arts Centre, Morwell, VIC, 'Out of the Bay and Into the Valley'

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2026	Australian Galleries, Melbourne, 'Australian Galleries Celebrates 70 Years: 1956 – 2026 Group Exhibition'
2025	Australian Galleries, Melbourne 'Life' with Glenn Morgan Latrobe Regional Gallery, Morwell VIC, 'C is for Clowning', curated by Dr Tony Hanning
2022	Cleland Bond Store, Sydney, Gallipoli Art Prize (finalist) Latrobe Regional Gallery, Morwell, VIC, 'Fellow Travellers'
2020	Mission to Seafarers, Melbourne, Maritime Art Awards and Exhibition Australian Galleries, Melbourne, 'Chronicles' Gippsland Art Gallery, Sale, VIC, 'Stories from the Collection'
2019	Australian Galleries, Melbourne 'Australian Galleries: The Purves Family Business. The First Four Decades', Book Launch and Group Exhibition Mission to Seafarers, Melbourne, 'Annual ANL Maritime Art Awards & Exhibition' Australian Galleries, Melbourne, 'papermade'
2018	New England Regional Art Museum, Sydney, 'Eventide' Jerry Crail Johnson Earth Sciences and Map Library, University of Colorado, Colorado, USA, 'Mapping Home: Collecting Truths'
2017	Mission to Seafarers, Melbourne, Maritime Art Awards Gippsland Art Gallery, Sale, Gippsland Print Award Switchback Gallery, Federation University, Ballarat, VIC, 'REFRACTION: Gippsland Centre for Art and Design Alumni'
2016	Mission to Seafarers, Melbourne, Maritime Art Awards Finalists Murray Art Museum, Albury, NSW, 'SPEED' Burris Hall Gallery, part of the "Print, Printed, Printing" Bi-Annual Symposium, Highlands University, Las Vegas, New Mexico, USA, 'Imagined Place Map' Mornington Peninsula Regional Gallery, Mornington Peninsula, VIC, 'Eventide – Print Exchange'
2014	Latrobe Regional Gallery, Morwell, VIC, 'Beloved Beastie' Australian Galleries, Derby Street, Melbourne, 'one of each' Latrobe Regional Gallery, Morwell, Victoria, 'The Sound of Shadows' Post Office Gallery, Ballarat, Victoria, 'SCOPE: Federation University Art Academy Artists' King Family Exhibition Space, University of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado, USA, 'Animal mothers within'
2013	Cowwarr Art Space, Cowwarr, Victoria, 'A Tree for All' Gippsland Gallery, Sale, Victoria, 'Australian Modernism' Latrobe Regional Gallery, Morwell, Victoria, 'Semblance' Gecko Gallery, Fish Creek, Victoria, 'Something for Kate' Switchback Gallery, Monash University, Gippsland, Victoria, 'Electric Valley Studios 2' Latrobe Regional Gallery, Morwell, Victoria, 'Laugh Out Loud' Geelong Gallery, Geelong, Victoria, 'Corporeality'

	Switchback Gallery, Monash University, Gippsland, Victoria, 'Exchanging Story through the printed Surface'
	King Family Exhibition Space, University of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado, USA, 'Exchanging Story through the printed Surface'
2013	Australian Galleries, Smith Street, Melbourne, 'Works from the Stock Rooms'
2012-13	Australian Galleries, Derby Street, Melbourne, 'Summer Stock Show'
2012	Switchback Gallery, Monash University, Gippsland, Victoria, 'Freak of Nature'
2011	Australian Galleries, Royston Street, Sydney, 'large exhibition of small works'
	Australian Galleries, Derby Street, Melbourne, 'large exhibition of small works'
	Gippsland Gallery, Sale, 'Kid's cube: Rodney Forbes, Tellers and Listeners'
	Albury Art Gallery, Albury, NSW, 'On your mark, get set, go!'
	Switchback Gallery, Monash University and King Family exhibition space, Colorado University, Boulder, USA, 'Freak of nature'
	St Helier's Galley, The Convent, Melbourne, 'Nether Regions', curated by Rona Green
2010	Australian Galleries, Smith Street, Melbourne, 'Artists' Prints made with Integrity I'
	Sydney Children's Hospital Foundation, Sydney, 'Once upon a picture'
	Arc Yinnar Gallery, Gippsland, VIC, 'Prints from Gippsland'
	Geelong Gallery, Geelong, VIC, '52 Print exchange', curated by Rona Green
2009-10	Australian Galleries, Derby Street, Melbourne, 'Summer Stock Show'
2009	Switchback Gallery, Monash University, Churchill, VIC, 'Dancing made a man out of me ii'
	Switchback Gallery, Monash University, Churchill, VIC, 'The Body'
2008	Latrobe Regional Gallery, Faculty Gallery, Monash University, Caulfield, VIC, 'Magistery'
2007	Switchback Gallery, Monash University, Melbourne, 'Electric Valley Studios'
	Australian Galleries Painting & Sculpture, Melbourne, 'Summer Stock Show'
	Australian Galleries Painting & Sculpture, Melbourne, 'Small Pleasures'
	Australian Galleries Painting & Sculpture, Melbourne, 'Stock Show'
2006	Albury Art Gallery, Albury, NSW, 'Round and Round and Round and Round'
	Australian Galleries Painting & Sculpture, Melbourne, 'Stock Show'
	Australian Galleries, Melbourne, '50 th Anniversary Exhibition', 5 th June
2005	Fox Studios and State Library of New South Wales, Sydney, Jacques Cadry Memorial Art Prize (finalist)
2004	Switchback Gallery, Monash University, Churchill, VIC, '24 hour love presented by Clubs in the Pines'
	Latrobe Regional Gallery, Morwell, VIC, 'The FOUND Project'
	Australian Galleries, Melbourne, 'Group exhibition'
2003	Latrobe Regional Gallery, Morwell, VIC, 'Energy to burn'
2002	Switchback Gallery, Monash University, Churchill, VIC, 'Jon Campbell's Rock the Boat'
2001	Switchback Gallery, Monash University, Churchill, VIC, 'Ecstasy and the pleasure of collecting'
2000	Australian Galleries stand, Melbourne, Australian Contemporary Art Fair
	Switchback Gallery, Monash University, Churchill, VIC, 'Dancing Made a Man Out of Me'
1999	Switchback Gallery, Monash University, Churchill, VIC, 'Art at the Centre'
1998	Australian Galleries, Melbourne, 'Fine Paintings and Sculpture'
	Switchback Gallery, Monash University, Churchill, VIC, 'Art at the Centre'
1997	Cowwarr Art Space, Cowwarr, VIC, 'Rodney Forbes, William Young, Rodney Scherer and Clive Murray-White at Cowwarr Art Space'
	Latrobe Regional Gallery, Morwell, VIC, 'Revealing Art'
	Cowwarr Art Space, Cowwarr, VIC, 'Images of Energy'
	Latrobe Regional Gallery, Morwell, VIC, 'Figurative Forces'

1996	Latrobe Regional Gallery, Morwell, VIC, 'The Incident'
1995	Australian Galleries, Sydney, 'Comedie Humaine'
1994	Westspace, Melbourne, 'A4 Art'
1993	S.H. Ervin Gallery, Sydney, 'On the Other Hand'
1991	Touring exhibition: Latrobe Valley Arts Centre, Morwell, VIC; Linden Gallery, Melbourne, 'Indo-Eco'
1990	Touring exhibition: Latrobe Valley Arts Centre, Morwell, VIC; touring to Shepparton, VIC; Wagga Wagga, NSW; Mildura, VIC; Gold Coast, QLD; Townsville, QLD; Lismore, NSW; Broken Hill, NSW; Mt. Gambier, SA; University of South Australia Art Museum, SA; Monash University Gallery, VIC, 'Contemporary Gippsland Artists'
1989	Latrobe Regional Gallery, Morwell, VIC, 'Art and Work'
1988	Print Council of Australia Bicentennial touring exhibition, Australia, '100 x100 Portfolio'
1986	Australian Galleries, Melbourne, 'Six Artists' Switchback Gallery, Monash University, Churchill, VIC, 'Lost Memories and Empty Glasses: John Campbell, Rodney Forbes, Stewart MacFarlane'
1985	Australian Galleries, Melbourne, 'Seven Artists'
1984	Victorian Ministry for the Arts, Melbourne, 'Regional Artists-I, Gippsland'

AWARDS

2023	The Mission to Seafarers, Docklands, VIC, Maritime Art Prize (Finalist)
2022	Cleland Bond Store, Sydney, Gallipoli Art Prize (finalist)
2020	Mission to Seafarers, Melbourne, Maritime Art Prize (winner)
2017	Mission to Seafarers, Melbourne, Maritime Art Awards (finalist) Gippsland Art Gallery, Sale, Gippsland Print Award (finalist)
2006	Monash Research Grant, Melbourne
2005	Monash Research Grant, Melbourne
2002	Monash Research Grant, Melbourne
2001	Monash Research Grant, Melbourne
1991	Latrobe Regional Arts Board, Travel Grant, Morwell, VIC
1990	Latrobe Regional Arts Board, Travel Grant, Morwell, VIC Australia Council Visual Arts and Crafts Board, Artist's Development Grant

COLLECTIONS

Artbank, Sydney
 Albury Regional Gallery, Albury, NSW
 Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
 Australian National Gallery, Canberra (Folio)
 Australian National Gallery, Canberra (Wearable Art Collection)
 Blake Dawson Waldron, Melbourne
 Box Hill Municipal Collection, Box Hill, VIC
 Buxton Collection, Melbourne
 Carl N. Gorman Museum, University of California, USA
 City of Whitehorse, VIC
 Federation University, VIC
 Freehill, Hollingdale & Page, Melbourne
 Geelong Gallery, Geelong, VIC
 Gippsland Art Gallery, Sale, VIC
 GTV9, Melbourne
 Law Institute of Victoria, Melbourne

Latrobe Regional Gallery, Morwell, VIC
Latrobe Regional Arts Board, Morwell, VIC
Lefebvre Collection, Sydney
MAB Corporation, Melbourne
Monash University, Gippsland Campus, VIC
Mornington Peninsula Regional Gallery
Murray Art Museum Albury, Albury NSW
Museum of Texas Tech University, Lubbock, USA
Perth Institute of Contemporary Arts, Perth
Print Council of Australia, Melbourne
Sydney Children's Hospital, Sydney
University of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado, USA
Private Collections Australia and Internationally

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Art and Australia, exhibition commentary, Spring 1991
Art Monthly Australia, "Art notes", work illustrated *Whistling in the Dark*, December – February 2009
Bendle, Lawrence and Hansen, David; "Middle Earth", Green Triangle Galleries Association, Adelaide, 1984
Bensley, Karen and Hansen, David; "Contemporary Gippsland Artists", Latrobe Valley Arts Centre, VIC, 1990
Blensdorf, Jan; "Come to the Fair", OZ ARTS, no.3, 1992
Coventry, Donald; "The October Show", Latrobe Valley Arts Centre, 1988
Craft Arts International, no. 25, 1992
Directory 1988: Australian Artists Producing Prints, Print Council of Australia, 1988
Duffy, Gabriella; "50 Years/50 Artists", Latrobe Regional Gallery, 2021
Durre, Caroline; "More songs about dancing and horses", catalogue essay, Australian Galleries, Melbourne, 2001
Duxbury, Lesley; "100 x100 Portfolio", Print Council of Australia, 1988
Educational Quarterly, cover, October 1992
Field, Caroline; "Everyday Surrealism, Rodney Forbes: In My Life", catalogue essay, Gippsland Art Gallery, Sale, 2021
Field, Caroline; "Slow painting: Rodney Forbes", catalogue essay, Australian Galleries, Melbourne, 2008
Field, Caroline; "Everyday Surrealism", Gippsland Art Gallery, 2021
Regional Gallery, Morwell, VIC, 2013
Germaine, Max; "Artists and Galleries of Australia", 1992
Gregg, Simon; Hindsight: Gippsland Art Gallery History and Collections 1965-2015, pp. 273-4
Gregg, Simon; 'Spirits in the Bush: The Art of Gippsland', 2019
Gregg, Simon; 'Printmaking in the Collection' Gippsland Art Gallery, 2020
Hammond, Victoria; "When you're a boy", catalogue essay, Australian Galleries, Melbourne, 2004
Hansen, David; "Red pills: Jon Cattapan's neo-urbanism", Art Monthly Australia, Issue #191, July 2006, p. 9
Hansen, David; "Wild at Art", The Age, sightlines critical guide, 15th September 2006, p. 19
Hansen, David; "The Breath of Memory", catalogue essay, Latrobe Valley Arts Centre, VIC, 1994
Heynatz, Jeannie; "Birth of a new artform", Latrobe Valley Express, 1987
Hill, Peter; "Finding ways out of a tight squeeze", review, The Age, 19 September 1990
Homes, Emma; "A Painter of Warmth and Light", Gippsland Magazine, Spring 1994
"Jon Campbell's Rock the Boat", Switchback Gallery, Monash University, Churchill, VIC, 2002
Millar, Ronald; "Through the Looking Glass", review, Melbourne Herald, 15 August 1989
Nelson, Robert; "Artist toys with a cute naive style", review, The Age, 3 August 2002

Nelson, Robert; "Ballroom dancing according to a contented misfit", exhibition catalogue, Switchback Gallery, Monash University, Churchill, VIC, 2000
 "Nightshades", a play by Jeannie Haughton in 2019
 Nott, Michael; "Artsafe: First Steps", video Melbourne University Department of Pharmacology, Melbourne, 1990
 Ollis, Bernard; "Comedie Humaine", catalogue essay, Australian Galleries, Sydney, 1995
 "On the Other Hand", S.H. Ervin Gallery, Sydney, 1993
 "Our stories: McMillan's Stick", NITV, September 2018
 "Regional Artists – I", Gippsland Victorian Ministry for the Arts, Melbourne, 1984
 Rosewarne, Julie; "Revealing Art", education kit, Latrobe Regional Gallery, 1997
 Scherer, Rodney; "Art and Work", Latrobe Valley Arts Centre, 1989
 Shackleton, Nerida; "Rodney Forbes: Like Fire Like Ice", The Age, 23 November 1998
The Age Good Weekend Magazine, 14 March 1992
 "The Found Project", exhibition catalogue, Latrobe Regional Gallery, Morwell, VIC, 2004
 Thorp, David; "Rodney Forbes: Paintings and Drawings", Switchback Gallery, Gippsland Institute of Advanced Education, 1984
 Webb, Penny; "Printmakers Putting Bodies on The Line", The Age, review p 42, 08 March 2013
 "24 Hour Love presented by Clubs in the Pines", CLUBS project, Melbourne and Gippsland Centre for Art and Design, collaborative zine, 2004

ARTICLES & ESSAYS WRITTEN BY RODNEY FORBES

Forbes, Rodney; "A Painter of Work, Light and Love", exhibition catalogue in *The Big Picture: The Art of Bill Young*, Latrobe Regional Gallery, Morwell, VIC, 2021
 Forbes, Rodney; "Ho Chi Minh: My Part in his Victory", *Laugh Out Loud*, Latrobe Regional Gallery
 Forbes, Rodney; 'Lohan-Tuka: The Lost White Woman of Gippsland', catalogue essay, Australian Galleries, Melbourne, 2014
 Forbes, Rodney; "Irene Ridgeway: Just for the record", Imprint, Spring 2010, p. 31
 Forbes, Rodney; "Flash as a rat with a gold tooth: Rona Green's strange familiars", Imprint, Autumn 2012, p. 12
 Forbes, Rodney; "Saving our skins", catalogue essay for Rona Green, 'Obliquity', Latrobe Regional Gallery, VIC, 2009
 Forbes, Rodney; "THE BODY", catalogue essay for 'THE BODY' exhibition, Switchback Gallery, Monash University, Melbourne, 2009
 Forbes, Rodney; "Printmaking in the Gippsland Centre for Art and Design, Monash, Gippsland", Imprint, Summer 2008, p. 9
 Forbes, Rodney; 'Listening for Treasure', catalogue essay in *Rodney Forbes 1995-2005*, Latrobe Regional Gallery, Latrobe City, VIC, 2006
 Forbes, Rodney; "Flow", Latrobe Regional Gallery, Morwell, VIC, 1999

EXHIBITIONS CURATED BY RODNEY FORBES

2015	"Jennifer Murray: Hyperborean Tales", Switchback Gallery, Federation University, VIC "Lorry Wedding Marchioro: Reality is merely an illusion, albeit a very persistent one", Switchback Gallery, Federation University, VIC
2014	"When All the Rivers Run", works by Indigenous artists from Gippsland and Albury Regions and friends, co-curated with Robyn Heckenberg "FLYING", a trans-national cross-cultural print exchange, Switchback Gallery, Federation University, VIC "Neale Stratford: Tilting at Windmills", Switchback Gallery, Federation University, VIC

- 2013 “Rhonda Ayliffe Codex infinitum – the infinite book”, Switchback Gallery, Monash University, Gippsland, VIC
 “Footprints to Koorie Higher Education”, Switchback Gallery, Monash University, Gippsland, VIC
 “ELECTRIC VALLEY STUDIOS 2”, Switchback Gallery, Monash University, Gippsland, VIC
 “Cheri O’Donnell: Don’t stare so Romantically”, Switchback Gallery, Monash University, Gippsland, VIC
 “Fiona West: Souvenirs of Self”, Switchback Gallery, Monash University, Gippsland, VIC
 “Exchanging Story: connecting through the printed surface”. Switchback Gallery, Monash University, Gippsland, VIC
 “Exchanging Story: connecting through the printed surface”. King Family Exhibition Space, University of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado, USA
- 2012 “Zahidah”, paintings by UAE-based Syrian artist Zahidah Millie, Switchback Gallery, Monash University, Churchill, VIC
 Kim McDonald, “Zone of sensation”, installation, Switchback Gallery, Monash University, Churchill, VIC
 “Land to Light: Artists’ diary photos (with Charles Farrugia)”, Switchback Gallery, Monash University, Churchill, VIC
- 2011 Catherine Laudenbach, “Please be Careful”, Switchback Gallery, Monash University, Churchill, VIC
 Natalie Ryan, “End Stage”, Switchback Gallery, Monash University, Churchill, VIC
 “Bridging the Gap: works by the Mainstreet Group”, Switchback Gallery, Monash University, Churchill, VIC
 Erica Tandori, “Landscape and Desire”, Switchback Gallery, Monash University, Churchill, VIC
 Charles Farrugia, “micromirror 71”, Switchback Gallery, Monash University, Churchill, VIC
- 2010 Rona Green, “12 Crack Men”, Switchback Gallery, Monash University, Churchill, VIC
 “Koori Footprints to Higher Education”, (co-curated with Kate Zizys), Switchback Gallery, Monash University, Churchill, VIC
- 2009 “Dancing made a man out of me ii”, Switchback Gallery, Monash University, Churchill, VIC
 “The Body”, Switchback Gallery, Monash University, Churchill, VIC
- 2007 “Electric Valley Studios”, Switchback Gallery, Monash University, Churchill, VIC
 Alison Alder, “Out there and outback: Narratives of place, post Drysdale and Nolan”, Switchback Gallery, Monash University, Churchill, VIC
 Brenda Runnegar, “Landscapes of Desire and Melancholy”, Switchback Gallery, Monash University, Churchill, VIC
 “bubbles on the surface II” (co-curator), Switchback Gallery, Monash University, Churchill, VIC
 “Smalls”, videos by Samantha Cashman, Switchback Gallery, Monash University, Churchill, VIC
- 2000 “Dancing Made a Man Out of Me”, (co-curated with Mark McDean), Switchback Gallery, Monash University, Churchill, VIC
- 1990 Tim Jones, Switchback Gallery, Monash University, Churchill, VIC
 Jon Campbell, “Spaced out and driving forever”, Switchback Gallery, Monash University, Churchill, Victoria