



July 2018

## Michael Simms

### Artist Statement

Michael Simms is fascinated by the transient nature of existence, and the role portraiture plays in creating a vestige of a life - particularly in our modern world where we are exposed to an unprecedented amount of highly manufactured images of faces.

His realistic portraits aim to capture qualities in his sitters that aren't immediately apparent, delving into their psyche to reveal hidden truths. As well portraiture, Michael is interested in exploring our anxieties surrounding death and how this can inform our behaviours as well as our fragile relationship with the environment.

### Bio

Michael Simms is an award-winning artist based in Sydney. Growing up in Adelaide, he studied psychology and film at Flinders University before moving to NSW and winning a scholarship to study at the Julian Ashton Art School. Since then, Michael has brought together his interest in human behaviour and classical fine art to reveal hidden truths in his subjects and society.

In 2016, Michael was the winner of the Cambridge Studio Gallery Portrait Prize, and has been a finalist in several major awards including the Black Swan Prize for Portraiture, the Emerging Artists Awards, the Calleen Art Awards, the Percival Tucker Portrait Prize and the Contemporary Art Awards. Notable Australians who have sat for Michael include Thomas Keneally, Liz Ellis, Genevieve Lemon and Paul Capsis.

# Stanley Street gallery

## CV

### EDUCATION

2011 - 2014 Diploma of Fine Arts, The Julian Ashton Art School, Sydney (Recipient of the Sydney Mechanics School of Art Scholarship)

2006 - 2011 Bachelor of Behavioural Science and Bachelor of Arts, Flinders University, Adelaide

### AWARDS AND PRIZES

2016 Black Swan Prize for Portraiture, Art Gallery of Western Australia, Perth – Finalist

Emerging Artist Award, Fortyfivedownstairs, Melbourne – Finalist

Cliftons Art Prize, Cliftons Sydney – Finalist

Who Is Looking At You Portrait Prize, Cambridge Studio Gallery, Melbourne - Winner

Percival Tucker Portrait Prize, Perc Tucker Regional Gallery, Townsville - Finalist

Blacktown Art Prize, Blacktown Arts Centre, Sydney - Finalist

Marie Ellis Drawing Prize, Jugglers Art Space, Brisbane – Finalist

Calleen Art Award, Cowra Regional Art Gallery, Cowra - Finalist Contemporary Art Awards, Brisbane - Finalist

ArtWorld Studio Portrait Prize, ArtWorld Studio Gallery, Brisbane - Highly Commended

2015 Contemporary Art Awards, Brisbane - Finalist

Who Is Looking At You Portrait Prize, Cambridge Studio Gallery, Melbourne - Highly Commended

2013 Richard and Wenda Ashton Art Prize - Winner

Sydney Mechanics School of Art Full-time Scholarship for The Julian Ashton Art School - Winner

2011 Recipient of the Chancellor's Commendation at Flinders University

### SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2016 Reverie, ArtWorld Studio Gallery, Brisbane

### SELECT GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2016 Mythos, The Depot II Gallery, Sydney

Medley, The Depot Gallery, Sydney

Uncovered, Project [504], St Leonards, Sydney

2015 Vision, M2 Gallery, Surry Hills, Sydney

### PUBLICATIONS AND MEDIA

- Rees, J. 2016. Contemporary Art Awards: Finalist Exhibition 2015. 23 January-23 June 2016, Contemporary Art Awards, Brisbane, Queensland.
- Sydney Artist Paints Westmead Doctors in New Light, Western Sydney Local Health District News, 19 January 2016.
- People Person Paints Portrait, Parramatta Sun, 27 January 2016.