MARGARET ACKLAND

September, 2025

A four times Archibald finalist, Margaret Ackland is renowned for her expressive and vibrant use of colour. She won the Portia Geach Portrait Prize in 1988 and has been selected for the Portia Geach Prize 11 times, winning the People's Choice Award in 2021.

Education

2004-08	Painting & Drawing	Sydney Gallery School, TAFE
1995-03	PT Teaching	Fine Arts and Visual Arts certificates
	TAFE	Coffs Harbour, (painting, drawing, printmaking)
1985	Sydney Morning Herald Travelling Scholarship	Europe, UK
1977	Dip Ed	Sydney Teachers College
1973-1976	National Art School	Sydney

Solo exhibitions

2024	Lifelines	Flinders Lane Gallery, Melbourne, VIC
2023	Tipping Point	Stanley Street Gallery, Darlinghurst, NSW
2022	Balancing Act	Flinders Lane Gallery, Melbourne, VIC
2021	Seeing Things	Flinders Lane Gallery Online
2020	Social Distancing	Flinders Lane Gallery Online
2018	Present Tense	Flinders Lane Gallery, Melbourne, VIC
2016	The Watercolour News	Gippsland Art Gallery, Sale, VIC
2015	The Watercolour News	Flinders Lane Gallery, Melbourne, VIC
2013	Vestiges	Flinders Lane Gallery, Melbourne, VIC
2011	Histories	Flinders Lane Gallery, Melbourne, VIC
2009	Momentos	Flinders Lane Gallery, Melbourne, VIC
2008	Wagner Gallery	Sydney, NSW
2007	John Gordon Gallery	Coffs Harbour, NSW
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	John Gordon Gallery	Coffs Harbour, NSW
2005	Brisbane Art Fair	Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre, QLD
	John Gordon Gallery	Coffs Harbour, NSW
2004	Wagner Gallery	Sydney, NSW

2003	Lake Russell Gallery	Emerald Beach, NSW
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2001	Wagner Gallery	Sydney, NSW
1999	Lake Russell Gallery	Emerald Beach, NSW
	Von Bertouch Gallery	Newcastle, NSW
1998	Wagner Gallery	Sydney, NSW
1997	Delmar Gallery	Ashfield, NSW
1996	Wagner Gallery	Sydney, NSW
	Lake Russell Gallery	Emerald Beach, NSW
1995	Wagner Gallery	Sydney, NSW
	Lake Russell Gallery	Emerald Beach, NSW
1994	Wagner Gallery	Sydney, NSW
1991	Wagner Gallery	Sydney, NSW
	Delmar Gallery	Ashfield, NSW
1990	Wagner Gallery	Sydney, NSW
1988	Wagner Gallery	Sydney, NSW
1985	Wagner Gallery	Sydney, NSW

Group exhibitions

2023	Lives of Their Own	Flinders Lane Gallery, Melbourne, VIC
2020	STILL	Flinders Lane Gallery, Melbourne, VIC
2019	30 x 30	Flinders Lane Gallery, Melbourne VIC
2018	Little Things art Prize	St Cloche Gallery, Paddington
2017	Out of Line	May Space, Sydney
2015	Off Road	Flinders Lane Gallery, Melbourne, VIC
2014	Celebrating 25 Years	Flinders Lane Gallery, Melbourne, VIC
	The Portrait Show	Flinders Lane Gallery, Melbourne, VIC
2012	Not the Way Home | 13 Artists Paint the Desert	S.H. Ervin Gallery, Sydney, NSW
	Buratti Fine Art	Perth, WA
	Fowlers Gap: 13 Artists Paint the Desert	Stella Downer Fine Art, Sydney, NSW
2011	Catharsis, Tragedy and Restoration in Afghanistan	The Centre for Contemporary Art Afghanistan, Kabul
2010	The Eutick Memorial Still Life Award (EMSLA)	Coffs Harbour Regional Gallery, NSW (touring)
2009	Treasures	Flinders Lane Gallery, Melbourne, VIC
	20 plus: the sum of us	Flinders Lane Gallery, Melobourne, VIC
2008	Schubert Contemporary Galleries	Gold Coast, QLD

	Figure Show	Taylor Galleries, Summer Hill, NSW
	Dog Show	A-Space on Cleveland, Sydney
2007	Schubert Contemporary Galleries	Gold Coast, QLD
	Sydney Harbour: Seldom Scene	Mitchell Library, Sydney, NSW
	First Contact Contemporary Drawing	A-Space on Cleveland, Sydney
	Dog Show	A-Space on Cleveland, Sydney
	Come Hither: Interpretations of the Boudoir	Wagga Wagga Art Gallery, NSW
	Still Life	Taylor Galleries, Summer Hill, NSW
2006	Schubert Contemporary Galleries	Gold Coast, QLD
	Flourish	John Gordon Gallery, Coffs Harbour, NSW
	PRAXIS	Parramatta Heritage Centre, NSW
	Five Still Life Artists	Taylor Galleries, Summer Hill, NSW
2003	The Studio Tradition	Coffs Harbour City Gallery, NSW
2001	Our Place	Coffs Harbour City Gallery, NSW
1998	Out of Australia	Australian Contemporary Painting, Shanghai
1993	Observing Sydney	S.H. Ervin Gallery, Millers Point, NSW

Awards and achievements

2024	Finalist	Portia Geach Portrait Prize
2023	Finalist	Portia Geach Portrait Prize
	Finalist	The Hazelhurst Art on Paper Award, Hazelhurst Art Centre, NSW
	Winner, People's Choice Award	The Hazelhurst Art on Paper Award
2022	Finalist	Portia Geach Portrait Prize
	Semi-Finalist	Doug Moran National Portrait Prize
2021	Winner, People's Choice Award	Portia Geach Portrait prize
	Finalist	Hazelhurst Works on Paper
	Finalist	Portia Geach Portrait Prize
2020	Finalist	Salon des Refusés, NSW
	Finalist	The Hazelhurst Art on Paper Award, Hazelhurst Art Centre, NSW
2019	Finalist	Ravenswood Australian Women's Art Prize
	Finalist	Hazelhurst Works on Paper
2014	Finalist	Gallipoli Art Prize
2012	Finalist	61st Blake Prize
2010	The Eutick Memorial Still Life Award	Coffs Harbour Regional Gallery

2008	Blake Prize	Touring Show
2007	Blake Prize	National Art School Gallery, Sydney
2006	Redlands Westpac Art Prize	(curated by Stella Downer)
2004	Portia Geach Portrait Prize	S H Ervin Gallery
2004	Finalist, Portia Geach Portrait Prize	S H Ervin Gallery NSW
1994	Finalist, Blake Prize	Blaxland Gallery and touring exhibition
1993	Uniting Church Last Supper Project	
1992	Salon de Refuse	S.H. Ervin Gallery, Millers Point, NSW
1992	Winner	North Sydney Art Prize, R.A.S. Modern Figurative
1991	2nd place	R.A.S. Portrait Prize
1988	Winner	Portia Geach Portrait Prize
	Finalist	Archibald Prize Exhibition, A.G.N.S.W.
1987	Highly Commended	Portia Geach Portrait Prize
	Finalist	Archibald Prize Exhibition, A.G.N.S.W.
1986	Commended	Portia Geach Portrait Prize
	Finalist	Archibald Prize Exhibition, A.G.N.S.W.
1985	Commended	Portia Geach Portrait Prize
1984	Sydney Morning Herald Traveling Scholarship	
	Commended	Portia Geach Portrait Prize
	3rd place	Queen Victoria Art Prize
1983	Finalist	Archibald Prize Exhibition, A.G.N.S.W.

Collections

Intercontinental Hotel, Doha Bangladesh; Artbank; Christ Church St Laurence; Deakin University, Holmes a Court, Mitchell Library, Sydney; Pharmacy Guild of Australia; Phillips Fox; Scotts College; Sydney Grammar School; Trinity Grammar School; Uniting Church of Australia; University of Sydney; Willoughby Library and private collections in Australia and overseas.

Reviews and publicity

2023 'The Big Book of Little Art Essays', Flinders Lane Gallery
2023 Art Almanac, 'Flowers, Abstraction, Landscape', Dr Judith Pugh
2022 Art Almanac
2012 Artist Profile Magazine. Not The Way Home. Issue 18
2011 Rosemary Crumlin, The Blake Book. MacMillan. pp.193,204
2009 Author, Title, Art Monthly, October
2008 Author, Title, Sydney Magazine, Sydney Morning Herald
Author, Title, Elle Italia, Spring
Compass, ABC Television, 1 June
2007 Author, Seldom Scene, Mitchell Library
2006 Katrina Lobley, 'Events', Sydney Morning Herald, 29 June
Sunanda Creagh, Open Gallery, Sydney Morning Herald, 1 June
D.W. Thorpe, Who's Who of Australian Visual Artists, publisher, 2nd edition
1994 Susan McCulloch, Australian Art Encyclopedia, Allen & Unwin
1990 Max Germaine, Artists and Galleries of Australia, Craftsman House
1987 Dawn Mendham, The Refining Fire, Albatross Books, pp.18-25
1985 Exhibition Commentary, Art and Australia, Fine Arts Press, vol.23, no2 p.173
1993 Judi Fisher et al., A Place at the Table, JBCE, pp.47-53,84