

# studio A

## Thom Roberts – CV

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Born Sydney 1976, lives and works in Sydney.

Thom Roberts sees the world through a kaleidoscope lens. People, transport and infrastructure systems are interpreted as colourful multiples.

A tangarra train is named Kylie and also perceived as the Gold Coast Tower. Thom himself identifies as the Country Link Express train and the Burj Khalifa tower in Dubai.

Thom's unique perception of identities are also read through the equally particular channel of people's 'crowns' (the spiral of hair on the top of a person's head). Thom loves to peer into people's crowns. There he finds millipedes, collie dogs and cows bodies. Using all this information Thom ceremoniously bestows people with new identities, and translates them, enigmatically, in painting.

The photocopier is his other great muse and core to his process and practice. Beginning with images sourced online, Thom manipulates and duplicates the images and these form the basis of new works. "Blown up huge", adorned with new features - new eyes, noses, moustaches - or animated using AR "magic", Thom's work makes the mundane magical.

Thom works across painting, drawing, installation, animation and performance, and is an awarded and recognized contemporary Australian artist. In 2021 he was a finalist in the Archibald Prize and his portrait of Studio A Chairman Shane Simpson was selected to hang as the primary exhibition banner on the AGNSW facade. Thom has been curated into some of Australia's most prestigious exhibitions - The National 2019, Salon des Refusés (2018), Sydney Contemporary (2017), Cementa (2017), The Big Anxiety Festival (2017) and 20/20 Shared Visions: 40 Years of Collecting Australian Art (2020) - and has undertaken important residencies both here and abroad, at Carriageworks, Bundanoon Trust and Societas Raffaello Sanzio (Cesana, Italy) with celebrated theatre maker Chiara Guidi. He has received major public and private commissions from the City of Sydney, Westpac and Artbank, and worked with a number of esteemed Australian artists and designers including Mud Australia, One Another and Erth Physical and Visual Theatre Inc. Thom's work is held in numerous public and private collections, including Artbank.

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## Awards, Prizes and Grants

- 2023** Finalist, 2023 Archibald Prize, Art Gallery of New South Wales, with *In the future there might be more tall buildings built by Bert*
- 2022** Finalist, 2022 Archibald Prize, Art Gallery of New South Wales, with *Rachey in the Mirror (Shelley Simpson)*
- 2021** Finalist, 2021 Archibald Prize, Art Gallery of New South Wales, with *A Portruff of Adam (Shane Simpson AM)*
- 2020** Recipient, City of Sydney Creative Hoardings commission with *Midnight Zoo*. (Collaboration with four Studio A artists)
- 2019** Cultural Copyright Ignite Award Recipient to undertake a residency at Societas Raffaello Sanzio <https://www.arch-srs.com> (SRS), Cesana, Italy.
- 2018** Selected for *The National 2019: New Australian Art*, Carriageworks  
Selected for the *Salon des Refusés*, S.H.Ervin Gallery, The Rocks
- 2016** Recipient of the Westpac Diversity and Inclusion commission  
Recipient of Blooming Arts Award: Judges Choice Award, Inner West Council
- 2014** Create NSW Artist Support Grant (Thom and Angelmouse)
- 2013** Amplify award for emerging artists

## Solo Exhibitions

- 2023** *Pink Panther Station*, The Cube, Mosman Art Gallery

## Selected Group Exhibitions

- 2023** *Portraits From Studio A*, NSW Parliament House, Sydney  
*Powerhouse Late Drawing Club*, Powerhouse Museum, Sydney  
*Creative Precinct Block Party*, St Leonards
- 2022** *Season One*, Art et al, Cromwell Place, London.  
Initiative of the British Council and the Aust Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade  
*Incognito Art Show*, Sydney  
*Magical Putt Putt*, Cement Fondu, Sydney

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- 2021**     *Project 2060: Homeward Bound*, Coal Loader, Waverton  
*ART ET AL. x APA*, Collingwood Yards, Melbourne as part of the UK/Australian Season of Culture 2021/22
- 2020**     *20/20 Shared Visions*, Artbank, Sydney
- 2019**     *The National: New Australian Art 2019*, Carriageworks, Sydney  
*home*, Retort House, Sub Base Platypus, North Sydney  
*Sydney Contemporary*, Carriageworks, Eveleigh
- 2018**     Spilt Milk Festival, Commonwealth Park, Canberra  
*Salon des Refuses*, S.H. Ervin Gallery, Millers Point  
*Paired*, Firstdraft, Woolloomooloo  
*Suburbia*, Cement Fondu, Paddington  
Fbi Art Auction, National Art School, Darlinghurst
- 2017**     *birdfoxmonster*, Carriageworks, Eveleigh  
*Sydney Contemporary*, Carriageworks, Eveleigh  
*The Big Anxiety Festival*, Customs House, Circular Quay (Thom and Angelmouse)  
*Cementa Festival*, Kandos  
*Phoenix Serenade*, Art Month Art Bar, Redfern/Chippendale Precinct, Cake Wines, Eveleigh (The Props Collective)
- 2016**     Westpac Diversity and Inclusion Strategy exhibition, Barangaroo  
*birdfoxmonster*, Carriageworks, Sydney
- Wonder: Contemporary Art For Children*, Hazelhurst Regional Gallery, Gynea (Thom and Angelmouse)  
              *Studio A: Flying High*, SCA Galleries
- 2015**     *Underbelly Arts Festival*, Cockatoo Island, Sydney (Thom and Angelmouse)
- 2014**     *Renegades*, national touring exhibition, curated by Camille Masson-Talasier and Ingrid Hoffman
- 2013**     *Paper to Puppetry*, GAFFA gallery, Sydney  
*Queens, Screens and Cone Heads*, Koskela, Sydney
- 2011**     *Four x Four*, The Papermill, Sydney

## **Commissions, Residencies and Collaborations**

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- 2022** Public Artwork Commission for *Spilt Milk Music Festival* touring Canberra, Ballarat and the Gold Coast
- 2020** Commission for Artbank, *Magic Robot Machine*, painting with augmented reality on the occasion of Artbank's 40th anniversary  
Collaboration with Red Room Poetry
- 2019** Residency with Chiara Guigi at Societas Raffaello Sanzio <https://www.arch-srs.com> (SRS), Cesana, Italy
- 2018** Collaboration with One Another, ethical homewares design company
- 2017** Artist in Residence for *birdfoxmonster*, Carriageworks, Sydney  
Artist in Residence for *birdfoxmonster*, Bundanon Trust, Bundanon  
Artist in Residence for *birdfoxmonster*, Mud Australia, Newtown
- 2016** Artist in residence, Hazelhurst Arts Centre (Thom and Angelmouse)  
Bundanon Artist Residency, Bundanon  
Carriageworks 'In Development' for *birdfoxmonster*.
- 2014-** Collaboration with artist, Harriet Body: Thom and Angelmouse
- 2011** Artist in residence at The Paper Mill, Sydney

## Public Programs

- 2020** Empathy Clinic, The Big Anxiety Festival
- 2018** Live drawing as a guest artist at Spilt Milk, Canberra  
Live drawing *Bird Love Colour Wheel* at the North Sydney Children's Festival
- 2017** Invited speaker, Arts Activated: Pathways to Practice, conference for Disability Arts sector (Thom and Angelmouse)

- Collections** Artbank, University of Technology Sydney