

studio A

Mathew Calandra – CV

www.studioa.org.au/mathew-calandra
enquiries@studioa.org.au



Born Sydney 1971, lives and works in Sydney.

Mathew Calandra has an unmistakable and arresting linear style. Sharp, sinuous, awkward and dynamic, some have likened his line-work to that of Egon Schiele, the great symbolist-expressionist artist of the late nineteenth century. Like Scheile, with his hand, Mathew transforms the most banal subject matter into something of deep mystical beauty.

Mathew works mainly in etching, drawing, and gouache, and draws inspiration from everyday life, ancient fables and horror films. "I like to use pen and pencil," says Mathew. "I draw ducks. I draw them using pens and technical markers. I paint them using ink and wash. I make Egypt by doing hand sewing."

Freddy Krueger featured in many of his early pieces. More recent works see him focus on people from the real world, reimagined as folkloric figures, as in *Artist as Pharaoh after Theodore Wohng by Pei Pei He* (2018).

Mathew's curriculum vitae documents an exhibition history that includes both national and international curated exhibitions, in Holland (Galerie Atelier Herenplaats, Rotterdam) and in Sydney (Cement Fondu, Grace Cossington Smith Gallery). In 2021, his triptych, *Stations of the Cross*, was selected for the Sulman Prize for subject painting at the Art Gallery of New South Wales.

Mathew has undertaken residencies at the prestigious Cicada Press within UNSW Art & Design and Red Room Poetry. At UNSW, he worked alongside significant Australian artists the likes of Reg Mombassa, Elisabeth Cummings and Vernon Ah-Kee. Mathew's works are held in the permanent collections of the [Art Gallery of New South Wales](#) and [Artbank](#).

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Awards and Prizes

2021 Finalist, 2021 Sulman Prize, Art Gallery of New South Wales, with triptych *Stations of the Cross*

Selected Group Exhibitions

2025 Finalist Archibald Prize with *His Face Like My Face - Self Portrait as Robert Englund Playing Freddie Krueger*, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney

2024 *Neverending Serpent*, ART CRU, Berlin

2023 *Cosmic Beings*, Paddington
On the Edge: Species at Risk, Sydney
Portraits From Studio A, Sydney
Making Worlds, Art Gallery of NSW, Sydney

2022 *Incognito Art Show*, Sydney

2021 *No Show*, Carriageworks, Eveleigh
Stations of the Cross, Northmead Creative and Performing Arts High School, Sydney
Project 2060: Homeward Bound, Coal Loader, Waverton

2019 *home*, Retort House, Sub Base Platypus, North Sydney
Sydney Contemporary, Carriageworks, Eveleigh

2018 *Suburbia*, Cement Fondu, Paddington

2017 *Good Neighbours*, Artbank, Waterloo

2016 *The Art of Cicada Press*, Grace Cossington Smith Gallery, Wahroonga

2015 *Sydney Contemporary*, Carriageworks, Sydney

2011 *Down Here Down Under*, curated by Professor Colin Rhodes, Galerie Atelier Herenplaats, Rotterdam

Commissions

2020 Commission for the Art Gallery of New South Wales for Archie Plus, *Love owls and mermaids singing in the rainbow pop*, 300sqm mural.
(Collaboration with seven Studio A artists)

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2018 Artist portraits for Spilt Milk Festival, Canberra

Residencies

2013 *Cicada Press*, UNSW Art and Design, Paddington

Collaborations

2020 Collaboration with Red Room Poetry

2018 Collaboration with Corban & Blair, product designers and manufacturers

Collections

Art Gallery of NSW, Artbank