

studio A

Meagan Pelham – CV

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Born Adelaide 1986, lives and works in Sydney.

Meagan Pelham is the ultimate romantic, someone who creates and lives by a philosophy of true love. The imagery in her artworks invites audiences to see the world through rose-coloured glasses and to embrace moments of beauty that surround us.

Meagan is a multidisciplinary artist practising painting, poetry, drawing and performance.

She was selected as a finalist for the 2022 Archibald Prize with her watercolour portrait *Romance is LOVE*, depicting friend and collaborator Anna Plunkett of Australian fashion label Romance was Born. She was a finalist again in 2024 with her portrait *Highlight in the moonlight* of curator Isobel Parker Philip.

Meagan uses delicate line work to depict emblems of devotion and delight, including wedding cakes, red roses and love-heart-shaped cocktail glasses. Her favourite subjects are her signature 'love owls', which she draws in pairs to signify how they are the most romantic of animals.

Her handwritten poetry practice is expressive and intimate, a prophecy of beautiful things and moments manifested on paper. Her verses recount spellbinding reveries of dinner dates, romantic getaways and dancing with a loved one. Meagan's love poetry was featured at Cementa Festival 2022, printed onto multiple holographic perspex surfaces.

Meagan is a captivating performance artist, presenting live works at the Biennale of Sydney, the Museum of Contemporary Art and the North Sydney Children's Festival. In 2017, in an unforgettable performance, she inhabited the Owl Bride in *birdfoxmonster*, a sold-out production at Carriageworks, in collaboration with Erth Visual & Physical Inc.

Meagan has a long-sustained creative partnership with the designers at Romance was Born, who have created multiple collections of couture gowns and ready-to-wear garments featuring her artwork and poetry. In 2021, Meagan performed in the production *Dr of Love*, as part of Romance was Born's curated program for Powerhouse Late. In 2024, she also brought love fortunes to Romance Was Born's prom-themed MCA Art Bar.

Meagan has presented work at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Maitland Art Gallery, Museum of Australia Democracy, Australian National Maritime Museum, Spilt Milk and

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Cement Fondu In 2020, she was a key artist on *Love owls and mermaids singing in the rainbow pop*, a monumental mural at the Art Gallery of New South Wales, and in 2022, she was awarded the Liberty Specialty Markets art award, funding a year-long fashion focused mentorship with Tanja Bruckner.

Solo Exhibitions

- 2025** *Vote for Meagan. Vote for Love. Flirty Kiss...mwah!*, Enlighten Festival, Museum of Democracy, Canberra
- 2024** *Flirty Fashion Fancy Romance Runway*, Cement Fondu, Paddington
- 2016** *Owl Love*, Bundanon Trust Field Day, Bundanon

Selected Group Exhibitions

- 2025** Finalist Archibald Prize with *Magic Nikki & Charlie Fancy Pants Party... D - Jaaaaaaay*, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
- 2024** Finalist Archibald Prize with *Highlight in the moonlight*, portrait of Isobel Parker Philip, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
Twitcher, Maitland Regional Art Gallery, Maitland
Packsaddle Exhibition, New England Regional Art Museum, Armidale
- 2023** *Portraits From Studio A*, NSW Parliament House, Sydney
ECO ZINE, Maitland Regional Art Gallery, Maitland
- 2022** Finalist Archibald Prize with *Romance is Love*, portrait of Anna Plunkett, Founder Romance was Born, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
Cementa Festival, Kandos, NSW
- 2021** *In Flight*, InTransit Art Space, North Sydney
- 2019** *home*, Retort House, Sub Base Platypus, North Sydney
- 2017** *birdfoxmonster*, Carriageworks, Sydney
Good Neighbours, curated by Daniel Mudie Cunningham and Miriam Kelly, Artbank, Waterloo
- 2016** *Studio A: Play*, Sydney Children's Hospital, Randwick
Studio A: Flying High, SCA Galleries, Rozelle
- 2014** *Soft Knife*, Casula Powerhouse, Casula

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Cushion Up, Koskela, Roseberry

2013 *Queens Screens and Coneheads*, Koskela, Roseberry

2011 *Four x Four*, The Papermill, Sydney
Manager's Choice, Parliament House Gallery, Sydney

Commissions and Public Art

2025 Commission for the Museum of Australian Democracy, *Vote for me!* (with Sally Coleman), Enlighten Festival, Canberra

2024 Commission for the Sydney Opera House on the occasion of their 50th anniversary, commission reproduced on an exclusive range of merchandise for the Sydney Opera House Store

2022 Public Artwork Commission for *Spilt Milk Music Festival* touring Canberra, Ballarat and the Gold Coast
Commission for LAVO offices, mural, Sydney

2021 Commission for Lendlease, *Winged Wonderland*, 100m hoarding, Barangaroo, Sydney. (Collaboration with five Studio A artists)
Commission for Australian National Maritime Museum, *Punk punk the supermodel turtle*, monumental inflatables presented on the museum's forecourt. (Collaboration with Goldberg Aberline and three Studio A artists)

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)

2019 Commission for University of Technology Sydney, *Bird Life Jungle Disco*, 175sqm mural, UTS Central food court, Sydney. (Collaboration with seven Studio A artists.)

Residencies and Collaborations

2025 Collaboration with Romance Was Born (capsule collection)

2021 Collaboration with fashion house Romance Was Born (capsule collection)
Collaboration with Romance Was Born for Studio A: MAKE ART

2020 Collaboration with fashion house Romance Was Born (capsule collection)
Collaboration with Red Room Poetry

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- 2018** Collaboration with *One Another*, ethical homewares design company
Collaboration with *Corban & Blair*, product designers and manufacturers
- 2016** Artist in Residence for *birdfoxmonster*, Carriageworks, Sydney
Artist in Residence for *birdfoxmonster*, Bundanon Trust, Bundanon
Artist in Residence for *birdfoxmonster*, Mud Australia, Newtown
- 2013** Artist in Residence, Cicada Press, UNSW School of Art and Design, Paddington
- 2011** Artist in Residence at The Paper Mill, Sydney
Artist in Residence, Historic Houses Trust, Sydney

Performances and Public Programs

- 2024** *Make Dreams Come True with the Love Poem Sorceress*, 24th Biennale of Sydney, Ten Thousand Suns, White Bay Power Station, Sydney
Romance Was Born MCA Art Bar, Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney
- 2023** *Powerhouse Late Drawing Club*, Powerhouse Museum, Sydney
- 2021** *Dr of Love* performance, Powerhouse Late, curated by Romance Was Born
- 2020** *Dancing Together* with Emily Crockford, Meagan Pelham and Victoria Atkinson, UTS ART
- 2018** *Love Poem Sorceress*, Bella Plus Connect, Museum of Contemporary, Sydney
Love Poem Sorceress with *Bird Love Colour Wheel*, North Sydney Children's Festival, North Sydney
Owl Love readings, Inner West Council Libraries
Owl Love workshop, Studio A Co Lab at Firstdraft, Woollomooloo
Artists' Christmas Car Boot Sale, World Square, Sydney
- 2016** *Owl Love* workshop MCA Gennext Program, Museum of Contemporary, Sydney
Owl Love workshop, Bundanon Trust Field Day, Bundanoon

Awards and Prizes

- 2022** Liberty Specialty Markets 2021 Asia Pacific Art Award for *Dreamy Night Owl Hoot Hoot*

- Collections** Artbank, Turner Freeman Lawyers, Liberty Specialty Markets

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