

Josh Robbins

Melbourne artist Josh Robbins offers us an alternative to the often loaded and over-conceptualised works that are now dominating gallery walls. Inviting us to share in his internal dialogue that expresses nothing more than beauty, he articulates a desire to inspire and invigorate not through complicated symbolism but through an appetite to capture fluidity in form that simply disrupts and stops us in our tracks.

Often we habitually seek out familiarity in what lies before us – allowing us to define and translate to align with our own reality – yet it is here that Robbins makes the loose and the unexpected triumphant. Where Monet used light in this way, to evoke feelings and responses greater than the scenes themselves, so does Robbins but with form. As he transforms and contorts the birds that inhabit his imagined terrain, their bright plumage poised in order for us to properly observe them for a moment, they lie beyond what we can imagine and so cause us to contemplate a world beyond our own.

His feathered creations reference birds that are familiar in our repertoire – a white heron cranes its neck, perched on a branch that extends from the water below; a barn owl sits silently, poised, its eyes flashing as it settles on the limb of an Australian Snow Gum, and smaller finches flutter over an arbour that glistens with moss moist from tropical rains. But due to his free-form approach to painting he thrusts these new species into our imaginations. And there, they take flight.

Excerpt from essay by Melanie Caple, 2015.

Solo Exhibitions

- 2015 *Roost*, Flinders Lane Gallery, Melbourne
- 2014 *Once I Was A Bird*, Flinders Lane Gallery, Melbourne
- 2013 *Ornithillogical*, Duke st Gallery, London (through COMODAA Gallery)
- 2013 *A Loose Nature*, Flinders Lane Gallery, Melbourne
- 2012 *What Bird is That?*, Brunswick St Gallery, Melbourne
- 2009 *Thirteen Views of Hokusai*, Super Space, Melbourne

Selected Group Exhibitions

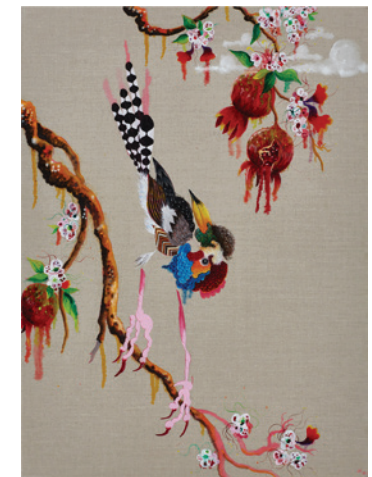
- 2015 Art Images Gallery, Adelaide
- 2014 *Battersea Affordable Art Fair*, London
- 2014 *The Portrait Show*, Flinders Lane Gallery, Melbourne
- 2012 *Exploration 12*, Flinders Lane Gallery, Melbourne
- 2006 *Opening*, The Autopsy Gallery, Melbourne



Above: *Come Get You Some* 2015
oil, charcoal, and floor stain & saw dust on
linen, 130cm x 90cm



Top Right: *The Tale of Goldtail* 2015
oil, charcoal, and floor stain & saw dust on
linen, 76cm x 56cm



Bottom Right: *Three Pomegranates One Bird* 2015
oil, charcoal, and floor stain & saw dust on
linen, 76cm x 65cm