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BONNIE-JEAN WHITLOCK

B.1992

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Bonnie-Jean Whitlock's work engages with queer perspectives and autobiographical narratives around morality and place, exploring the presentations and symbolism we use to convey our belief systems and inner worlds

Bonnie's painting practice exists in a sustained state of experimentation, she treats the surface more like a textile than a painting: Folding, beading, dying, and utilising wax and salt to encourage the pigment to dry in interesting ways. Glass beads, wax, salt, flax, oil and pigment all speak to a type of alchemy. For Bonnie, painting is deeply rooted in analogue process and construction. Arranging images around patterns revealed through this dying process, she chases relationships between symbolism in the subjects and meaning pre-baked into the materials, relating fabric to a body and to the stratum of the earth: all vessels embedded and embellished with traces of their world.

Born in rural South Australia and raised in far East Gippsland, Bonnie currently lives and works in Naarm/Melbourne where she completed a Master of Fine Art at RMIT in 2023 where she was awarded the Evan Lowenstein Arts Management Prize. She has held frequent solo exhibitions in Melbourne and rural Victoria, participated in numerous group exhibitions and has work held in multiple collections including Federation University Collection and private collections internationally.

B O N N I E - J E A N

W H I T L O C K

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SOLO EXHIBITION HISTORY

2025 - Beacons, Red Gallery, Fitzroy, Melbourne
2024 - SUBTERRA, West End Gallery, West Melbourne.
2022 - Dawn Chorus, Post Gallery, Brunswick
2020 - Going Home with BASKWA, pop up ARI, Melbourne.
2019 -2020 – Self Titled, Daddy Bar, Brunswick.
2019 - Deep Sea Diving, Artspace 264, Glen Huntly Melbourne
2017 - Self-Titled, Meigas, Ballarat
2016 - Self-Titled, Babushka bar, Ballarat

GROUP EXHIBITION HISTORY

2025 - Sonic's Gallery, Thornbury, Melbourne.
2024 - Viscera, Sol Gallery, Fitzroy, Melbourne
2024 - Symposium, Curve Abbotsford, Melbourne.
2024 - Emerge: O UT, Brunswick Street Gallery Fitzroy, Melbourne
2023 - RMIT University Graduate Exhibition, RMIT Melbourne City Campus. 2023
- Out Of This World, Abbotsford Convent, Melbourne.
2023 - The Cure Guerilla Gallery, Melbourne.
2022 - Compact: Small work, Alternating Current Artspace, Windsor, Melbourne,
2022 - The Cure Guerilla Gallery, Melbourne.
2019 - Pranava Street Carnival, Ballarat.
2018 - Floating mantis, Lupine Studios, Coburg, Melbourne.
2017 - Tanglewood Music and Arts Festival, Thornton, Victoria.
2017 - Stacks on, Ceres Environmental Park, Melbourne.
2015 - Paper Made, Wakeden University, Carolina U.S.A.
2015 - Bloom- an exhibition of emerging artists. The Convent Gallery, Daylesford.
2015 - Paper Made, the Post Office Gallery, Ballarat.
2014 - EYE, Ballarat Mining Exchange.
2014 - Benchmark, the Post Office Gallery, Ballarat.
2012 - EYE, Ballarat Mining Exchange.
2012 - Benchmark, the Post Office Gallery, Ballarat.

EDUCATION

Master of Fine Art with Distinction, RMIT University, (2021 - 2023)
Bachelor of Fine Art, Federation University (2013-2014)
Diploma of Visual Art, University of Ballarat (2011-2012)
Certificate 2 in Visual Arts and Contemporary Craft, Bombala TAFE (2009/2010)

COLLECTIONS

Federation University Collection
Private collections in Canberra, Melbourne, Adelaide, Daylesford, Ballarat, and Dessau-Rosslau, Germany.

AWARDS

2023 – Evan Lowenstein Arts Management Award.
2012- Adrienne Guy Award.
2012- DVC acquisition award for visual Art