

Holly Anderson.

b. 1995, Trinidad; lives and works in Meanjin, Brisbane

From across a room, Holly Anderson's paintings appear to swim in the brightness of a clear sky. Bursts of sunlight populate familiar subject matter – interiors, figures, skies, and water are monochromatic planes pierced with white light...

Anderson's painting practice investigates sensory experiences between light and landscape. Hovering between the figurative and the abstract, raw brush strokes fragment into larger monochromatic compositions, building surfaces whose surprising flatness and geometry heightens the strangeness of their persistent realism.

Sunlight permeates an array of Holly's subject matter, with bright bursts of white negative space disrupting the order of gridded geometric surfaces. These painterly grids of stripes and squares produce complex systems that bend or scatter where bright light flashes. Familiar subjects now appear in new light, composed behind the glare of a white hot sun and developing a new visual language for the brilliance of sunlight in the Australian landscape.

Recent exhibitions include the Museum of Brisbane (2022), Firstdraft (2021), and Outerspace (2018, 2020, 2022). Anderson has been a finalist in the JADA Prize (2022), Brisbane Portrait Prize (2022), The Redland Art Award (2022), NEAP (2021) and the Clayton Utz Prize (2019). Her work is held in the collection of Museum of Brisbane, Grafton Regional Gallery, Gadens Brisbane, and various private collections across Australia. In 2017, Anderson completed a BFA with Honours at the Queensland College of Art in Meanjin / Brisbane, where she now teaches sessionally.



HOLLY ANDERSON
b. 1995, Trinidad; lives and works in Meanjin, Brisbane

EDUCATION

2017 Bachelor of Fine Art with Honours, *Queensland College of Art, Griffith University*, Brisbane

AWARDS, GRANTS, RESIDENCIES

2025 *15 Artists* (finalist), Redcliffe Art Gallery, Moreton Bay
2024 *Mosman Art Prize* (finalist), Mosman Art Gallery, Sydney
Brisbane Portrait Prize (finalist), Queensland State Library, Brisbane
Archibald Prize (finalist), Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
2023 *Mosman Art Prize* (finalist), Mosman Art Gallery, Sydney
Artist Circle Grant (winner), Helpmann Academy, Adelaide
2022 *Brisbane Portrait Prize* (finalist), Artist Circle Grant, Brisbane
Redland Art Awards (finalist), Redland Art Gallery, QLD
JADA Prize (finalist), Grafton Regional Gallery, NSW
2021 *National Emerging Art Prize* (finalist), Michael Reid Gallery, Sydney
2020 *Clayton Utz Art Award* (finalist), Brisbane

COMMISSIONS

2023 *Pool (3 hours)*, Institute of Modern Art Gala Auction
Pool (cracked window), Outerspace Auction
What Water Wants workshop, Institute of Modern Art, Brisbane
2022 *Blue sun/white shadow*, Outerspace for the Judith Wright Centre, Brisbane

COLLECTIONS

Artbank Collection
Grafton Regional Gallery
Museum of Brisbane
Gadens Brisbane

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2025 *Some Things Too Bright To See*, Redland Art Gallery, Queensland
2024 *The light inside a grid*, N.Smith Gallery, Sydney
2019 *Bikini Body*, Innerspace Contemporary Art, Brisbane
Jelly Heart, Grey Street Gallery, QCA, Brisbane
Tendrils, strings, The Third Quarter Gallery, Brisbane
2018 *The Oh No Sun*, Outerspace, Brisbane

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2025 *Return to Sender*, N.Smith Gallery pop up, New Farm, Brisbane
Yesterday, N.Smith Gallery, Sydney
The Interior, N.Smith Gallery, Sydney
Art Fair Tokyo, N.Smith Gallery booth, Tokyo
Summer '25, N.Smith Gallery, Sydney
Melbourne Art Fair, N.Smith Gallery booth, Melbourne
2024 *Sydney Contemporary*, N.Smith Gallery booth, Sydney
Summer '24, N.Smith Gallery, Sydney
Sunrise, Sunset, N.Smith Gallery, Sydney
2023 *IMA Gala and Benefit Auction*, Institute of Modern Art, Brisbane
2022 *Vanishing Point*, STABLE Art Space, Brisbane
City in The Sun, Museum of Brisbane, Brisbane
2021 *Circling the Sun*, Firstdraft, Sydney
Snapshot, Outerspace, Brisbane
Sure Studio, Brisbane
Sunny Side Up, Brisbane City Council Hutton Lane Lightbox installation, Brisbane
TWENTY, group show at Mitchell Fine Art, Brisbane
2020 *Small Acts*, Innerspace Contemporary Art, Brisbane

Boiling Point bushfire relief exhibition, The Third Quarter Gallery, Brisbane
2019 *Time and Place*, AIRspace, Metro Arts, Brisbane
INNERSPACE Summer Show, Newstead Studios, Brisbane
You can lead a horse to water, Grey Street Gallery, Brisbane
Faded: Painting towards the Invisible, The Pop Gallery, Brisbane
Scroll, STABLE ArtSpace, Brisbane
2017 *An Intimate Distance*, Spiro Grace Art Rooms, Brisbane

WORKSHOPS

2022 *What Water Wants*, IMA Brisbane, 17 March
Drawing with Light: Holly Anderson, Outerspace Brisbane, 16 July
Painting workshop with Holly Anderson, 'City in the Sun' exhibition, Museum of Brisbane, recurring event
2021 *Sensory Landscapes: Drawing workshop with Holly Anderson*, Caboolture Regional Gallery, 14 August
Teen painting workshop with Holly Anderson, 'City in the Sun' exhibition, Museum of Brisbane, 29 September
Sensory Landscape: Plein Air drawing with Holly Anderson, 'Here Beauty and her Terror' exhibition, Caloundra Regional Gallery, 14 August
Drawing Invisible, 'Sunny Side Up' exhibition, supported by Howard Smith Wharves and Brisbane City Council, 15 April

BIBLIOGRAPHY

'Holly Anderson, Pool (halo), 2024, Pull Focus', Art Collector Magazine, Chloe Wolfson, 2024.
'Meet Artist Holly Anderson', Pipeline, 2023
'Un-discovered: Holly Anderson', Art Collector Magazine, Louise Martin Chew, 2022
Sure Studio Newsletter, 2021
'Studio Artist Interviews - Holly Anderson', Outerspace Brisbane, 2021