

# 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.



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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  
*Time and Place*, AIRspace, Metro Arts, Brisbane  
2019 *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 Wolifson, 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