

John R. Walker

Represented by Utopia Art Sydney
983 Bourke St, Waterloo NSW 2017
utopiaartsydney.com.au

Tel: +61 2 9319 6437
art@utopiaartsydney.com.au

Born 1957
Lives and works in Braidwood, NSW

Education

1976-78 Studied Alexander Mackie College, Sydney, NSW

Solo Exhibitions

- 2025 'Forest Song', Goulburn Regional Art Gallery, NSW
- 'Tree Song', Utopia Art Sydney, NSW
- 2023 'Journeys and Return' Orange Regional Gallery, NSW
- 'Earthprints' Utopia Art Sydney, NSW
- 2022 'Hidden River' Barton Art Box, Canberra Biennial of Art, ACT
- 2022 'Deep Time Painting', Utopia Art Sydney, NSW
- 2020 'Fireground', Utopia Art Sydney, NSW
- 2018 'Pictures of Time Beneath', Utopia Art Sydney, NSW
- 2017 'Hay Plains', Utopia Art Sydney, NSW
- 2015 'Here I Give Thanks', Utopia Art Sydney, NSW
- 'Here I Give Thanks', ANU Drill Hall Gallery, ACT
- 2014 'Terroir: Big Land Pictures', Orange Regional Gallery, NSW
- 'The End of All Our Exploring', Utopia Art Sydney, NSW
- 'Recollections', Moree Plains Gallery, NSW
- 2012 'Winter in the Fire Forest', Utopia Art Sydney, NSW
- 2011 'Space & Time: 10 Years in the Landscape' Maitland Regional Art Gallery, NSW
- 'Site' Utopia Art Sydney, NSW
- 2010 'The Shed', Utopia Art Sydney, NSW
- 2008 'Journey through Landscape', S. H. Ervin Gallery, NSW
- 'Gateless Gate', Utopia Art Sydney, NSW
- 2007 'Working in the Landscape', Utopia Art Sydney, NSW
- 2005 'Gullies, Roads, Dry Lands and Forests', Utopia Art Sydney, NSW
- 2004 'Dry Land Paintings', Utopia Art Sydney, NSW
- 2003 'Paintings from Tallaganda', Utopia Art Sydney, NSW
- 2002 'Paintings from Bundanon', Utopia Art Sydney, NSW
- 2000 'Gully', Utopia Art Sydney, NSW
- 1999 'Paintings for a New Republic', Utopia Art Sydney, NSW
- 1997 'The House of the Stare', Utopia Art Sydney, NSW
- 1994 'Pictures from Home', Utopia Art Sydney, NSW
- 1993 'New Paintings', Utopia Art Sydney, NSW
- 1992 'Recent Works', Utopia Art Sydney, NSW
- 1991 'Favourite Paintings', Utopia Art Sydney, NSW
- 1990 'Drawings', Utopia Art Sydney, NSW
- Tolarno Gallery, Melbourne
- 1989 'Utopia Art Sydney', NSW
- 1988 'Recent Painting', Tolarno Gallery, Melbourne, VIC
- 1986 'Deceit, Desire & Narcissus', Mori Gallery, Sydney, NSW
- 1985 'Tolarno Gallery', Melbourne, VIC
- 1984 'The Family', Mori Gallery, Sydney, NSW
- 1982 Mori Gallery, Sydney, NSW
- 1979 The Student Gallery (later renamed Mori Gallery), Sydney, NSW

Group Exhibitions

- 2026 'Salon des Refusés', S H Ervin Gallery, The Rocks, Sydney, NSW, and David Roche Gallery, SA.
 'Holding Ground', SH Ervin Gallery, Sydney
 'Contemporary Landscape paintings from the Salon Des Refusés' Retford Park White Cottage Gallery, National Trust, NSW
- 2025 'Calleen Art Award: Exhibition of Finalists', Cowra Regional Art Gallery, NSW
 'Land Scape', Utopia Art Sydney, NSW
 'Paper Universe: the book as art' State Library of NSW
- 2024 'Salon des Refusés', S H Ervin Gallery, The Rocks, Sydney, NSW, and David Roche Gallery, SA.
 'Mulka Yata, The Knowledge of Place', SAMSTAG, Adelaide, SA
 'In The Public Eye, Utopia Art Sydney, NSW
 'Sydney Contemporary', Carriageworks, Sydney
 'Landscapes', Utopia Art Sydney
- 2023 'Spirit of Place', Macquarie University Art Gallery, Sydney NSW
 'Sydney Contemporary', Carriageworks, Sydney, NSW
 '35' Utopia Art Sydney, NSW
- 2024, 23, 22, 20, 18, 17, 14, 10, 09, 08, 07, 04, 03, 02, Wynne Prize', Art Gallery of NSW, Sydney
- 2022 'Across Country #2', Burra Regional Art Gallery, SA
- 2019 'River on the Brink', SH Ervin Gallery, The Rocks, Sydney, NSW
- 2018 'Divided Worlds: Adelaide Biennial of Australian Art', Art Gallery of South Australia
 'Interiors' Orange Regional Gallery, NSW
 'Celebrating Australian Abstraction', Utopia Art Sydney, NSW
- 2017 'Sydney Contemporary 2017', Carriageworks, NSW
 'Museum III', Utopia Art Sydney, NSW
 'Alternative Museum, Utopia Art Sydney, NSW
 'Artist Profile: Australasian Painters 2007 – 2017', Orange Regional Gallery, NSW
 'Kilgour Prize 2017' Newcastle Art Gallery, NSW
- 2016, 11, 07, 02. 'Salon de Refusés', S.H. Ervin Gallery, NSW
 'Drawing Room', Tamworth Regional Gallery, NSW
 'Landstract Abscape', Utopia Art Sydney, NSW
 'Cornucopia', Utopia Art Sydney, NSW
 'The Last Hurrah', Utopia Art Sydney, NSW
- 2015 'Chroma: the Jim Cobb gift', Orange Regional Gallery, NSW
- 2014 'Drawing Out: Dobell Australian Drawing Biennial', Art Gallery of New South Wales, NSW
 'Redlands Konica Minolta Art Prize', National Art School Gallery, NSW
 Amaze Gallery, State Library of New South Wales, NSW
- 2012 'Big Scope: painting and place', Lake Macquarie City Art Gallery, NSW
- 2011 'Up Close and Personal: works from the collection of Dr Peter Elliott AM', S. H. Ervin Gallery
 'Fleurieu Art Prize', McLaren Vale, SA
- 2010 'KIAF 2010, Korea International Art Fair', COEX, Seoul, Korea
- 2009 'Eutick Memorial Still Life Award (the EMSLA)', Coffs Harbour Regional Gallery, NSW
- 2006, 05, 03, 00 'The Archibald Prize', Art Gallery of New South Wales and touring, NSW
- 2006 'Being at Bundanon', Mosman Region Art Gallery, NSW (toured by Bundanon Trust),
 'Chroma Collection', Macquarie University Art Gallery, Sydney, NSW
 'Truth and Likeness', National Portrait Gallery, Canberra, ACT
- 2005 'Moist', National Gallery of Australia, Canberra and touring, ACT
 Robert Jacks Drawing Prize', Bendigo Art Gallery, VIC
 Hazelhurst Art Award 2005 - Art on Paper, Hazelhurst Regional Gallery & Arts Centre, NSW
- 2003 'Arthur Guy Memorial Painting Prize', Bendigo Art Gallery, VIC
- 2002 'Jacaranda Acquisitive Drawing Award', Grafton Regional Gallery, NSW
 'The Fleurieu Prize', McLaren Vale, SA
 'Conrad Jupiters Art Prize', Gold Coast City Art Gallery, QLD
- 2000 'SCEGGS Redlands-Westpac Invitational Art Prize', Cremorne, Sydney, NSW
- 1999 'Mosman Art Prize', Mosman Region Gallery, Sydney, NSW
 'University and Schools Club Prize Exhibition', University and Schools Club, Sydney, NSW
- 1998 'National Works on Paper Award', Mornington Peninsula Regional Gallery, VIC
 'Kedumba Invitation Drawing Award', Leura, NSW
- 1997 'Drawn from Life', National Gallery of Australia touring exhibition, ACT

- 1996 'Flagging the Republic', Sherman Galleries and New England Regional Art Museum touring exhibition, NSW
- 1995 'The King of the Accordion', New England Regional Art Museum touring exhibition, NSW
'Works On Paper', Utopia Art Sydney, NSW
- 1993 'Contemporary Australian Painting', Works from the Allen Allen and Hemsley Collection, Westpac Gallery, Melbourne and Newcastle Regional Gallery, VIC and NSW
- 1992 'On the Dark Side', New England Regional Art Museum, Armidale, NSW
- 1992, 91, 90 The Sulman Prize, Art Gallery of New South Wales, NSW
- 1991 'Images of Women from the Holmes à Court Collection', S.H. Ervin Gallery, Sydney, NSW
- 1990 'Religious Images in Australian Art', National Gallery of Victoria, VIC
'works on canvas and Paper', Austral Gallery, St Louis, USA
- 1989 'Opening', Utopia Art Sydney, NSW
'Figures on Paper' Austral Gallery, St Louis, USA
- 1988 'Drawing in the 80s', Australian National Gallery, Canberra, ACT
'Drawing', Tolarno Gallery, Melbourne, VIC
'Savage Club Invitation Drawing Prize', Savage Club, Melbourne, VIC
- 1987 'From Field to Figuration', National Gallery of Victoria, VIC
'Backlash', National Gallery of Victoria, VIC
'Best of Young Australians from the Budget Collection', National Gallery of Victoria
'Urban Anxieties', Drill Hall Gallery, Canberra, ACT
- 1986 'A First Look', Drill Hall Gallery, Canberra, ACT
'Symbolism and Landscape', Ivan Dougherty Gall, Biennale of Sydney Satellite Exhibition, NSW
'Modern Australian Masters', National Gallery of Victoria, VIC
'Ballarat Invitation Prize', Ballarat Fine Art Gallery, VIC
- 1985 'The Pleasure of the Gaze', Art Gallery of Western Australia, WA
- 1984 'Drawing Now', National Gallery of Victoria, VIC
- 1983 'D'un Autre Continent: L'Australie, le reve et le real', Musee D'Art Moderne, Paris
'Australian Perspecta', Art Gallery of New South Wales, NSW
- 1982 'McCaughey Prize Exhibition', National Gallery, Melbourne, VIC
- 1979 'Eight by Four', Students Gallery (later Mori Gallery), Sydney, NSW

Collections

ACT Legislative Assembly
Art Gallery of New South Wales
Art Gallery of South Australia
Art Gallery of Western Australia
Artbank
Allens + Linklaters
Australia Club, Sydney, NSW
Bathurst Regional Art Gallery
Broken Hill Regional Art Gallery
BT Financial Group
Campbelltown City Art Gallery
Commonwealth Bank of Australia
Griffith University Collection, QLD
Holmes A' Court Collection, WA
Macquarie Group Collection NSW
Macquarie University Collection
Maitland Regional Art Gallery, NSW

Museum of Modern Art at Heide, VIC
Myer Collection
National Gallery of Australia
National Gallery of Victoria
Newcastle Art Gallery, NSW
Orange Regional Gallery, NSW
Parliament of Australia, ACT
Royal Alexandra Hospital for Children
Savage Club Collection
Smorgon Collection
State Library of New South Wales
University of New South Wales
University of Sydney Union
Western Mining Corporation
Wollongong Art Gallery
Yarrila Arts and Museum NSW

Bibliography

- 2025 'Forest Song', Goulburn Regional Gallery exhibition catalogue, published by Utopia Art Sydney
'Talking Landscape, Materials and Meaning with John R. Walker', ArtW*nk Podcast, episode 232
- 2023 Art Almanac, September 2023, page 57 (cover image)
In The Studio with John R Walker, Anne Sanders, Artist Profile 65
John R Walker: Journeys and Return, John McDonald, SMH, 2/12/2023
John R Walker; Journeys and Return', Orange Regional Gallery Catalogue, published by Orange Regional Gallery, NSW
- 2020 The Wynne Prize, John McDonald, Sydney Morning Herald, Nov 3, 2020
Darkest Hours Inspire Artistic Response, Steve Meacham, Sydney Morning Herald, July 7, 2020
John R Walker, Elisabeth Cummings, Ian Grant, Maria Contis, John McDonald, SMH July 18, 2020
- 2018 John R Walker, Interview, Art Guide, Feb 2018
A Painted Landscape, by Amber Cresswell Bell, Thames and Hudson
- 2015 Bradley Hammond, Chroma: the Jim Cobb gift, Orange Regional Gallery, NSW [exh catalogue]
- 2014 Gina Fairley, 'John R Walker: The End of all Our Exploring', ArtsHub [online], 1 April 2014
John McDonald, 'Art Gallery of NSW 'Drawing Out' exhibition shows how sketches reveal more than words', Sydney Morning Herald, 14 November 2014
Anne Ryan, 'Drawing Out: Dobell Australian drawing biennial 2014' [exh cat] AGNSW
- 2013 Gavin Fry, The Peter Elliott Collection of Australian Art, The Beagle Press
- 2012 The Macquarie Group Collection: the Land and its Psyche, Editors: Julian Beaumont, Felicity Fenner and John McDonald, UNSW Press
Chloe Watson, 'Winter in the Fire Forest' in exhibition online catalogue, Utopia Art Sydney.
Alexander Sussman, 'John R Walker artist books', State Library of NSW Acquisitions Blog, 27th Nov
- 2011 'Space & Time: 10 Years in the Landscape – John R Walker', exhibition catalogue, Maitland Regional Art Gallery, 7 October – 4 December 2011 (essays by A Sayers and J Eisenberg)
- 2010 'Naturally Inspired', Nigel Featherstone, Panorama, Canberra Times, 10 September, 2010
- 2009 'John R. Walker Interviewed', Artist Profile # 6, March 2009, pp. 28 - 35
- 2008 'No Thanks, I Don't Want the Money', Australian Financial Review, Perspective, Sep 10 - 11
Journey through Landscape podcast interview with Sean O'Brien, May 2008:
http://arttalk.podomatic.com/entry/2008-05-09T02_10_17-07_00
'Secrets of the Self Unearthed', John McDonald, Spectrum, Sydney Morning Herald, June 7-8.
'Exposing the Scars on Nature', Elizabeth Fortescue, Sydney Live, Daily Telegraph, 27th May.
John R. Walker, Journey Through Landscape, 'Exhibitions' National Trust Magazine, Winter 2008
- 2007 Essay by Andrew Sayers in Working in the Landscape, (cat), Utopia Art Sydney
"The best of the rest actually the best", Sebastian Smee, The Australian, 8 March, p.14
Painting Australia, ABC TV series Episode #3, 11 April, 2007
- 2006 Archibald 06 (cat), Art Gallery of New South Wales
Winter Crow, a collection of poems by Jeremy Nelson, illustrations by John R Walker
"Is the truth of portraiture vested exclusively in likeness?", Michael Desmond, Portrait 21, National Portrait Gallery, ACT
- 2004 Archibald 05 (cat), Art Gallery of New South Wales
Essay by Simeon Kronenberg in being at Bundanon (cat), Bundanon Trust touring exhibition
Essay by William Wright in Gullies, Road, Dry Lands and Forests (cat), Utopia Art Sydney
Moist: Australian Watercolours (cat), National Gallery of Australia
- 2002 "Experiencing the Land", Simeon Kronenberg, Asian Art News Vol.12 No.2 March/April 2002
"The Plains: Wimmera and the imaging of the Australian Landscape", Simeon Kronenberg, Art Monthly, November 2001, #45
"Days in Body Country", Simeon Kronenberg, Artlink, June 2002, Vol.22 #2
Paintings from Bundanon, (cat) Simeon Kronenberg, Utopia Art Sydney
- 2001 Gone Bush (cat), Jennifer Hardy, Hazelhurst Regional Gallery and Arts Centre, NSW
2000. Beyond the Fatal Shore, Interview with Robert Hughes, Episode #6 BBC TV series
- 1998 "Interview with collector, Hugh Jamieson", Australian Art Collector Issue #2
1997. Drawn from Life (cat), Deborah Edwards and Andrew Sayers, National Gallery of Australia
- 1994 Contemporary Australian Painting from the Allen Allen and Hemsley Collection (cat.)
- 1992 Communicative Abstraction/Philosophical Reflections, Rudolf Talmacs, Utopia Art Sydney
On the Dark Side (cat), Belinda Cotton, New England, Regional Art Museum, NSW
- 1990 Images of Religion in Australian Art (cat), Rosemary Crumlin, Bay Books
- 1988 Australian Contemporary Drawing; Resurgence and Redefinition, A McIntyre, Boolarong Press

- 1987 Best of Young Australians Exhibition from the Budget Collection (cat.), NGV
- 1986 Drawing in Australia, Contemporary images and ideas, Janet McKenzie, Macmillan, Melbourne
- Backlash: The Australian Drawing Revival 1976-1986 (cat), Ted Gott, National Gallery of Victoria
- 1986 6th Biennale of Sydney: Origins Originality + Beyond (cat), satellite exh, Ivan Dougherty Gallery
- 1985 Pleasure of the Gaze (cat), Art Gallery of Western Australia
- 1984 Australian Art Review, Leon Parossien
- 1983 Australian Perspecta (cat), Bernice Murphy, Art Gallery of New South Wales
- D'Un Autre Continent: L'Australie le reve et le real (cat), Musee D'Art Moderne, Paris

Awards and Commissions

- 2009 Winner Eutick Memorial Still Life Award (EMSLA) Coffs Harbour Regional Gallery, NSW
- 2002 Highly Commended, Wynne Prize, Art Gallery of New South Wales
- 1998 BT Australia, 400 George St, Sydney
- 1990 Windsor and Newton Painting Prize, Coventry Gallery, Sydney
- 1988 Savage Club Drawing Prize, Melbourne
- 1982 Tamarisque Prize, Alexander Mackie College, Sydney

Scholarships & Residencies

- 2002 Hill End Artist in Residence (invited artist)
- 2002 Bundanon Trust Artist in Residence
- 2001 Bundanon Trust Artist in Residence (invited artist)
- 2001 New England Artist in Residence (invited artist)
- 2000 National Art School Staff Travelling Scholarship
- 2000 New England Regional Art Museum Artist's Travel Scholarship