



LISMORE
REGIONAL
GALLERY

ARTIST PROFILE

Secondary

Jonathan Crowther :: Open Narratives

31 August-13 October :: Gallery Upstairs





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Jonathan began his professional creative career as a sculptor, carving figures out of stone.

He later decided to expand his skills and began painting. With this he found some early success by winning the Churchie National Emerging Art Award in 2009.

He has continued to paint, exhibit and enter prizes. Over the last few years he has been a chosen finalist for the Sunshine Coast Art Prize, The Northern Rivers Portrait Prize, The Clayton Utz Art Award, The Wilson River Art Award, and the Swell Sculpture Festival at Currumbin.

Crowther breathes life into seemingly mundane subject matter through incredibly skillful photo realism.

His striking Trompe L'oeil style (a style of painting that means 'to deceive the eye', because it looks so real) creates still life paintings that look so real they could be touched.

He is currently studying a Masters of Contemporary Art at Victorian College of Art, Melbourne.

ARTIST LINKS

<http://jonathancrowther.com.au/>

http://brettlethbridge.com/artist_files/artist_cv_20130201120826.pdf



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This exhibition consists of recent paintings by Jonathan Crowther focusing on the unfolding of individual personal stories. Throughout Crowther's two related series of paintings, he has used subtle symbolism and striking realism to explore the complexity of the human mind and how we cope with and understand the transformative moments in our lives.

Crowther's paintings feature commonplace objects you may find in your everyday life, a chair and a sheet of paper. The first series of work consist of still life paintings of scrunched up pieces of paper. The pieces of paper each have a pencil line running through them, acting like a map of the story contained within them. The line weaves in and out of the folds of the paper, suggesting the seen and the unseen aspects of our lives. The things we show the things we hide, but all the time they are there creating a map of where we have been and how we have been transformed.

The next series of work centres around an image of a chair, and pieces of paper now unfolding and flying in the air, mirroring the clouds that move across the sky. These paintings represent the process of understanding how our own personal stories affect the natural process of life. The empty chair signifies that no one is bound by these narratives, but each has a choice of how we relate to them and integrate them into our present existence.

We can sit in our stories as symbolised by the chair or we can choose to move away from them as we leave the chair and walk into the future, like clouds moving across the sky to a different place, time and new story.



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Things To Make And Do

Jonathan Crowther has used commonplace objects in his paintings.

A chair, a sheet and scrunched up pieces of paper, things you might find in your own home.

He paints these objects with oil paints on canvas in a realistic style. The objects have stories connected to them, they are the stories of the artist and his life.

Jonathan uses the images of these objects to create symbols of these moments and changes in his life.

Stories of Stuff

Are there objects in your life that you are attached to?

Things you use every day or things that have travelled with you throughout your life?

What are the stories that belong to these objects?

How would you **paint, draw** or **tell a story** about these objects in your life?

Activities

1. Choose an object from your home or school environment that is important to you.
2. Before you start the process of creating an artwork, think about why the object is important to you.
3. Write a list of memories you have of this object.

Here are a few prompts to get you started:

Where did it come from? Who gave it to you? How did the object come into your life?

When did you last use it?

Think of an important moment in your life that you associate with the object.

4. Make a painting, drawing or write a story about this object.



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Glossary of Terms

Trompe L'oeil: A French term that means 'to fool the eye'. It is a painting technique, in which objects are rendered in extremely fine detail emphasizing the illusion of tactile and spatial qualities of the image.

Photo realism: A style of painting that resembles photography in its meticulous attention to realistic detail.

Sign: 1. Something that suggests the presence or existence of a fact, condition, or quality.
2. An act, gesture or object used to convey an idea, a desire, information, or a command.

Signify: To signify is to indicate, represent or imply something.

Symbol: Something used for or regarded as representing something else; a material object representing something, often something immaterial; or an emblem, token, or sign.

Symbolise: To represent, express, or identify something through the use of a symbol.

Narratives: A story or account of events and experiences.

notes & scribbles & works of art



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Teachers Notes

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Welcome to Lismore Regional Gallery

We are committed to supporting students and educators to further enhance their learning skills in critical thinking, self-expression and applied knowledge whilst embracing new ideas relating to arts and culture. We want to build and nurture a love of arts and culture in our community and foster an educational environment that seeks to explore the joy of life-long learning through art.

These education resources have been created for Jonathan Crowther's exhibition ***Open Narratives*** at Lismore Regional Gallery, 31 August - 13 October 2013. Created and Compiled by Lismore Regional Gallery Learning Officer Claudie Frock, Curator Kezia Geddes, and Admin Manager Amy Miller.

All images of Jonathan Crowther's artworks are property of the artist, Copyright 2013. You may copy and distribute these worksheets for educational purposes only and reproduction of artworks for anything other than educational purpose is not allowed. You may wish to use this resource in its running order or use segments before and after tours to prepare students or revise tour. Lismore Regional Gallery website has an archive of past and current exhibitions and educational resources associated with the exhibitions, that can be accessed to support your students educational needs.

Here is a link to our online Image Archive:

http://www.lismoregallery.org/cp_themes/default/4col.asp?c=497

Here is a link to our online Education Resources Archive:

http://www.lismoregallery.org/cp_themes/default/page.asp?p=DOC-ZGZ-08-72-54

Thank you for visiting Lismore Regional Gallery.