

firstdraft

Gallery 4

4 May – 13 Jun 2022

Born to Draw Matthew Clarke

Matthew Clarke is an artist who lives in Warrnambool, South West Victoria. He has been drawing for as long as he can remember. He started his life as an artist in 2005 when he commenced his Diploma of Art, Craft and Design at South West TAFE. He is an artist with a mental illness and a disability, and he believes he was destined to be an artist – with or without disability. His sense of colour, shape and proportion comes from a place in his brain he doesn't understand and he is happiest when his work is flowing from this place.

Matthew's rationale for this exhibition is to bring his unique style of drawing to Firstdraft. His style isn't based on any other style or what he learnt as an art student. It is based on what he feels, sees and thinks combined with the magic of how it gets to the paper. Matthew will exhibit 5 new and unseen drawings that explore cityscapes and landscapes, where some of Matthew's long running theme of windfarms, wallabies and cityscapes will feature. Matthew finds the city both exciting and overwhelming to visit.

Matthew Clarke is proud of his achievements as an artist. In 2017 Matthew's work covered a whole Melbourne art tram. Seeing it running down Swanston street in Melbourne CBD was a joy.

In 2019 Matthew was selected as a winner for Adelaide Fringe Poster Competition. The poster was turned to graphics and covered an Adelaide Fringe tram. Matthew was fortunate enough to be asked to paint a mural in Adelaide CBD leading up to the Adelaide Fringe Festival for 2019. In addition in 2019 Matthew Clarke was a finalist in the Dobell Drawing Prize at the National Art School in Sydney. In 2020 Matthew was a finalist in the Paul Guest Drawing Prize at Bendigo Art Gallery. Matthew is always excited to see his works in public.

2020 was a difficult year for most people in the arts. Lockdown in Victoria was confining. Matthew worked from home during this period and posted on Instagram most days, sometimes they were major works and other times they were 3-minute drawings. Matthew's Instagram page is [matthewclarke86_art](#). In 2020 Matthew made a cardboard cut out sculpture of a wallaby. It was featured on the London Saatchi social media takeover for when their gallery was closed as a favourite as submission.

In 2021 Matthew painted a hippopotamus sculpture for the Royal Children's hospital in Melbourne. Matthew was a finalist in the Geelong Acquisitive Print Awards at Geelong Gallery. Last year(2021) Matthew was a finalist in the Archibald portrait prize painting Kathryn Del Barton.

Gallery 1
Temples of Doom
Ryan Andrew Lee

Gallery 2
Shoe Bathers
Shireen Taweel

Gallery 3
sister +++++
familial formations
Marian Abboud

firstdraft
gadigal land
13–17 riley street
woolloomooloo
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firstdraft.org.au

we acknowledge and pay respect to the gadigal people of the eora nation, the traditional owners of the land on which firstdraft is built and operates.

firstdraft is supported by the NSW Government through Create NSW; and assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body.



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Born to Draw Matthew Clarke

Artworks (clockwise from left)

For sales enquiries, please

email andrewandmatthewclarke@gmail.com

Gone with the wallabies, 2021

metallic pen, ink and fine liner on paper

125 × 244 cm

AUD\$4,500

Windy, Wallabies Windfarms, 2021

metallic pen, ink and fine liner on paper

150 × 102 cm

AUD\$1,600

St Kilda Rd Arts Centre, 2021

metallic pen, ink and fine liner on paper

150 × 130 cm

AUD\$3,850

Out With The Windfarms, 2021

metallic pen, fine liner on paper

250 × 130 cm

AUD\$4,200

Great Ocean Road Apostles, 2021

ink, acrylic washers, fine liner,

metallic pen on paper

148 × 125 cm

AUD\$3,600

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