John Bokor

THE STILL LIFE
Still Life with Paintings 2012  Oil on canvas  90 x 120cm
John Bokor
2012: THE STILL LIFE

FRONT: Detail White Tablecloth and Pen Jar
2012 Oil on canvas 90 x 120cm

King Street Gallery
on William
10am – 6pm Tuesday – Saturday
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The Bottle of Rose 2013 Oil on canvas 120 x 150cm
There is an electric current in John Bokor’s work. It positively sparkles. His paintings are an infectious compendium of loaded brushstrokes, dabs, squiggles and dribbles in vibrant, vivid colour, that sets his work apart from most of his contemporaries. And he draws in complementary bold fluid pebble strokes that are freely edited and re-adjusted with washes of white acrylic gesso. His subjects are all close at hand – the scatter of things on kitchen bench or occasional table, suburban streets with cars and telegraph poles, wheely bins, fences and terra-cotta rooftops, gardens a riot of almost impossible verdure – everything that is utterly familiar is, in his hands, unrestrained and exciting.

In the mid 1990s, post art school, John Bokor occupied studio space in the city. His paintings then were of bleak, crowded, traffic-congested territory, but after moving to the inner-city suburb of Marrickville and newly married, he began painting and drawing with an up-beat enjoyment that has remained to this day. Since moving to the heights of Bulli with his studio in the back basement of his house and a two-year-old son to watch over, his subjects have become joyously domestic.

John Bokor can be described as a modern day fauve. He has much in common with the strident colour and daring shorthand of early Matisse, Derain and Marquet. An admirer of one of Sydney’s elders of painting, Kevin Connor, and a former student of another, Elisabeth Cummings, he is one of a younger generation of artists who are reinvigorating figurative painting in Sydney with new energy and enthusiasm. Direct and unambiguous about his love of painting and drawing, he is also refreshingly free of any pondering or wordy explanations. Everything is in the manipulation of colour and form with instant unambiguous brushstrokes, unencumbered by dogged polemic and tedious narrative.

As Matisse wrote in 1953:

... courage is essential to the artist, who has to look at everything as though he saw it for the first time: he has to look at life as he did when he was a child and, if he loses that faculty, he cannot express himself in an original, that is, a personal way.

Playfulness, humour and joy are rare commodities in art, to be prized rather than dismissed or overlooked. Instinctively, John Bokor, like Matisse and the artists of CoBrA, values each. His art is testimony to just such qualities and thereby genuinely uplifting to the spirit.

Hendrik Kolenberg

1. John Bokor to HK 12 February 2013

White Tablecloth 2012 Oil on board 90 x 120cm
Blue Tablecloth  2012  Oil on linen  61 x 46cm

Jar of Vegemite  Oil on linen  45 x 35.5cm
Glass Vase and Mango  2012  Oil on canvas  90 x 120cm
Unraveled Table 2013 Oil on canvas 60x60cm

Burgundy Still Life 2012 Oil on canvas 120 x 90cm
To HM with Love  2012  Oil on canvas  90 x 120cm

White Tablecloth and Pen Jar  2012  Oil on canvas  90 x 120cm
Vase of Poppies 2013  Oil on canvas  61 x 46cm

The Glass Vase 2012  Oil on linen  122 x 92cm
The Kid’s Table 2012  Oil on linen  46 x 35.5cm

Orange St/Life  2013  Oil on linen  92 x 122cm
Two Pens 2012 oil on canvas 46 x 61cm

Cups and Letters 2013  Oil on canvas 45.5 x 35.5cm
Three Teapots  2012  Oil on canvas  35.5 x 46cm
Small Jonquils  2012  Oil on canvas  35.5 x 46cm
The Pen Jar  2012  Oil on linen  35.5 x 46cm
John Bokor
Born
1973 Sydney, NSW, Australia
Education
1991-93 Diploma in Painting, National Art School, Sydney
2000 Bachelor of Fine Art [conversion course], National Art School
Solo Exhibitions
2013 The Still Life King Street Gallery on William, Sydney
2011 Black Diamond District King Street Gallery on William
2007 Small World Paintings King Street Gallery on William
2005 paintings King Street Gallery on Burton, Sydney
2003 Mary Place Gallery, Sydney
2001 Mary Place Gallery
1999 ABC Gallery, Sydney
1998 Crawford Gallery, Sydney
1997 Crawford Gallery
1996 Crawford Gallery
1995 Mary Place Gallery
Selected Group Exhibitions
2013 Looking Forward King Street Gallery on William, Sydney
2012 Recent Acquisitions Charles Sturt University, Wagga Wagga, NSW
Local Current Wollongong City Gallery, NSW City of Albany Art Prize Albany Town Hall, Albany, WA
Adelaide Perry Prize for Drawing Adelaide Perry Gallery, Sydney
Eutick Memorial Still Life Award Coffs Harbour Regional Gallery, NSW
Roki Aamar Drawing Prize Art Gallery of Ballarat, Vic
NSW Parliament Plain Air Painting Prize NSW Parliament House, Sydney
2011 Whyalla Art Prize, Middieback Theatre, Whyalla
Whyalla Art Prize
2010 Mosman Art Prize Mosman Art Gallery, Sydney
2010 Stanthorpe Regional Gallery Art Prize QLD
En Plein Air Prize NSW Parliament House, Sydney
2009 Mosman Art Prize Mosman Art Gallery
AFL, Maritime Art Prize Melbourne
Coffs Harbour Art Prize Coffs Harbour Regional Gallery, NSW
Kingworth Art Prize Kingworth, Old Paddington Art Prize Mansies Art Brands, Sydney
2006 last show of the year King Street Gallery on Burton Sustainable Living NG Gallery, Sydney
No Place Like Home NSW Gallery Sydney
2005 Art / culture Hakeybury Regional Gallery, NSW
2004 Art / culture Wollongong City Gallery, NSW
2003 Art / culture Whyalla Recreation Centre Art Prize, Whyalla, SA
2001 Art / culture Wagga Wagga ABC Gallery, Wagga Wagga, NSW
1999 Art / culture Coopramna Art Prize, Coopramna, SA
2013 Art / culture Hakeybury Regional Gallery, NSW
2012 Art / culture Wagga Wagga ABC Gallery, Wagga Wagga, NSW
1997 Art / culture Wagga Wagga ABC Gallery, Wagga Wagga, NSW
2006 Art / culture Barina Park Art Prize
2005 Art / culture Coopramna Art Prize, Coopramna, SA
2004 Art / culture Coopramna Art Prize, Coopramna, SA
2003 Art / culture Coopramna Art Prize, Coopramna, SA
1997 Art / culture Coopramna Art Prize, Coopramna, SA
Awards
2012 Winner, NSW Parliament Plain Air Painting Prize
2nd Prize [sponsor’s prize], Eutick Memorial Still Life Award, Coffs Harbour, NSW
2006 Loquay Valley Anglican School Art Prize, Sydney
2004 Waverley Woodbine Art Prize, Sydney
2003 Allan Samble Art Prize, Sydney
2003 Waverley Art Prize [local subject], Sydney
1997 People’s Choice Award, Gladys Art Show, Sydney
Collections
Art Gallery of Ballarat, Vic
Art Gallery of New South Wales
Coffs Harbour Regional Gallery, NSW
Charles Sturt University Art Collection, NSW
Macquarie Bank, Australia
New South Wales Parliament Art Collection
University of Sydney, NSW
University of Wollongong, NSW
UBS Warburg, Australia
Waverley/Woollahra Council

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Fitzgerald, Michael: ‘Art Prize,’ Sydney Morning Herald, May 10, p16
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2010 Duncan, Emily: 'Fresh air provides plenty to paint,' Wollongong & Northern Leader, May 13, p17
2009 Kidd, Courtney: 'Inside,' catalogue, published by King Street Gallery on William, June/July
2005 Fortescue, Elisabeth: ‘Memories are awake in paint,’ Daily Telegraph, Oct 21, p65
2004 McDonald, John: 'Judge's Report,' Mosman Art Prize, July 24
Metro- Sydney Morning Herald, May 7
Great Women Chefs Catalogue, 'Project Parkinson,' Sept 13, p13
2000 Asher, J.: 'Unloved Landscapes,' The Inner West Courier, May 3
1999 ‘New Work,’ The Weekend Australian, Oct 25
1998 Mason, Maggie: Radio Interview, RRR
1997 James, Bruce: ‘The Poet of Parramatta Road,’ Sydney Morning Herald, Oct 17

Sink with Panadol 2012  Oil on canvas  46 x 35.5cm