



JOHN **BOKOR**

Everyday World



Front: *Just like a chocolate milkshake* 2016 oil on board 61x47cm
Still life with milk carton 2016 graphite & gesso 65x50cm

JOHN **BOKOR**



The red oil can 2016 oil on linen & board 25x30cm

Everyday World
 8 November – 3 December 2016

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Wonder White 2016 oil on linen on board 61x46cm

JOHN BOKOR

Irrepressible vitality, ebullience even, is what characterises John Bokor's work as painter and draughtsman. He approaches each with the same energy and upbeat enthusiasm. And he manipulates a fully loaded brush, broad palette knife, stick of charcoal or bold graphite stick with uncommon speed and bold economy. Drawing and painting are a joy to him, he cannot have enough of either, nor of what his eyes feast upon – the seeming turmoil of city and suburban streets, cluttered kitchen, dining table or workbench at breakfast or dinner-time, his wife Kirstin, reading or tapping at her laptop, the interior spaces of his own or friends' houses, studios of fellow artists, or landscapes from the boot of his car.

John is good company, cheerful in adversity, ever hungry for experience. Though at times he expresses doubt, his temperament is otherwise. I first met him in passing 20 years ago, a young man sharing an inner city studio space with another. A few years later I bought a small etching of the railway tracks at Central Station and the Dental Hospital on Elizabeth Street, from a solo exhibition at a Liverpool Street gallery long gone, and have kept an eye out for his work ever since. Like his friends and contemporaries, Joe Frost and Evan Salmon, John Bokor is stirred by what surrounds him, where he lives, by the art of his time and the past, friends, modern masters, unknowns. He is alert, intelligent, enterprising.

Keen to draw inside the NSW State Library, John soon won over the authorities and gained access to draw there as 'artist-

in-residence' in 2015. He revelled in the cavernous space of the old reading room and its public users, various offices and working-spaces behind-the-scenes, met and drew busy conservators and other staff, filling several sketchbooks and full-sized sheets of good drawing paper with lively confident drawings. Some now belong to the Library. Clearly the State Library has been too rarely sought out as a subject by artists! Apart from its architectural grandeur externally and internally, it has encyclopedic collections, is a centre for all manner of research (including art) and stages many remarkable exhibitions.

Since winning the NSW Parliament Pleinair Art Prize in 2012, John has exhibited more widely than ever, most especially in regional NSW. He has taken part in summer schools, given art classes, various talks about his work and won yet more art prizes. From a 'relative unknown' he has acquired an enviable reputation for his unmistakably vivid paintings and drawings, gaining him ever growing numbers of admirers and collectors. Son of a Hungarian-born father and an Australian-born mother, he, like many other Australians of mixed western-European background, can channel the spirit of what he carries within and recast it as part of our national vernacular. The attraction of Europe and England may be strong – art and artists, cities and people – but where he was born and currently lives (Bulli on the south coast) is what fires his imagination and captivates his audience.

Hendrik Kolenberg 2016



Hydrangeas 2016 oil on linen on board 70x60cm



Hot chocolate 2016 oil on canvas 61x51cm



Scandinavia interior 2016 oil on canvas 51x61cm



Still life with wine 2016 oil on linen 80x60cm



The source 2016 oil on canvas 122x107cm



Milk 2016 oil on canvas 61x51cm



Bouquet and lemons 2016 oil on linen on board 35x40cm



The green tablecloth 2016 oil on board 17x13cm



Vase and crackers 2016 oil on linen on board 26x30cm



Blue plate still life 2016 oil on linen on board 27x30cm



The yellow plate 2016 oil on linen on board 21x27cm



Purple still life 2016 oil on linen on board 17x13cm



Side table 2016 oil on linen on board 13x17cm



Winter sky 2016 oil on canvas 51x61cm



The centre of town 2016 oil on linen 50x60cm



This page: *Crackers* 2016 oil on canvas 61x51cm
 Opposite page: *Temptation* 2016 oil on linen on board 61x46cm



The Back Road to Goulburn 2016 oil on canvas 51x61cm



Corner House 2016 oil on canvas 60x76cm



Afternoon Walk 2016 oil on canvas 107x122cm



Two cans of tomatoes 2016 oil on board 46x61cm

The more you look at something familiar the stranger it seems.

In this exhibition I paint the things of day to day family life. A cluster of objects on a table, the groceries in the fridge. I am attracted to these things because I see them everyday, they are part of my life.

I don't go searching for subjects, for me subjects are always close at hand. Painting and drawing my everyday world is a way of trying to understand it, to see past what's on the surface. I like to leave an element of mystery in my work because in truth, the main subject of any painting is the artist anyway.

BOKOR 2016



The wrong lid 2016 oil on linen on board 61x46cm



Still life with mineral water 2016 oil on canvas 137x112cm





Still life with pen jar 2016 oil on canvas 76x60cm



Turpentine and medium 2016 oil on board 61x51cm



Milk powder 2016 oil on canvas 61x51cm



Jiff and oil can 2016 oil on board 26x20cm



Vanessa's vase 2016 graphite and gesso 50x65cm



The kitchen sink 2016 charcoal, wash and collage 76x56cm

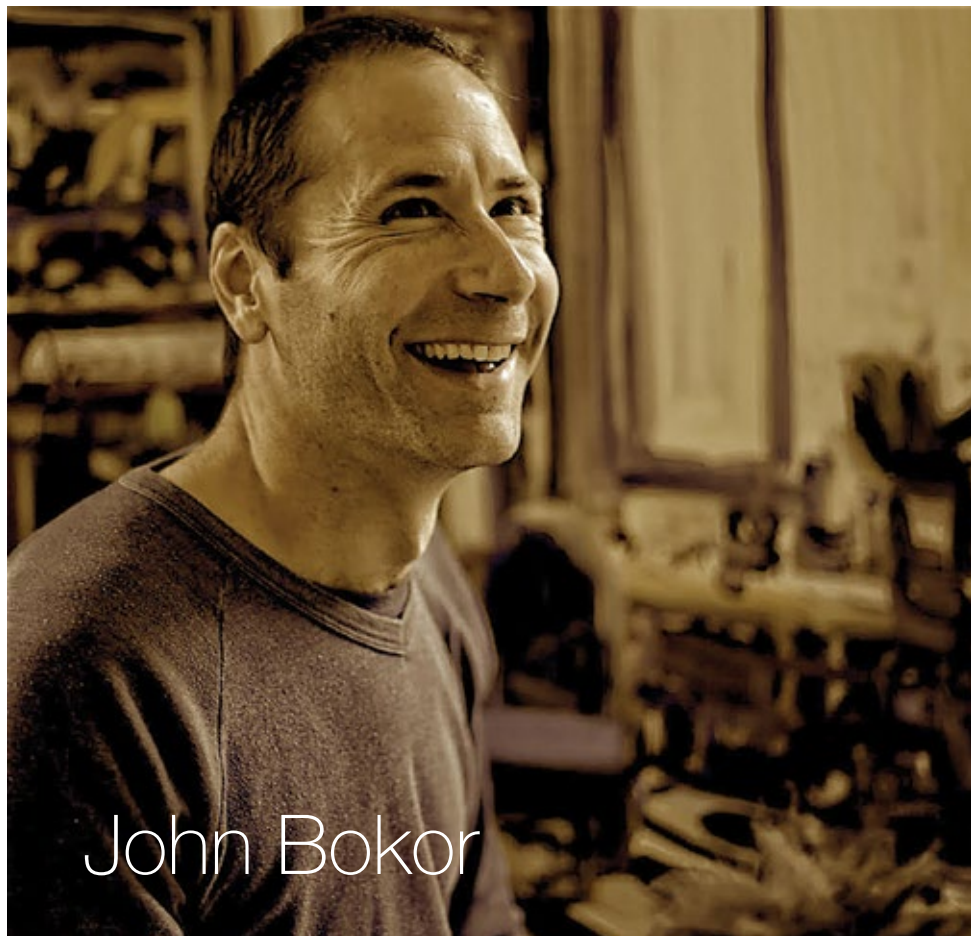


Photo: Julianna Kolenberg

Recent Solo Exhibitions

- 2016 *Everyday Life* King Street Gallery on William, Sydney
- 2015 *Close to Home* King Street Gallery on William, Sydney
Coffs Harbour Regional Gallery, NSW
- 2013 *The Still Life* King Street Gallery on William, Sydney
Union Club Sydney NSW [Courtesy of King Street Gallery]

Recent Group Exhibitions

- 2016 *Just Draw* Newcastle Regional Gallery, NSW
Tattersalls Landscape Prize Brisbane
Planting Dreams: Shaping Australian Gardens, State Library NSW
Kedumba Drawing Award, Orange
Regional Art Gallery, NSW
- 2015 *Drawings from Artist in Residence*, Amaze The Michael Crouch
Gallery, Mitchell Library State Library NSW
Kings School Art Prize, The Kings School, Sydney [winner]
Mosman Art Prize Mosman Art Gallery and Museum, Sydney
Adelaide Perry Prize for Drawing PLC Sydney
Muswellbrook Art Prize, Muswellbrook
Regional Art Gallery, NSW [winner]
Just Paper Maitland Regional Art Gallery, NSW

Collections

- Art Gallery of Ballarat, Victoria
- New South Wales Parliament Art Collection
- Art Gallery of New South Wales
- Coffs Harbour Regional Gallery, NSW
- Charles Sturt University Collection, NSW
- The Macquarie Group Collection
- Maitland Regional Gallery
- State Library, NSW
- Trinity Grammar School Lismore, NSW
- UBS Warburg, Australia
- University of Sydney, NSW
- University of Wollongong, NSW

Full CV available on kingstreetgallery.com.au



Snap crackle and pop 2016 oil on board 61x47cm



Up the garden path 2016 oil on canvas 61x51cm

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