



John Bokor
Between Two Rooms

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4 July – 29 July 2023

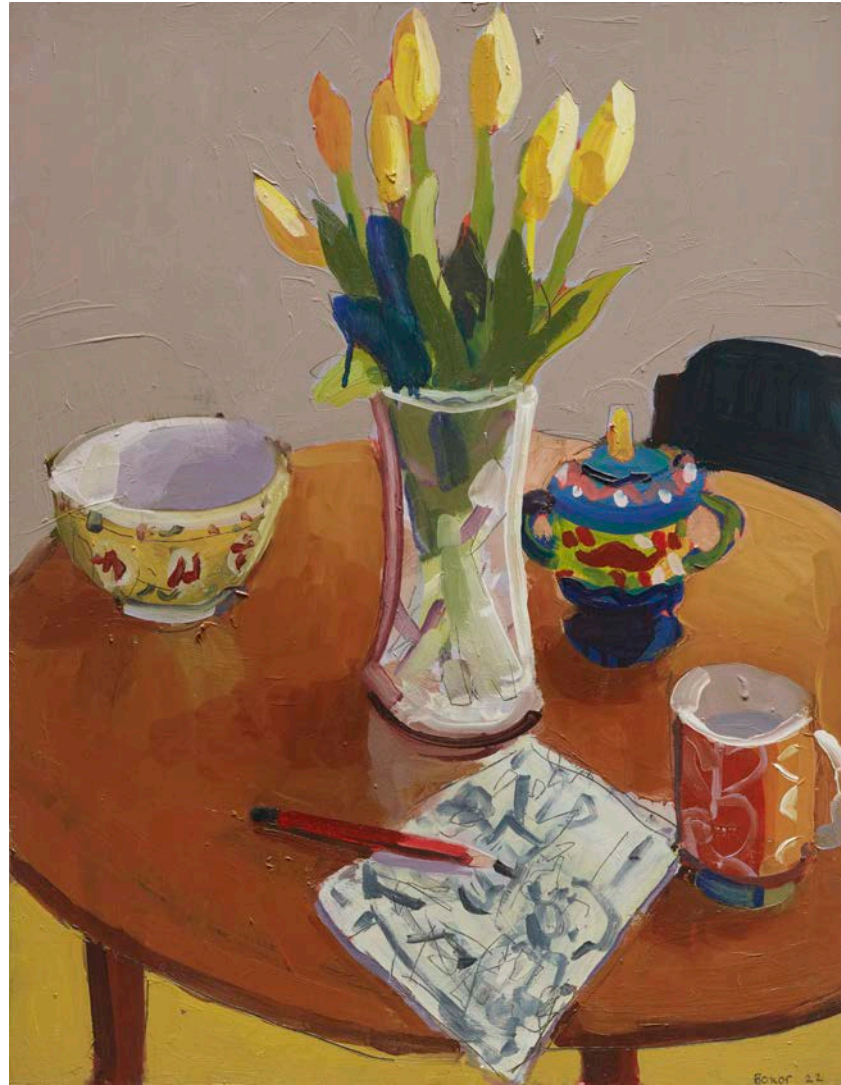
King Street Gallery **KS**
on William **GLW**

10am – 6pm Tuesday – Saturday
177-185 William St Darlinghurst NSW 2010 Australia
T: 61 2 9360 9727 M: 0412 294 866
E: art@kingstreetgallery.com
www.kingstreetgallery.com.au

Front Cover:
Bouquet of Flowers 2023 oil on board 121 x 81 cm (detail)

Opposite:
John Bokor in his studio, 2023
Photo courtesy: Riste Andrievski





Tulips and Sugar Bowl 2023 oil on board 81 x 61 cm



Beach House and Odalisque 2022 oil on board 143 x 122 cm

Bohemian Interior 2023
oil on board
122 x 144 cm



Between Two Rooms is an exuberant exhibition of 44 paintings and drawings by John Bokor, produced in a temporary studio while a new larger, studio space is being built at the artist's home in Bulli. What emerges in this exhibition is Bokor's animated memory theatre of rooms within rooms, paintings within paintings, revelling in vibrant colour and texture.

Spring and its promise of new life is a pulsating theme through-out: in the iridescence of the cut flowers, verdant potted plants, glowing fruit in bowls, on tables, and a bright daylight that imbues many of the interiors. *Between Two Rooms* is a sensory delight marvelling in the materiality of paint, pencil, charcoal on paper and board.

Paintings and drawings are worked, scraped back, sometimes left unresolved for a time, and then reanimated with collage, painted over, airbrushed, drawn through and eventually from the encrustation and palimpsest of previous work, a synthesis merges: 'When it no longer looks like a collection of marks on a surface but gives you the impression of something more... I like to stop when it feels like a story is unfolding.' He began work on 'Their Priceless Collection' in 2018, then put it aside, reworking it in 2020. However, it found its moment this year: 'Sometimes it's like

that, it's not a sprint. In my 50th year, I've learned to be patient'.

There is a playfulness in a number of the larger interior paintings where Bokor has referenced not only artist-friends' and his own works, but works by major artists that he admires; works that would normally only be viewed in major overseas galleries such as a Matisse odalisque in 'Beach House and Odalisque' and Max Beckmann's 'Lido' in 'The Beckmann Room'. Bokor has a love of artistic recursion: 'I really like paintings of paintings within paintings, I thought it might be fun for the viewer to spot them too.'

'Conversations' is the only work in this exhibition where a figure, a woman, is painted in. In discussing this work with Bokor, a figure opposite was painted out and replaced with portraits staring down, changing the relation from a literal conversation to an internal dialogue. I wondered if this image might be a sign for the artist himself, where internal dialogues, images 'in the mind's eye' - juxtaposing objects, playing with or removing according to colour, touch, intuition and texture until a final synthesis is reached - is the process. It is this constant reworking and expanding of his memory theatre, where meaning exists in the poetry between the materiality of paint and the objects rendered.

As a coda, Max Beckmann's advice to his students in his final years teaching in the United States may resonate with John Bokor's artistic regimen: 'work a lot...simplify...use lots of colour...make the painting more personal.'

Anne Sanders

Independent art historian, curator, researcher, writer
2023



Candle and Flowers



Tea and Mineral Water

2023 carbon pencil, wash and oil on paper 20 x 25 cm



Pen Jar and Soy Sauce 2022 oil on board 61 x 81 cm



Yellow Teacup 2023 oil on board 27 x 30 cm



Tea for Two 2023 oil on board 27 x 30 cm

The Beckmann Room 2023
oil on board
122 x 144 cm





Bouquet 2023 oil on board 30 x 27 cm



Round Vase 2023 oil on board 30 x 27 cm



After the Party 2022 oil on board 81 x 61 cm



The Flowering Plant 2023 oil on board 144 x 122.5 cm



Poppies and Tea Cup 2023 oil on board 61 x 81 cm



Flowers and Gin 2022 charcoal, wash and collage on paper 56 x 77cm



Gin and Bitters 2022 oil on board 61 x 81 cm

Bouquet of Flowers 2023
oil on board
121 x 81 cm

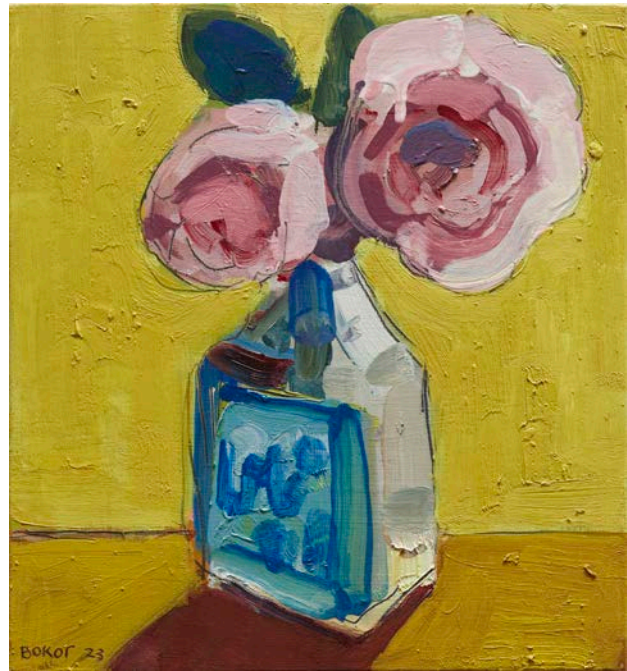




Lilies 2023 oil on board 81 x 61 cm



Lemons and Lime 2020 oil on board 81 x 61 cm



Small Roses 2023 oil on board 30 x 27 cm



Small Sweet Peas 2023 oil on board 30 x 27 cm



Three Vessels 2023 oil on board 27 x 30 cm



Roses and Soy Sauce 2023 oil on board 122 x 144 cm

Studio, 2020
Photo courtesy Riste Andrievski



The Orange Chair 2023
oil on board
122 x 144 cm





Pen Jar and Soy Sauce Study 2022 oil on board 27 x 30 cm



Midnight Blue Room 2023 oil on board 27 x 30 cm



Indoor Garden 2023 charcoal, wash and collage on paper 91 x 108 cm

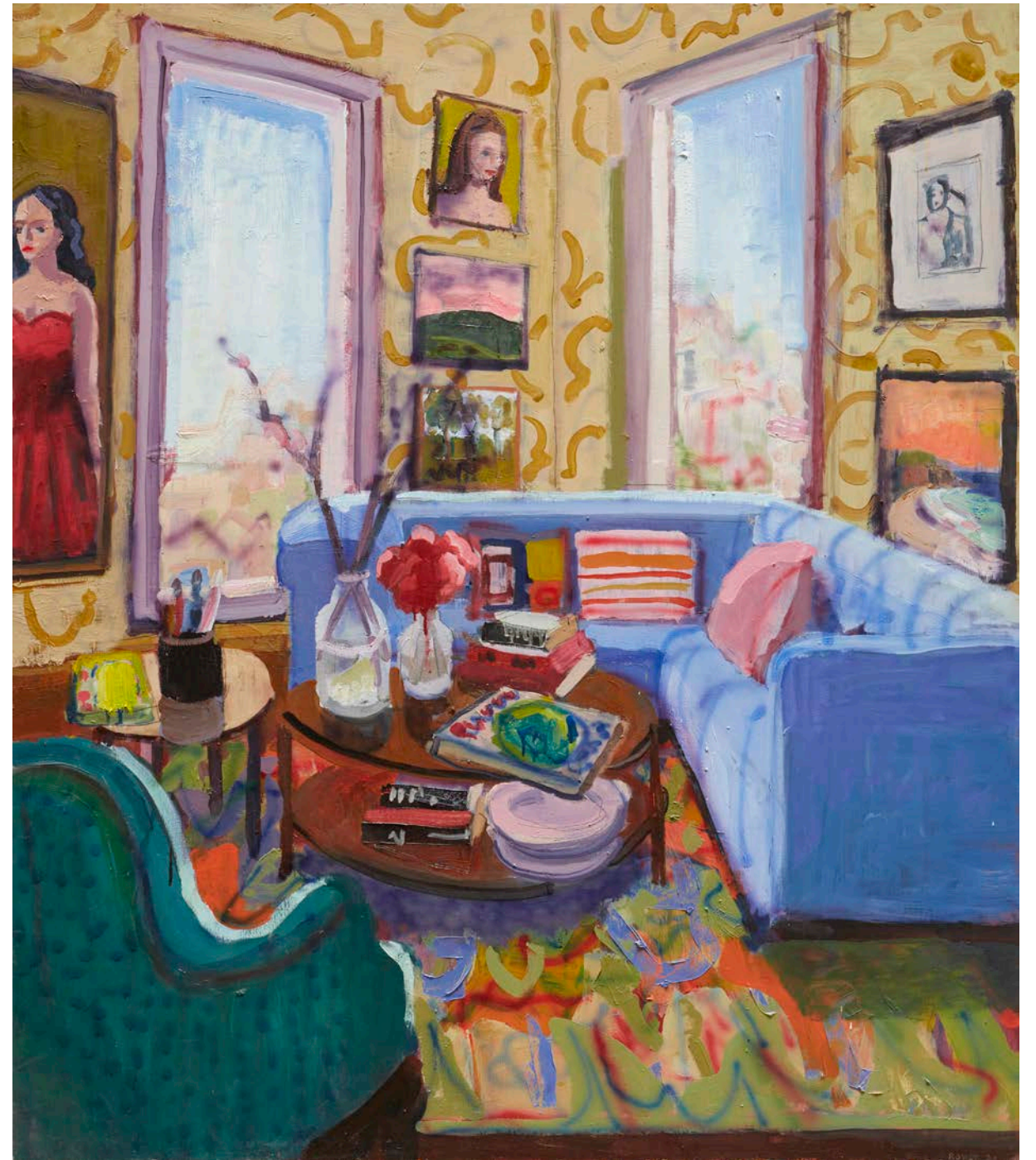


Their Priceless Collection 2023 oil on canvas 160 x 180 cm



Sweet Peas 2023 oil on board 122 x 81 cm

View of the Hills 2023
oil on board
143.5 x 122 cm





Vase of Dahlias 2023 oil on board 122 x 81 cm



Lilies study 2023 oil on board 30 x 27 cm



Strelitzia 2022 oil on board 30 x 27 cm



Vodka and Flowers 2023 oil on board 27 x 30 cm



Behind the Curtain 2023 oil on board 121 x 81 cm



Poppies on a Striped Tablecloth 2023 oil on board 81 x 60 cm



Vase of Dahlias Study 2023 oil on board 30 x 27 cm

Conversations 2023
oil on board
122 x 144 cm





Morning Table 2023 carbon, wash and oil 25 x 20 cm



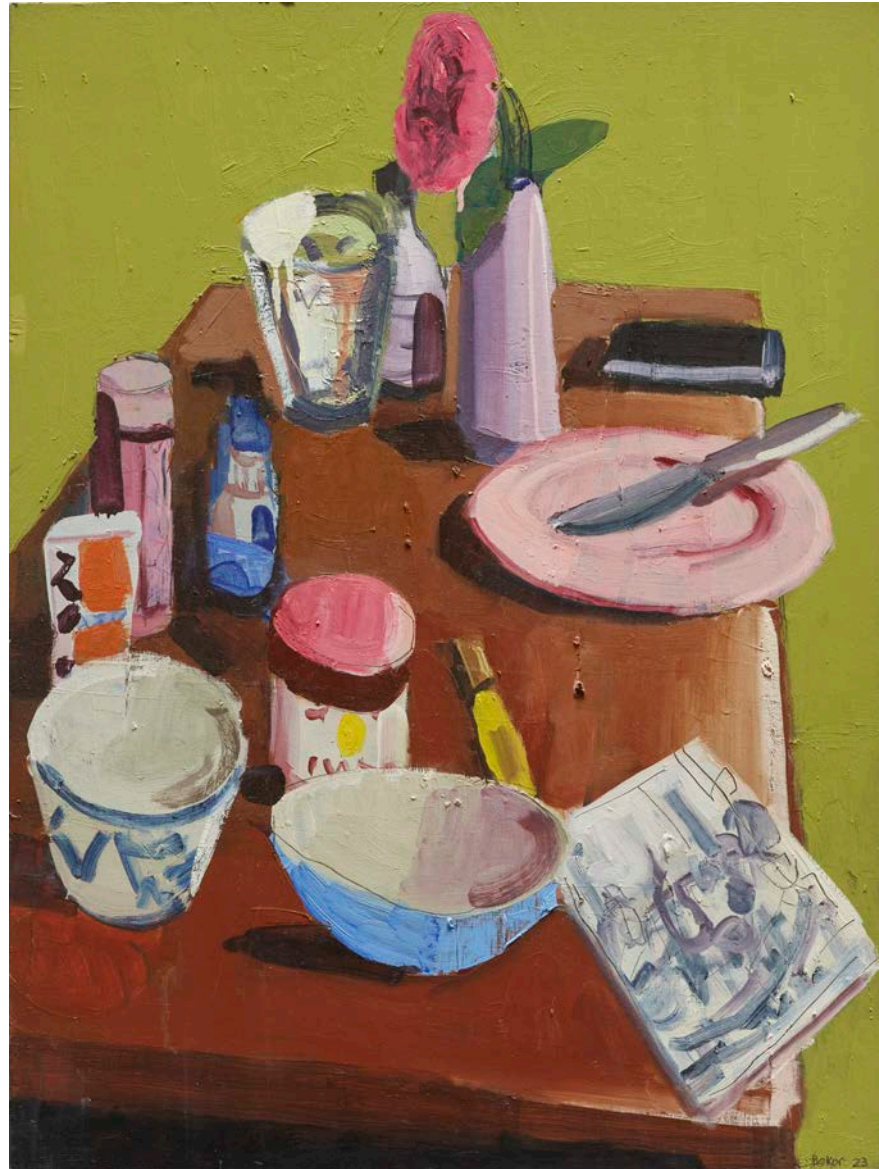
Round Vase 2023 carbon, wash and collage 25 x 20 cm



Sunday Morning 2023 charcoal, wash and collage on paper 84 x 108 cm

Bathroom Sink 2022
oil on board
81 x 61 cm





Sidetable 2023 oil on board 81 x 61 cm



Rose and Fruit 2023 oil on board 27 x 30 cm

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

2023 *Between Two Rooms* King Street Gallery on William, Sydney, NSW
 2022 *Domestic Splendour* Edwina Corlette Gallery, Brisbane, QLD
 2021 *A place like home* Edwina Corlette Gallery, Brisbane
Still Lives and Interiors Nicholas Thompson Gallery, Melbourne, VIC
 2020 *Inner world* King Street Gallery on William, Sydney
 2019 *Between the Walls* Nicholas Thompson Gallery, Melbourne
At My Table Edwina Corlette Gallery, Brisbane
 2018 *Interiors* King Street Gallery on William
 2017 *The Source* Wollongong Art Gallery, NSW
 2016 *Everyday World* King Street Gallery on William
 Artist in residence exhibition Coffs Harbour Regional Gallery, NSW
 2015 *Close to Home* King Street Gallery on William
 2014 *John Bokor* Coffs Harbour Regional Gallery
 2013 *The Still Life* King Street Gallery on William
 Union Club, Sydney [Courtesy of King Street Gallery]
 2011 *Black Diamond District* King Street Gallery on William
 2009 *Inside* King Street Gallery on William
 2007 *Small World Paintings* King Street Gallery on William
 2005 *Paintings* king street gallery on burton, Sydney
 2004 Mary Place Gallery, Sydney
 2002 Mary Place Gallery
 1999 ABC Gallery, Sydney
 1998 Crawford Gallery, Sydney
 1997 Crawford Gallery
 1996 Crawford Gallery
 1995 Mary Place Gallery

Group exhibitions [selected]

2023 *The Dobell Drawing Prize* National Art School, Sydney, NSW
 2021 *The Dobell Drawing Prize* National Art School, Sydney
Sir John Sulman Prize Art Gallery of New South Wales (AGNSW)
 2020 *Muswellbrook Art Prize* Muswellbrook Regional Arts Centre, NSW
 2019 *National Still Life Award* Coffs Harbour Regional Gallery

Muswellbrook Art Prize Muswellbrook Regional Arts Centre
Inside/Outside King Street Gallery on William, Sydney
Sir John Sulman Prize Art Gallery of New South Wales
 2018 *Adelaide Perry Prize for Drawing* PLC, Sydney
 2017 *Adelaide Perry Prize for Drawing* PLC
Tattersall's Landscape Prize Brisbane
Mosman Art Prize Mosman Art Gallery, Sydney
Paddington Art Prize Sydney
GIFC travelling works on paper exhibition - Chart Art Fair, Copenhagen, Denmark; The Hole, NYC;
 Rod Bianco Gallery, Oslo, Norway; 0-0 Gallery, Los Angeles, California
 2016 *Bokor, Ferguson & McKenzie* Muswellbrook Regional Art Gallery, NSW
Planting Dreams State Library of NSW, Sydney
Baked Goods University City Arts League Gallery, Philadelphia, USA
Paddington Art Prize Sydney
The Rick Amor Drawing Prize Melbourne, Vic
Just Draw [travelling drawing exhibition] Newcastle Art Gallery and Bathurst Regional Art Gallery, NSW
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 [winner] Kings School, Sydney
Mosman Art Prize Mosman Art Gallery
Adelaide Perry Prize for Drawing PLC
Muswellbrook Art Prize [winner] Muswellbrook Regional Art Gallery
Just Paper Maitland Regional Art Gallery, NSW
 2014 *Paddington Art Prize* Sydney
Kedumba Drawing Award Wild Valley Art Gallery, NSW
Eutick Memorial Still Life Award Coffs Harbour Regional Gallery
Rick Amor Drawing Prize Ballarat Regional Gallery, Vic
Adelaide Perry Drawing Prize Methodist Ladies College, Sydney
Fishers Ghost Art Award Campbelltown Arts Centre, NSW
A Landscape of Place and Name King Street Gallery on William
En Plein Air Painting Prize NSW Parliament House, Sydney
Calleen Art Prize Cowra Regional Gallery, NSW
 2013 *Last but not Least* King Street Gallery on William
Fishers Ghost Art Award Campbelltown Arts Centre, NSW
Eutick Memorial Still Life Award Coffs Harbour Regional Gallery
Mosman Art Prize Mosman Art Gallery
Looking Forward King Street Gallery on William
Wilson Art Prize Trinity Catholic College, Lismore NSW
Still Life AGNSW, Sydney
Fleurieu Landscape Prize SA
Calleen Art Award Cowra Regional Gallery, NSW
 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

2011 *Adelaide Perry Prize for Drawing* Adelaide Perry Gallery, Sydney
Eutick Memorial Still Life Award Coffs Harbour Regional Gallery
Rick Amor Drawing Prize Art Gallery of Ballarat, Vic
NSW Parliament Plein Air Painting Prize NSW Parliament House
Whyalla Art Prize Middleback Theatre, Whyalla
NSW Parliament Plein Air Painting Prize NSW Parliament House
2010 *Nora Heysen Centenary Art Prize* Hahndorf, SA
Mosman Art Prize Mosman Art Gallery
Stanthorpe Regional Gallery Art Prize Qld
En Plein Air Painting Prize NSW Parliament House
2009 *Mosman Art Prize* Mosman Art Gallery
ANL Maritime Art Prize Melbourne
Coffs Harbour Art Prize Coffs Harbour Regional Gallery
Kenilworth Art Prize Kenilworth, Qld
Paddington Art Prize Menzies Art Brands, Sydney
2006 *Last Show of the Year* king street gallery on burton
Sustainable Living NG Gallery, Sydney
No Place Like Home NG Gallery
2005 *Agri / culture* Hawkesbury Regional Gallery, NSW
Bon A Tիրer-Prints from the Studio Mosman Art Gallery
Dog Trumpet Michael Nagy Gallery, Sydney
2004 *Project Parkinsons* Prince of Wales Medical Research Institute
2003 *Hazelhurst Works On Paper Exhibition* Hazelhurst Regional Gallery, Sydney
Mosman Art Prize Mosman Art Gallery
Waverly Art Prize Exhibition Sydney
2002 *Brett Whitley Travelling Art Scholarship Exhibition* Sydney
2001 *Young Australian Artists* Bartley Drey Gallery, London
2000 *Jackman Gallery*, Melbourne
Mary Place Gallery
Lloyd Rees Memorial Art Award Exhibition ABC Gallery, Sydney
Waverley Art Prize Exhibition Sydney
1999 *Brett Whitley Travelling Art Scholarship Exhibition*
Cityscapes Level Gallery, Sydney
1997 *Glebe Art Show* Sydney
1994 *Fishers Ghost Exhibition* Campbelltown Bicentennial City Art Gallery, NSW

Awards & residencies

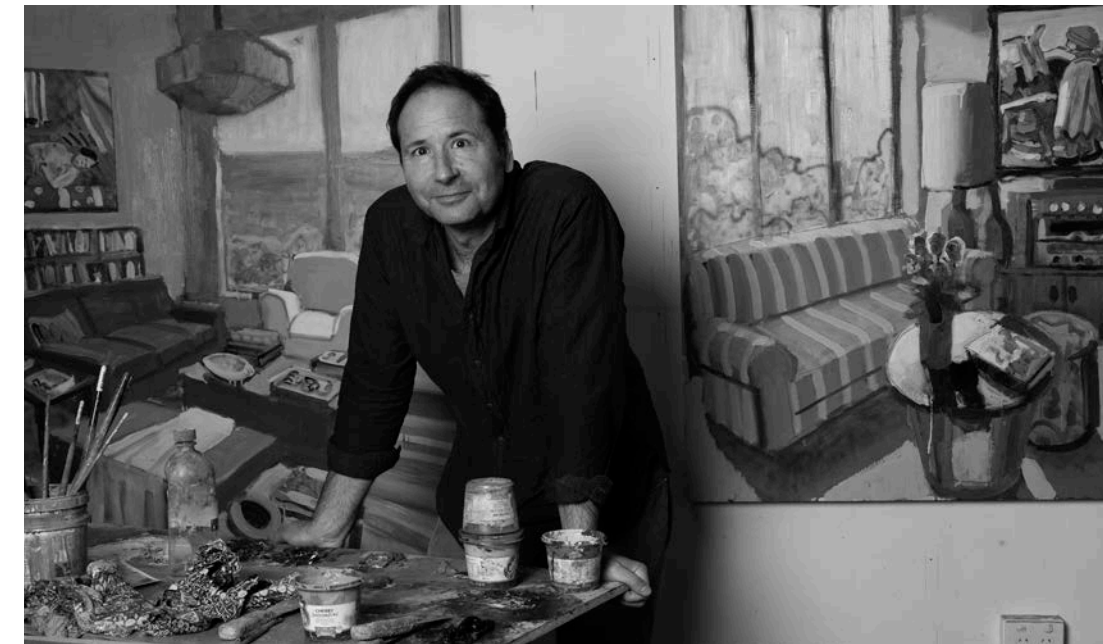
2016 *Sawtell Artist in Residence*, Coffs Harbour, NSW
2015 *NSW State Library Artist in Residence* [2 weeks], Sydney
Kings School Art Prize The Kings School [winner]
Muswellbrook Art Prize Drawing Section, Muswellbrook Regional Art Gallery [winner]
2014 *South Hill Yellow House Residency* Goulburn NSW
2013 *Eutick Still Life Memorial Art Award* [winner-first prize]
Wilson Art Award Trinity Catholic College, Lismore [winner-first prize]
2012 *NSW Parliament en Plein Air Prize* Sydney [winner]
Eutick Memorial Still Life Award Coffs Harbour Regional Gallery, NSW [sponsor's prize]

2006 *Loquat Valley Anglican School Art Prize* Sydney
2004 *Waverley Woollahra Art Prize* Sydney
Allan Gamble Art Prize Sydney
2003 *Waverley Art Prize* [local subject] Sydney
1997 *Glebe Art Show* Sydney [Peoples Choice Award]

Collections

Art Gallery of Ballarat, Victoria
Art Gallery of New South Wales
Australian Catholic University
Charles Sturt University Art Collection, New South Wales
Coffs Harbour Regional Gallery, New South Wales
Kings School Art Collection, Sydney
Macquarie Bank, Australia
Maitland Regional Gallery, New South Wales
Muswellbrook Regional Arts Centre, New South Wales

New South Wales Parliament Art Collection
State Library, New South Wales
The Australia Club, New South Wales
Trinity Catholic College, Lismore, New South Wales
UBS Warburg, Australia
University of Sydney, New South Wales
University of Wollongong, New South Wales
Waverley/Woollahra Council, Sydney
Wollongong Art Gallery, New South Wales



John Bokor in Studio, 2023
Photo courtesy Riste Andrievski

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