

Tom Carment
POSTCARDS -
Twenty new
watercolours



King Street Gallery
on William

Photograph courtesy Karl Schwerdtfeger

4 August
- 29 August, 2026

POSTCARDS -

Twenty new watercolours

Over breakfast I like to make a plan, not a five year plan, but just a destination for the day. Decision made, I grab my Opal card, watercolours, a book to read, a notebook to write in, and hop on a bus or train. I might go north to Cowan, west to Strathfield, east to Clovelly Bay, or up to Katoomba. Some days I reach my subjects on foot, revisiting things I've noticed on walks to Prince Alfred Park Pool or on shopping trips to the supermarket. During 2025 I regularly visited an old friend in his Waverley nursing home and would sometimes attempt a watercolour en route at either end of this visit, until he died in November. Other watercolours were done on my trips to South Australia - small towns along the Mallee Highway, the wide-open beach at Goolwa near our friend Tanya's house.

My pictures are all done from life, in one session. Sometimes no-one sees what I'm doing but in more crowded, urban places I have to steel myself to get started. Outside Central Station there's a constant flow of pedestrian traffic around the places I choose to sit. Back to a wall is best. Working small and close to the ground I hope that people might think I'm just tying my shoelaces or taking a breather. Seagulls and pigeons often gather round when I first unfold my bright-coloured plates, jostling each other to get close. 'Nothing to eat here,' I tell them. After about ten minutes they shuffle away. Segmented fragments of conversation float by as I work. People occasionally tap me on the shoulder and ask for a smoke or a light. I wait while convoys of noisy schoolkids pour off trams, blocking my view, refreshing some blobs of watercolour while they pass. I try hard to blur everything out, bar a sort of corridor between my subject, my sheet of paper and the watercolour plate.

A person wearing a hat and light-colored clothing is sitting on the ground in a field, painting. They are positioned in front of a dark wooden fence. The background is filled with tall, dry grass and a dense line of trees under a clear sky. The overall scene is peaceful and artistic.

My watercolour kit is carried in a square canvas backpack containing a small folding stool, two white enamel plates taped together, one of which has blobs of watercolour around its perimeter. I like to wrap these in a newspaper from a foreign country, Japan or Chile, places where my children have lived. I don't get distracted by reading the text. My sable brushes and a few pencils are held in a cloth holder that Jan made for me. In the backpack's side pockets

I carry water, insect repellent, sunscreen and sometimes an umbrella. I paint on loose sheets of 300gsm watercolour paper, held in place by rolls of strong framing tape. I quickly mark out things in pencil, then start painting. When I'm done I flip the paper over and evenly wet the reverse side then let it dry in the sun, to flatten it out. While this is happening I wash clean water over my blobs of colour on the plate, to freshen them up, ready for the next picture. I like to take this bag with me even when it's not a painting day, in case an opportunity opens up.

Each small picture is associated with the things I did that day, the people I spoke to before and after, the sounds and words I heard while I was doing it. A version of what I saw remains there on the sheet of paper, hopefully true to the initial sensation that made me want to stop and paint. On rainy days I open up my plan drawers and go through recent watercolours, ripping up the ones I no longer like.

This exhibition is a selection of twenty of my recent postcard-sized works and I will show more of them along with my oil paintings in April next year.

for Robert Gray (1945 - 2025)

Tom Carment



Carment, Tom

Behind the Shops, Charing Cross, Waverley

\$1,200 incls GST
2025, watercolour on paper, 11.5x16cm



Carment, Tom

Dental Hospital Spring Afternoon

\$1,200 incl GST
2025, watercolour on paper, 11.5x16cm



Carment, Tom

Massage, Second Floor, near Central Station

\$1,200 incls GST
2025, watercolour on paper, 11.5x16cm



Carment, Tom

Midday, Cowangie

\$1,200 incls GST
2025, watercolour on paper, 11.5x16cm



Carment, Tom

Railway Viaduct, from Belmore Park

\$1,200 incls GST

2025, watercolour on paper, 11.5x16cm



Carment, Tom

Tall Jacaranda, Strathfield

\$1,200 incls GST
2025, watercolour on paper, 16x11.5cm



Carment, Tom

White House, Surry Hills

\$1,200 incls GST
2025, watercolour on paper, 16x11.5cm



Photograph courtesy
Karl Schwerdtfeger



Carment, Tom

Winter Morning, from Waverley Park

\$1,200 incls GST
2025, watercolour on paper, 11.5x16cm



Carment, Tom

Carlton Flats, Melbourne

\$1,200 incls GST
2026, watercolour on paper, 11.5x16cm



Carment, Tom

House on Picadilly Rd Adelaide Hills

\$1,200 incls GST
2026, watercolour on paper, 11.5x16cm



Carment, Tom

Green Fence, Gouger Street, Adelaide

\$1,200 incls GST
2025, watercolour on paper, 11.5x16cm



Photograph courtesy
Karl Schwerdtfeger



Carment, Tom

Blue Tent, West Beach Adelaide

\$1,200 incls GST
2025, watercolour on paper, 11.5x16cm



Carment, Tom

Clovelly, Autumn Morning

\$1,350 incls GST
2026, watercolour on paper, 15x20cm



Carment, Tom

Bather, Daly Head

\$1,200 incls GST
2025, watercolour on paper, 11.5x16cm



Carment, Tom

Autumn Bathers, Cottesloe

\$1,200 incls GST
2025, watercolour on paper, 11.5x16cm



Carment, Tom

Goolwa Beach, October Afternoon

\$1,200 incls GST
2025, watercolour on paper, 11.5x16cm



Carment, Tom

Sunday Afternoon at Sharkey's Beach

\$1,200 incls GST
2025, watercolour on paper, 11.5x16cm



Carment, Tom

Blue Gazebo, Goolwa Beach

\$1,200 incls GST
2026, watercolour on paper, 11.5x16cm



Carment, Tom

Clovelly in March

\$1,200 incls GST
2026, watercolour on paper, 11.5x16cm



Carment, Tom

Jetty, East Dunsborough

\$1,200 incls GST
2025, watercolour on paper, 11.5x16cm



Carment, Tom

Pontoon, Redleaf Pool

\$1,200 incls GST
2026, watercolour on paper, 11.5x16cm

Tom Carment

Select Biography

Lives and works in Darlinghurst, Sydney.

Born 1954 Sydney
Education 1973 Julian Ashton

Solo exhibitions

2026 *New Watercolour Paintings* King Street Gallery on William, Sydney
2025 *Bathers, Bushland, Houses, Fruit & Veg* King Street Gallery on William
2023 *The Long Way Round* King Street Gallery on William
2022 *Two Years in South Australia* King Street Gallery on William
2021 *Leaving Murrays Lane – Watercolours 2019-21* King Street Gallery on William (Online Exhibition)

Group exhibitions

2026 *The Archibald Prize*, Art Gallery of New South Wales (AGNSW)
The Wynne Prize, AGNSW
Touring exhibition of the 24th Dobell Drawing Award
The Adelaide Perry Drawing Prize, PLC Croydon, Sydney, NSW.
Collection exhibition, University of Wollongong, NSW
Contemporary Landscape Paintings from the Salon Des Refuses, White Cottage Gallery, Retford Park, Bowral.
2025 *The Dobell Drawing Prize*, NAS, Sydney
Korean Australian Art Foundation Prize, Korean Cultural Centre, Sydney
The Salon des Refusés, S.H. Ervin Gallery, Sydney
2024 *Collection 100*: New Manly Art Gallery and Museum, Manly, Sydney
Mosman Art Prize (finalist) Mosman Art Gallery, Sydney
The Salon des Refusés, S.H. Ervin Gallery,
2023 *The Salon des Refusés*, S.H. Ervin Gallery
Adelaide Perry Drawing Prize, MLC Croydon
2022 *75 Years of the Mosman Art Prize*, Sydney
2021 *The Archibald Prize*, Art Gallery NSW
The Wynne Prize, Art Gallery NSW
Dobell Drawing Prize National Art School, Sydney

Prizes and awards

2021 *New South Wales Premiers Literary Awards*, Non-fiction [Shortlisted]
2014 *NSW Parliament Plein Air Painting Prize*
2010 *COFA Award*, Paddington Art Prize
Alan Gamble Award (Mosman Art prize - best depiction of the built environment)
2008 *Gallipoli Art Prize*
2005 *Acquired for collection - Kedumba Drawing Award*
Mosman Art Prize
2004-6 Commission to paint & draw construction of Council House 2, Melbourne
2003 *King's Cross Art Prize*
2002 *Mosman Art Prize - Alan Gamble Award* (best depiction of the built environment)
2001 *Open section, Waverley Art Prize*
2000 *Drawing section, Waverley Art Prize*
1999 *Open and Works on Paper sections, Waverley Art Prize*
1998 *Acquired for collection - Kedumba Drawing Award*

1997 *Drawing section, Waverley Art Prize*
1992 *Artist-in-residence, Wollongong University*
Watercolour section, Waverley Art Prize
1988 *Drawing section, Mosman Art Prize*
Open section, Waverley Art Prize
1984 *Artist-in-residence, Geelong College*
1975 *Berrima District Art Prize*

Collections

Artbank
Art Gallery of New South Wales
Ballarat Regional Art Gallery
Bibliothèque Nationale de Paris
Broken Hill Regional Art Gallery
City of Melbourne Art and Heritage Collection
Geelong College
Hawkesbury Regional Art Gallery
Kedumba Drawing Collection
Macquarie Group Collection
Maitland Regional Art Gallery
Maritime Union of Australia
Mosman Regional Art Gallery
National Gallery of Australia
Shoalhaven Regional Art Gallery
State Library of New South Wales
State Parliament of New South Wales
Qantas
Waverley Council
Westmead Hospital
Wollongong City Art Gallery
University of Wollongong Collection

A comprehensive CV for Tom Carment available on the King Street Gallery on William website:

<https://kingstreetgallery.com.au/artists/tom-carment/#cv>

Tom Carment Artist Profile QR Code:





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King Street Gallery
on William

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Photograph courtesy
Karl Schwerdtfeger