

FRANK NOWLAN NOW AND THEN



Egg &
DART

29 MARCH - 18 APRIL 2020 ONLINE EXHIBITION CATALOGUE

FRANK NOWLAN

NOW AND THEN

Now & Then shows Frank Nowlan's eclectic thinking through his distinctive painting style. Nowlan treads lightly with heavy subject matter, addressing attempted political assassinations and a series on a local bushranger gang. The straight presentation leads to a wry assessment of these encounters and their settings.

The "Attempts" series observes historical patterns and punishments. The event pictured in "The Attempt on Prince Alfred" led to hanging in April 1868. The attack on Prince Charles in 1994 resulted in a community service order for the assailant who later became a barrister. Nowlan has painted assassinations before including a focused look at JFK but these Australian instances are different. Each is a kind of failure and even the Hilton bombing that unfortunately led to deaths seems botched, with the intention remaining mysterious.

Previous series have focused on sport and there is a similar staging of the events pictured here. Figures are treated like actors in a play confronting one another armed with props – a shotgun, a musket, a starting pistol. In a stand-alone painting (after John Brack's "Collins St., 5pm" from 1955) we see figures on a train, each gripping a mobile phone or tablet. The flatness of the images leads to this sense of a stage set where actions are choreographed. Prince Alfred encounters his assailant on a green patch in Clontarf where the diminutive hills wrap around and enclose the figures in the foreground. Nowlan's Austinmer Beach landscape tucks into the frame on either side like an operatic set with the escarpment behind. And each picture in the bushranger series seems lit in the round.

Frank Nowlan is always looking, whether at historical images or the work of other painters. For the current landscapes he is looking from a train window as it travels across the Nullarbor. He is also reinspecting his knowledge of events as a history teacher. This exhibition shows divergent interests but the title Now & Then reveals an absurdist's approach to the repetitions of history.

-Melody Willis

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At Austi
2019, oil on canvas
76 x 121.5 cm
\$5,500

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The Attempt on Prince Alfred
2019, oil on canvas
76 x 102 cm
\$4,500

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Five O'clock at Wollie Creek after Brack
2019, oil on canvas
61 x 76 cm
\$3,600 (SOLD)

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The Dementia Ward
2019, oil on canvas
61 x 76 cm
\$3,600

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On the Plain
2019, oil on canvas
50.5 x 101.5 cm
\$3,600

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Approaching the Plain
2019, oil on canvas
51 x 76 cm
\$3,200

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The Attempt on The Hilton
2019, oil on canvas
46 x 61 cm
\$2,800

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Frances de Groot Attempt
2019, oil on canvas
61 x 46 cm
\$2,800 (SOLD)

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Solidarity with those in Detention
2018, oil on canvas
40 x 50 cm
\$2,000

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The Attempt on Prince Charles
2020, oil on canvas
40.5 x 30 cm
\$1,500

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The Attempt on Caldwell
2020, oil on canvas
25 x 30.5 cm
\$1,000

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Little Bulli Cattle Duffer
2019, oil on canvas
30.5 x 26 cm
\$1,000 (SOLD)

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The Shoot Out
2019, oil on canvas
26 x 30.5 cm
\$1,000

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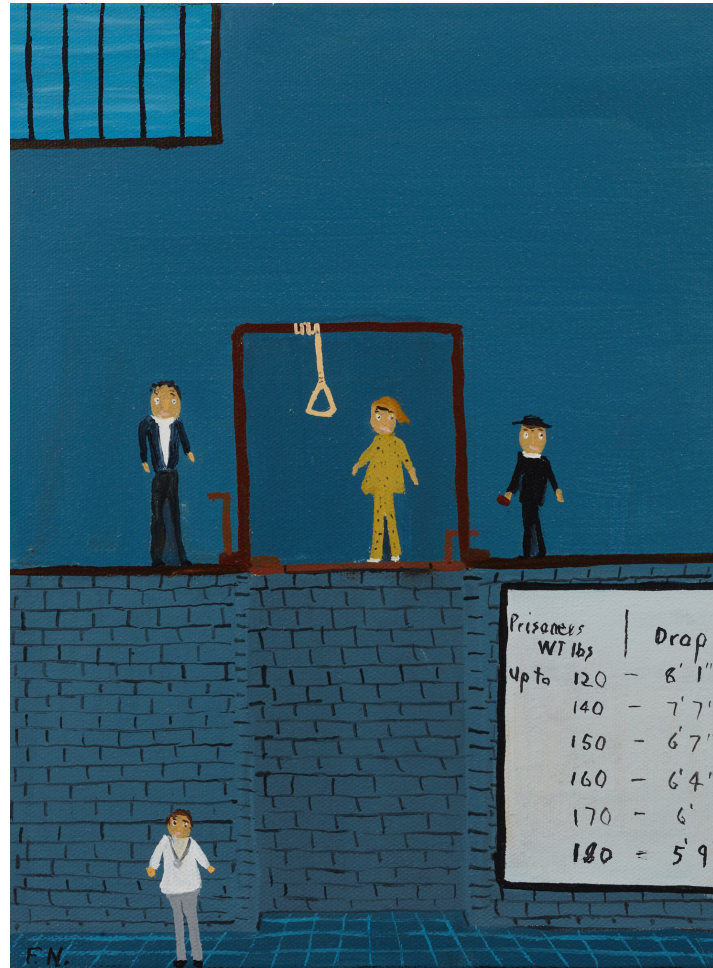
Wolloo Jack Gang
2019, oil on canvas
30.5 x 23 cm
\$1,000 (SOLD)

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Lone Illawarra Bushranger
2019, oil on canvas
30.3 x 23 cm
\$1,000

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The End of Wolloo Jack
2019, oil on canvas
30.5 x 23 cm

\$1,000

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Wolloo Jack on the Wodi-Wodi Track
2019, oil on canvas
23 x 30.5 cm
\$1,000

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CV

Born 1943, Sydney, NSW Australia

Based in Thirroul, NSW Australia

EDUCATION

1972 Bachelor of Arts (History), UNIVERSITY OF NEW ENGLAND, Armidale, NSW

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2018 *This Sporting Life*, THE EGG & DART, Thirroul, NSW
2017 *Old and New*, THE EGG & DART, Thirroul, NSW
2015 *Things We Don't Talk About*, THE EGG & DART, Thirroul, NSW
2014 *Locale*, THE EGG & DART, Thirroul, NSW
2011 *Man of the Series - Frank Nowlan*, TOURING AT HAWKESBURY, TAMWORTH AND DUBBO REGIONAL GALLERIES and WOLLONGONG ART GALLERY, NSW
2008 *Sacred Sites*, SHEFFER GALLERY, Sydney, NSW
Postcards from Thirroul, PETER FAY GALLERY, Sydney, NSW
2004 *Northern Illawarra and Beyond*, WOLLONGONG CITY GALLERY, Wollongong

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2019 *Auckland Art Fair*, THE CLOUD /AKL WATERFRONT, Auckland, New Zealand
A Place Called Home, WOLLONGONG REGIONAL GALLERY, Wollongong, NSW
Schorcher, THE EGG & DART, Thirroul, NSW
2018 *The Wollongong Art Gallery 40th Anniversary Exhibition*, WOLLONGONG ART GALLERY, Wollongong, NSW
The Castle, THE EGG & DART, Thirroul, NSW
2017 *The Egg & Dart Family and Friends Exhibition*, THE EGG & DART, Thirroul, NSW
Artist Profile: Australasian Painters 2007-2017, ORANGE REGIONAL GALLERY, Orange, NSW
Sentiment, Ten Days on the Island Festival, SAWTOOTH, Launceston, TAS
Coast, EDWINA CORLETTE GALLERY, Brisbane, QLD

2016 *Frank & Paul*, Frank Nowlan & Paul Ryan, THE EGG & DART, Thirroul, NSW
Private Lives, the artist as collector, S.H. ERVIN GALLERY, Sydney, NSW
The Egg & Dart on Excursion, CASULA POWER HOUSE ART CENTRE, Casula,
Glazed and Confused, HAZELHURST GALLERY, Gymea, NSW
2015 - 2019 *The Annual Egg & Dart Christmas Show*, THE EGG & DART, Thirroul, NSW
2013 *Out of the Blue*, SHEFFER GALLERY, Sydney, NSW
Slow Down, SHEFFER GALLERY, Sydney, NSW
2011 *Drawn to the Line*, GOULBURN REGIONAL GALLERY, Goulburn, NSW
Frank & Friends, SHEFFER GALLERY, Sydney, NSW
2010 *D.H Lawrence in Australia*, UNION, UNIVERSITY AND SCHOOLS CLUB, Sydney, NSW
NSW
2009 *Self Taught and Outsider Art*, CALLAN PARK GALLERY, Sydney, NSW
Licorice Allsorts, KING STREET GALLERY, Sydney, NSW
Non Grand, WOLLONGONG CITY GALLERY, Wollongong, NSW
30th Anniversary Exhibition, WOLLONGONG CITY GALLERY, Wollongong, NSW
Blood Lines, HAWKESBURY REGIONAL GALLERY, Hawkesbury, NSW
2007 *Good Things*, GORMAN HOUSE ART CENTRE, Canberra, ACT