NICK SANTORO Libidinal Hymnal 25 NOV - 12 DEC 2020 EXHIBITION CATALOGUE

NICK SANTORO

25 NOV - 12 DEC 2020

Nick Santoro's universe might be a strategy for figuring out the dimensions of capitalism. In an offhand way, the expression Libidinal Hymnal certainly suggests that. And it is a state the late punk thinker Mark Fisher proposed as a kind of entrapment: a political model that leaves little room to dream beyond its own consumptive desires. Acquisition and personal expression might be paramount, but it's pretty fun right? And Santoro offers us a populated grab bag where outcasts and winners launch into speculative encounters in a slippery dimension between local realism and the internet realm. (For example, TESLA's cybertruck confronts the Bindle Bros in a George Soros network of grey pipes located in youtube's blind spots.)

The artist doesn't talk this way though. His associations are easy permutations, not quite this-goes-with-that, but a hypothetical practice where the works propose open-ended scenarios. The space of the painting suggests a theatre stage with the artist presenting as producer/director. The decorative frames might even act as a definitive curtain. One significant work, a cut out of the artist's profile, is a nod to this role as "producer", a piss-take acknowledgement of the figurative painter as a puppet master.

While Santoro's studio and computer offer a collage of reference points and diversions, there are no didactic politics to be found. Santoro does mention the documentary Hypernormalisation, Adam Curtis's densely delivered analysis of the global political landscape from the 1980s onward. But it could be that the artist aligns himself with the jumpy editing and pushed together aesthetic of this film, which guides us from Jane Fonda workouts via Ronald Reagan's astrological decision making to the billionaire factories of the present.

A more clearly political element in the current show is Santoro's workplace drawings. These have been constructed while working at a front desk, doing the kind of part-time monitoring job that allows for an art practice. Here drawing has become a parallel kind of labour embedded within that which is paid by the hour. In Santoro's drawings there is the same detail as seen in the paintings but stripping away colour and surface allows for a richer linear expression. This linearity has then found its way back into recent paintings, where figures are elevated through outline, acquiring an aura of celebrity or transcendence.

Nick Santoro was this year a finalist in the Archibald Prize with his painting of fellow artist Phanos Proestos. The painting "Hewitts Avenue Montage" was exhibited in the John Sulman Prize in 2019 and his work was presented at Melbourne Art Fair 2020 and Sydney Contemporary in 2019. A recent significant installation formed part of Here + Now at the Wollongong Art Gallery near the end of 2018. Santoro was born in 1994 and lives in the Illawarra area.



-Melody Willis





info@egganddart.com.au | +61 2 42 684 885 | egganddart.com.au



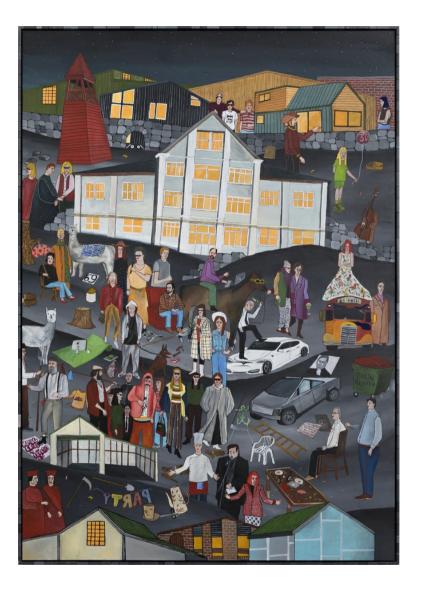
Warehouse #1, 2020 Acrylic on board with hand painted frame 75 x 121.5 cm AUD 5,300 **SOLD**



Warehouse #2, 2020 Acrylic on board with hand painted frame 72 x 121.5 cm AUD 5,300 **SOLD**







Fountaindale Dream Sequence 1, 2020 Acrylic on board with hand painted frame 132 x 93.5 cm AUD 4,900 **SOLD**







Ariel Pink and Glen Gould by the Castle in the Wind²⁰²⁰ Acrylic on board 106 x 60 cm AUD 1,600



Paranoid Street, 2020 Acrylic on board 45 x 56 cm AUD 1,600







Insurgency of the Metal Heads, 2020 Acrylic on board 106 x 47 cm AUD 3,100



Tis Not a Bar, Tis a Pop-Up 2020 Acrylic on board with hand painted frame 47 x 63 cm AUD 2,200 **SOLD**







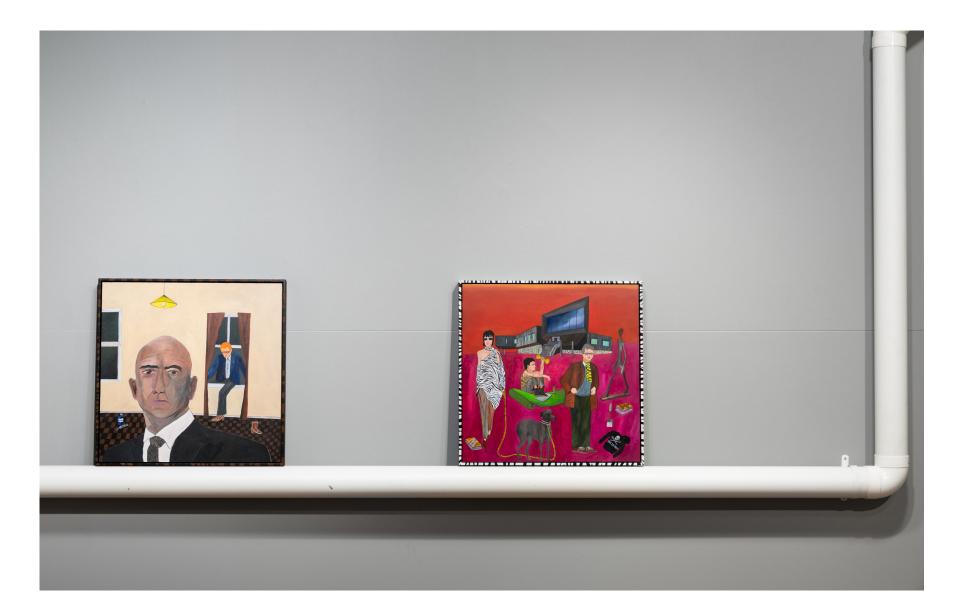
At The Anarchist Encampment, 2020 Acrylic on board with hand painted frame 52 x 52 cm AUD 2,200 **SOLD**



Gerringong Rich House, 2020 Acrylic on board with hand painted frame 52 x 52 cm AUD 2,200



Jeff, 2020 Acrylic on board with hand painted frame 52 x 52 cm AUD 2,200





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Dachshunds Are The Breed of Dog Most Likely to Turn On Their Owner, 2020 Acrylic on board with hand painted frame 52 x 52 cm AUD 2,200 **SOLD**



Aquim, 2020 Acrylic on board with hand painted frame 52 x 52 cm AUD 2,200







Glen at the Bakery, 2020 Pen and ink on paper 47 x 42 cm AUD 2,200



Morandi Shrine, 2018 Pen on paper with collage, framed 45 x 55 cm AUD 2,200



Someone's Letter in Vienna & Exile 2018 Pen on paper with collage, framed 47.5 x 62.5 cm AUD 2,600



Behind the Security Desk (Caretaker), 2020 Pen on paper 76 x 95.5 cm AUD 3,600 **SOLD**





NICK SANTORO

Born 1994 Wollongong, NSW, Australia Based in Bulli, NSW, Australia

EDUCATION				
2017	Bachelor of Fine Arts (Drawing and Printmaking), UNSW Art & Design, Sydney, NSW	2015 - 2018 2014	The Annual Egg & Dart Christmas Show, The Egg & Dart, Thirroul, NSW 1200k West, Ad Space, Sydney, NSW	
			Object and Image, Ad Space, Sydney, NSW	
SOLO EXHIBTIONS			Zephyr Magazine Launch, Project Contemporary Art Space, Wollongong, NSW	
2020	Libidinal Hymnal, The Egg & Dart, Thirroul, NSW			
	Melbourne Art Fair 2020, online		GRANTS, AWARDS, PUBLICATIONS & INTERVIEWS	
2018	3MOT1ON1, The Egg & Dart, Thirroul, NSW	2020	Archibald Prize (finalist), Art Gallery of NSW, Sydney, NSW	
	Pizza Pie Party Town, AirSpace Projects, Sydney, NSW		Salon des Refusés (finalist), S. H. Ervin Gallery, Sydney, NSW	
2017	The Chronicles of Corey Worthington & Other Misadventures,	2019	Hazelhurst Art on Paper (finalist), Hazelhurst Regional Gallery, Gymea, NSW	
	Edwina Corlette Gallery, Brisbane, QLD 6-8, Wellington St Projects, Sydney, NSW		Kilgour Prize, Newcastle Art Gallery, Newcastle, NSW	
	Serving Suggestion, The Egg & Dart, Thirroul, NSW		Sulman Prize (finalist), Art Galleallery of NSW, Sydney, NSW	
	Serving Suggestion, The Egg & Dan, Thinour, 14374	2018	Brett Whiteley Travelling Art Scholarship (finalist), Brett Whiteley Studios,	
GROUP EXHIBITIONS			Sydney, NSW	
2020 Holding Pattern, The Egg & Dart, Thirroul, NSW			The Churchie National Emerging Art Prize (finalist), QUT Art Museum, Brisbane,	
2019	Sydney Contemporary 2019, Carriageworks, Sydney, NSW		QLD	
2019	The Paper Salon, Ambush Gallery, Sydney, NSW		Salon des Refusés (finalist), S. H. Ervin Gallery, Sydney, NSW	
2018	Here + Now, Wollongong Art Gallery, Wollongong, NSW	2017	Brett Whiteley Travelling Art Scholarship (finalist), Brett Whiteley Studios,,	
2017	Salon de Sydney, Ambush Gallery, Sydney, NSW		Sydney, NSW	
2017	The Egg & Dart Family & Friends Exhibition, The Egg & Dart, Thirroul, NSW	2016	Runway Magazine video interview by Eilish Fitzpatrick, runway.org.au	
2016	The Egg & Dart on Excursion, The Casula Powerhouse Arts Center,	2015	The Mankind Diary (interview), themankinddiary.com	
20.0	Sydney, NSW	2013	Kudos Award (finalist), UNSW Art & Design, Sydney, NSW	
	Locals Lonely, The Egg & Dart, Thirroul, NSW	2014	Apathetic (Issue 2) Split (Issue 2)	
	Inhabiting Place, Inhabiting Space, Gaffa, Sydney, NSW		Zephyr Magazine (Issue 1)	
2015	Drawing the Line, Clifton School of Arts, Clifton, NSW		Hammered Brink (Issue 1)	
	He's Tru Blue, Kudos Gallery, Sydney, NSW		ridinnered Dirik (issue T)	
	Hard in the Paint, Space 101, Sydney, NSW			
	Apathetic Issue 2 "Floored" Magazine Launch, Good-Space, Sydney, NSW			
	Identify, Monster Mouse Studios, Sydney, NSW			







The Egg & Dart would like to thank Coal Coast Brewing and Dulux paints for their continued support of the gallery

The Egg & Dart acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we live and work, the Wodi Wodi people of the Darawal nation, and recognise their connection to land, water, and community. We pay respect to elders past, present, and emerging.



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