

## MARK MERRIKIN WITH FAIRIES

24 FEB - 13 MAR 2020

With an instinctive meshing together of material and feel, Mark Merrikin's paintings capture everyday connections between friends and family. This might feel like a well-trod path, but there is an unusual tenderness and direct gesture in the work. Figures feel lovingly embraced by a wild meshing of patterns and shifting surfaces. A colour link to the Fauvist modernists is there but then knocked back by accretions of cement and spray paint. Built up grainy areas bring the outside in to these images, landing the work in an urban present.

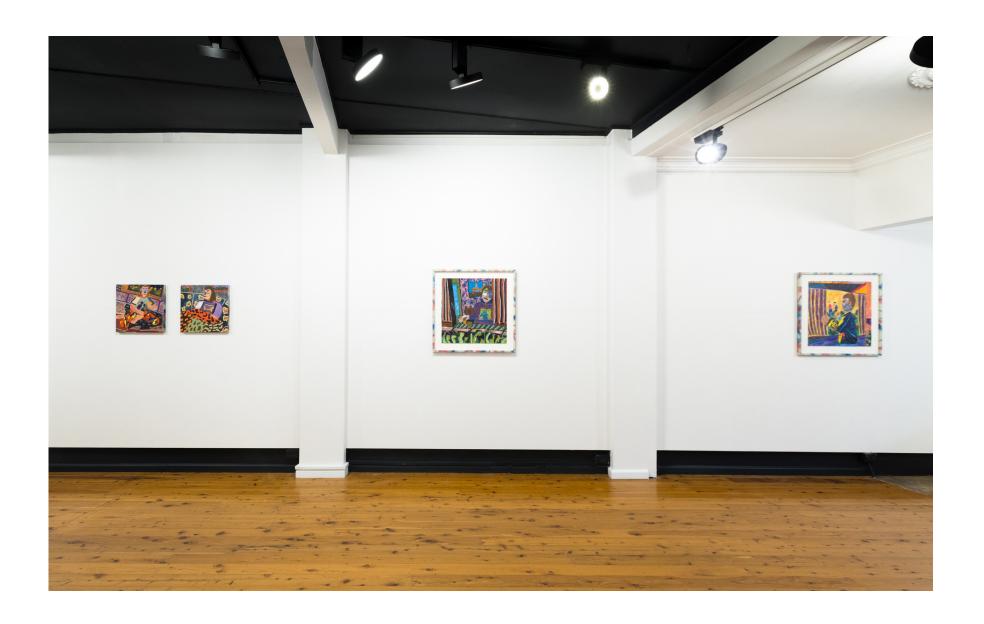
Merrikin uses direct methods to get started. Sketches are made from personal photographs and remembered conversations. An old-style overhead projector helps to get the drawings up onto the surface. This is where changes take place, swapping up images, adding and overlaying the composition while moving across the surface with paint and pencil and spray paint.

In parallel with the paintings, the artist presents casual sculptural objects in the same materials, incidental in their presentation but resilient in their physical weight. In these tender and confessional sculptures, portrait and dialogue find a foothold in what feels like a broken off piece of pavement. The objects further compress the space between urban exterior and the homestyle intimacy of the paintings. Merrikin works in an instinctive and direct way, with an intent to fold us in on moments of personal exchange.

Mark Merrikin is an emerging artist from Woolgoolga on the NSW mid-north coast. He is now based in Port Kembla, having graduated from the University of Wollongong. The Egg & Dart is excited to present the artist's first show at the gallery.

-Melody Willis



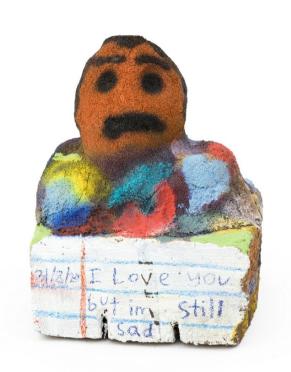












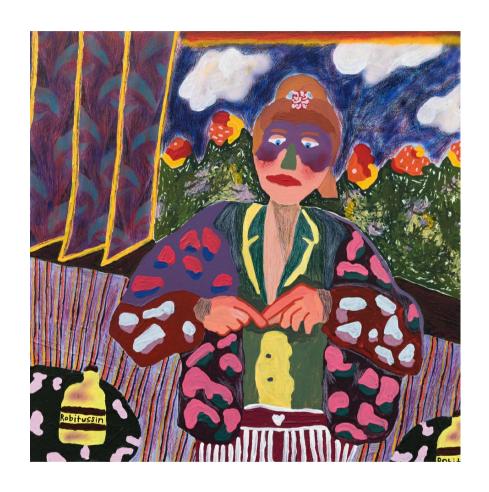
No Arms To Hold With, 2020 found objects, cement, spray paint, acrylic and airbrush  $10 \times 10 \times 16$  cm \$550





Hugs and Kisses, 2020 cement, acrylic, airbrush, spray paint and pencil on board 42 x 42 cm \$770



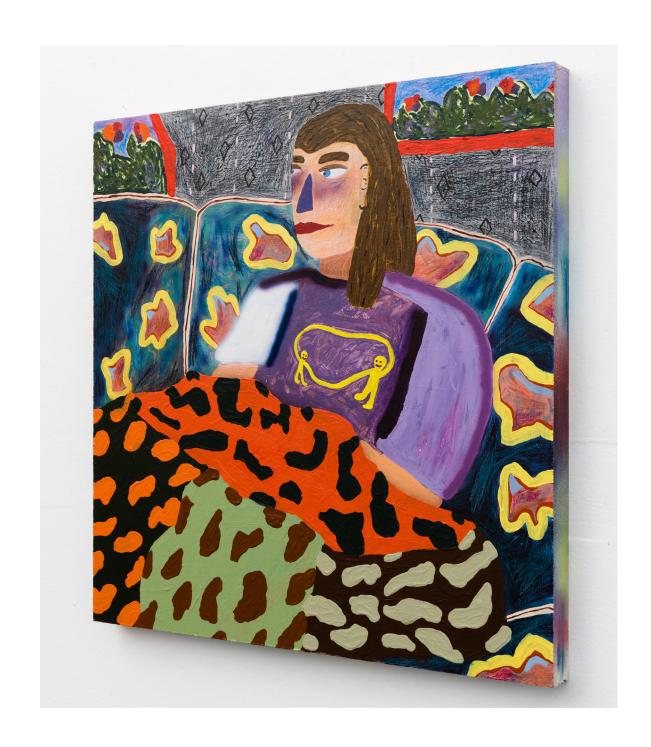


Appeal of Demise, 2021 acrylic, airbrush and coloured pencil on board 42 x 42 cm \$770





Gaze Toward Big Screen, 2021 acrylic, airbrush and coloured pencil on board 42 x 42 cm \$770





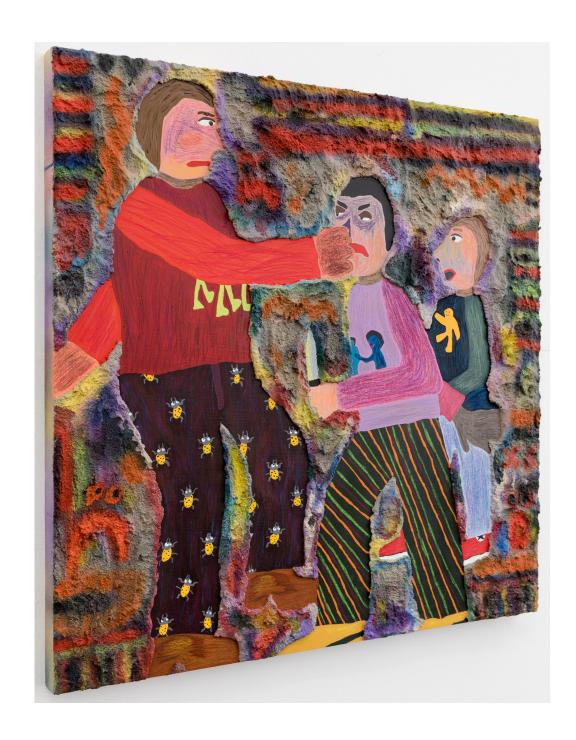






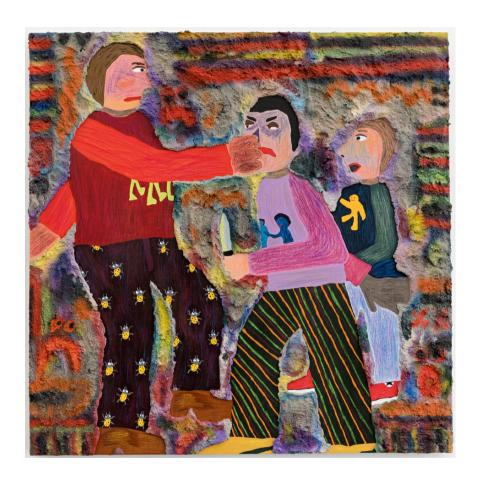


Brain Storm, 2020 cement, acrylic, airbrush, spray paint and pencil on board 42 x 42 cm \$770









Begbies Knife, 2021 cement, acrylic, airbrush, spray paint and pencil on board  $60 \times 60 \text{ cm}$  \$ 1,200





Blueb Jam, 2021 acrylic, airbrush and coloured pencil on board 42 x 42 cm \$770





Everything Leaves a Mark 2020 found objects, cement, spray paint, acrylic and airbrush  $12 \times 12 \times 18$  cm \$550





First Mango of Summer, 2021 acrylic, airbrush and coloured pencil on board 42 x 42 cm \$770





Nan Technologies, 2021 acrylic, airbrush and coloured pencil on board 42 x 42 cm \$750





Interior Dialogue, 2020 coloured pencil, acrylic, and airbrush on paper, framed, Ultravue glass  $56 \times 56$  cm Framed:  $72 \times 72 \times 3.5$  cm \$1,200









Spirit of Dolmades, 2021 acrylic, airbrush and coloured pencil on board 42 x 42 cm \$770





Static Mothers, 2021 acrylic, airbrush and coloured pencil on board 42 x 42 cm \$770





Sunroom Staffordshire's, 2020 coloured pencil, acrylic, and airbrush on paper, framed, Ultravue glass  $56 \times 56$  cm Framed:  $72 \times 72 \times 3.5$  cm \$1,200





Night Toast, 2020 coloured pencil, acrylic, and airbrush on paper, framed, Ultravue glass  $56 \times 56$  cm Framed:  $72 \times 72 \times 3.5$  cm \$1,200





Temperamental Misery, 2020 coloured pencil, acrylic, and airbrush on paper, framed, Ultravue glass  $56 \times 56$  cm Framed:  $72 \times 72 \times 3.5$  cm \$1,200





The Fight, 2020 coloured pencil, acrylic, and airbrush on paper, framed, Ultravue glass  $56 \times 56$  cm Framed:  $72 \times 72 \times 3.5$  cm \$1,200









Two Moods, 2020 found objects, cement, spray paint, acrylic and airbrush  $8\times10\times16$  cm \$550



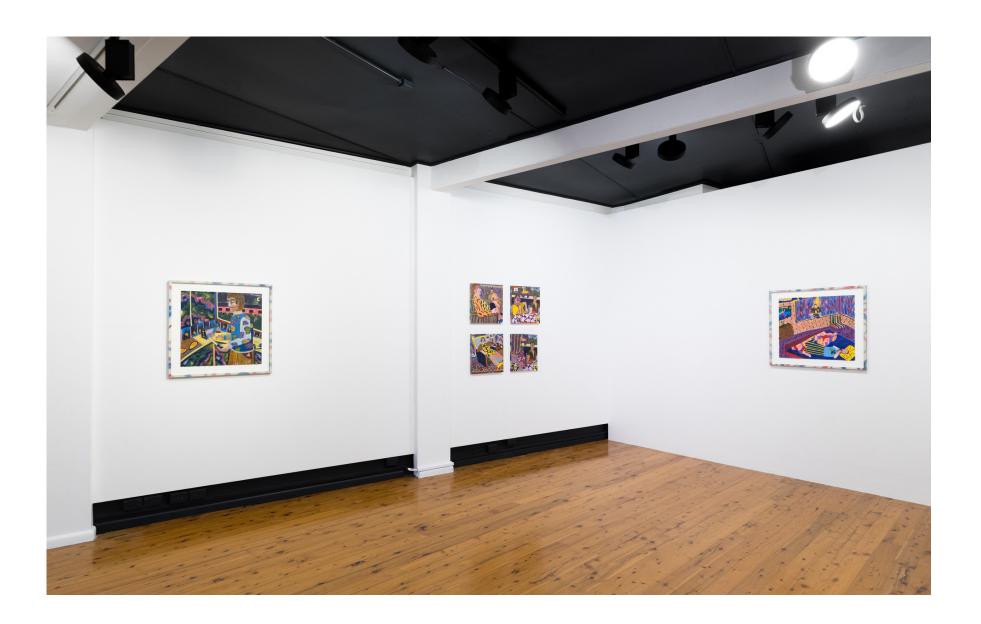


A Friend In Need 2020 cement, acrylic, airbrush, spray paint and pencil on board 42 x 42 cm \$770





Wind Shield, 2020 cement, acrylic, airbrush, spray paint and pencil on board 42 x 42 cm \$770









Fixated on Existence, 2020 found objects, cement, spray paint, acrylic and airbrush  $10 \times 10 \times 16$  cm \$550

## MARK MERRIKIN

Born 1995 Coffs Harbour, NSW, Australia Based in Port Kembla, NSW, Australia

**EDUCATION** 

2021 Bachelor of Fine Visual Arts, University of Wollongong, Sydney, NSW

SOLO EXHIBTIONS

2021 With Fairies, The Egg & Dart, Thirroul, NSW

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2021 Vital Signs, Hazelhurst Art Centre, Hazelhurst, NSW

2020 Zenith, Graduate show, University of Wollongong, Wollongong, NSW

Strawberry Boogie, UOW Uni Bar, Wollongong, NSW

OTHER

2017 Chilli Gomez, Walking with the Dead Horse, Album art

