

Egg& Dart

EXHIBITION CATALOGUE

5 - 27 AUG 2022



Mark
Merrikin

Got the
Morbs

Mark Merrikin Got the Morbs

5 - 27 AUGUST

In one of his new paintings, *Dwarfed by couch and feelings*, Mark Merrikin tenderly describes a melancholic figure. On an L-shaped lounge, tucked into the corner of a room, the figure seems embraced by their interior. Details include a doubling of bodies dancing or sparring, first on a t-shirt and then as a picture on the wall. The dancing figures connect to Matisse and Les Nabis, the movement of post-impressionist painters that included Édouard Vuillard and Pierre Bonnard. Influenced by Japanese block prints, those artists worked to assemble areas of vivid colour and texture, bringing an immersive sensibility to the Parisian bourgeois interior.

Mark Merrikin's world is quite different, a brick house in Port Kembla which is also the studio he now shares with his partner. In his domestic paintings, Merrikin aligns with the broad theme of those French Symbolists, but makes distinctions through surprising mediums – cement and sand, prismacolour pencils, spray paint for highlights and low lights – all which ground the work in something street level and improvised. We also step outside, to the front path, or looking across to the house opposite, where the textures of exterior built form intersect and teeter at accumulating angles.

In *Got The Morbs*, the house is a reassuringly chaotic sanctuary. Decorated surfaces outline sharks or skulls, the specific textures of carpet, a piped upholstery edge,



an open book, a toy dinosaur. Hands and feet sprawl and poke around corners. About the shifting textures Mark says,

“ I love the way patterns pull you across the painting.

It's a sensory appraisal that points to the way that the compositions direct us to find more within and notice some new little thing, like the spotlight on a plant or the faded wallpaper. Pattern can echo like the recollection of a conversation. Pattern weathers history and events or conjures the memory of a dog whose shape and character you dearly miss. The paintings are warm but a little heavier this time, using doorways and windows as multiple frames that draw us further into the work. It is not so much that we are viewers taking a peek inside, more that we are invited to inhabit the place of the artist.

Mark Merrikin is an emerging artist from Gumbaynggirr country / Coffs Harbour on the NSW mid-north coast. He is currently based in Dharawal / Illawarra, having graduated from the University of Wollongong in 2020. This is his second solo show with The Egg & Dart.

- **Melody Willis**





MARK MERRIKIN

Mocked By Ma Own Actions, 2022

Acrylic, airbrush and coloured pencil on 220gsm paper

58 cm (h) x 58 cm (w), unframed

AUD 900

MARK MERRIKIN

Impromptu Misery Investigation, 2022

Acrylic, airbrush and coloured pencil on 220gsm paper

58 cm (h) x 58 cm (w), unframed

AUD 900





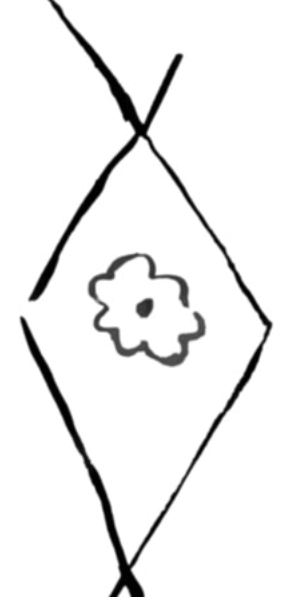
MARK MERRIKIN

Spleen Propelled Agony, 2022

Acrylic, airbrush, coloured pencil on board

122 cm (h) x 130 cm (w)

AUD 3,700



MARK MERRIKIN

Wandering Around a Blue Mind, 2022

Acrylic, airbrush, coloured pencil on board

61.5 cm (h) x 60 cm (w)

AUD 1,800



MARK MERRIKIN

Writhing Into a Magical Abyss, 2022

Acrylic, airbrush, coloured pencil on board

63 cm (h) x 63 cm (w)

AUD 1,800



MARK MERRIKIN
***Nothing Imitates Anything We're
Just Boaring And Repetitive, 2022***
Acrylic, airbrush, coloured pencil on board
122 cm (h) x 130 cm (w)
SOLD



MARK MERRIKIN
*We're Having a Meeting About
Breaving, 2022*
Cement, acrylic coloured pencil on board
51.5 cm (h) x 48 cm (w)
AUD 900

MARK MERRIKIN
*Back From The Bathroom After
The Wake, 2022*

Cement, acrylic coloured pencil on board
51.5 cm (h) x 47.5 cm (w)
SOLD





MARK MERRIKIN

Floated Out The Door, 2022

Acrylic, airbrush, coloured pencil on board

150cm (h) x 122 cm (w)

SOLD



MARK MERRIKIN

Taking Notes On Suffering, 2022

Cement, acrylic, coloured pencil on board

51 cm (h) x 48 cm (w)

AUD 1,800

MARK MERRIKIN

***Hard To Have a Bad Day When
You Can't Feel a Thing, 2022***

Acrylic, airbrush, coloured pencil on board

112 cm (h) x 93 cm (w)

SOLD





MARK MERRIKIN

Exit Plan Telekenesis, 2022

Acrylic, airbrush, coloured pencil on board

75 cm (h) x 93 cm (w)

AUD 2,200



MARK MERRIKIN

Dinner Disdain, 2022

Acrylic, airbrush, coloured pencil on 220gsm paper

58 cm (h) x 58 cm (w), unframed

AUD 900

MARK MERRIKIN

Fear Injecting Object

(Can't Move), 2022

Acrylic, airbrush, coloured pencil on board

58 cm (h) x 58 cm (w), unframed

AUD 900





MARK MERRIKIN

Night Whisper For Those Who Listen, 2022

Acrylic, airbrush, coloured pencil on board
122 cm (h) x 130 cm (w)

SOLD



MARK MERRIKIN

Balcony Bereavement, 2022

Cement, acrylic, coloured pencil on board

47.5 cm (h) x 51.5 cm (w),

AUD 900



MARK MERRIKIN
*Night Imitates Anything We're
Just Boaring And Repetitive, 2022*
Acrylic, airbrush, coloured pencil on board
122 cm (h) x 130 cm (w)
SOLD



MARK MERRIKIN

Optimistic Dawn Chorus, 2022

Acrylic, airbrush, coloured pencil on board

60.5 cm (h) x 60.5 cm (w)

AUD 1,800

MARK MERRIKIN

***Swallowed By Couch And
Sadness, 2022***

Acrylic, airbrush and coloured pencil on board

63 cm (h) x 62 cm (w)

AUD 1,800







Mark Merrikin

CV

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

EDUCATION

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

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2021 With Fairies, THE EGG & DART, Thirroul, NSW

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2021 The Egg & Dart XMAS SHOW 2021, THE EGG & DART, Thirroul, NSW
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



Egg & Dart

EGG & DART

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