The restless cosmopolitan

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"Gordon Bennett is Australia’s most recognised postcolonial Aboriginal painter. While he has always resisted the cult of Aboriginality (to the extent of refusing to identify his art as Aboriginal or himself as an Aboriginal painter), critics generally considered this a deconstructive tactic by which Bennett could further interrogate the politics of Aboriginality and identity..."

(excerpt from Gordon Bennett’s abstract art: the aesthetics of commitment and indifference by Ian McLean, 2004)

Works chronology

Essays

· The restless cosmopolitan by Ian McLean, 2008
· Who is John Citizen? by Ian McLean, 2006
· Gordon Bennett’s abstract art: the aesthetics of commitment and indifference by Ian McLean, 2004
· Gordon Bennett’s Notes to Basquiat (911) by Greg Dimitriadis & Cameron McCarthy, 2002
· 911 (with Apologies to Walter Benjamin), by Ian McLean, 2002

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BIOGRAPHY

1955 Born Monto, Queensland, lives and works in Brisbane
1986-88 Bachelor of Arts (Fine Arts), Queensland College of Art, Brisbane
1991 Winner of the Molt & Chandon Australian Art Fellowship
1993 Artist in Residence, University of Melbourne, MacGeorge Fellowship
1994 Winner of the Contemporary Art Excellence Award, Nudgee College, Brisbane
1995 Australian Network for Art and Technology Summer School, Brisbane
1995 Winner of the Pine Rivers Art Prize
1996 Winner of the Logan City Painting Prize
1996 Anniversary Creative Arts Fellow, Australian National University, Canberra
1997 SCEGGS Redland/ Westpac Art Award, Sydney
1997 John McCaughey Memorial Art Prize, National Gallery of Victoria
1998 Winner of the Jacaranda Acquisitive Drawing Award, Grafton Regional Gallery

SOLO EXHIBITIONS
2008 Gordon Bennett, Greenaway Art Gallery, Adelaide
Gordon Bennett Survey, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne; Queensland Art Gallery / Gallery of Modern Art, Brisbane; Art Gallery of Western Australia, Perth
2007 Gordon Bennett, Sutton Gallery, Melbourne
Gordon Bennett, Bellas Milani Gallery, Brisbane
The Expatriation of guilt, Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, University of Cambridge, United Kingdom
Gordon Bennett, Prints, Bellas/Milani Gallery, Brisbane
2006 Gordon Bennett, New Work, Sherman Galleries, Sydney
John Citizen, Greenaway Art Gallery, Adelaide
2005 Gordon Bennett, New Work, Bellas/Milani Gallery, Brisbane
Gordon Bennett, New Work, Greenaway Art Gallery, Adelaide
2004 Gordon Bennett, New Work, Melbourne Art Fair, Sutton Gallery, Melbourne
Out of Print, Delf Gallery, Queensland College of Art Gallery travelling exhibition, Brisbane
Gordon Bennett, New Work, Bellas/Milani Gallery, Brisbane
Gordon Bennett, New works on paper, Bellas Gallery, Brisbane
2003 White Paintings, Sutton Gallery, Melbourne
Figure/Ground (Zero), Sherman Galleries, Sydney
Notes to Basquiat: 9 11, Greenaway Art Gallery, Adelaide
Notes to Basquiat: 9 11 (Part II), Bellas Gallery, Brisbane
Notes to Basquiat: 9 11 (Part III), Sutton Gallery, Melbourne
Notes to Basquiat: The Reverb, Sutton Gallery, Melbourne
Notes to Basquiat: The Reverb, Bellas Gallery, Brisbane
2001 Notes to Basquiat: Modern Art, Sherman Gallery, Sydney
John Citizen: Coloured People, Sherman Gallery, Sydney
Contemporary Australian Art from the Paul Elahi Collection, University of Queensland Art Museum
2000 Notes to Basquiat (Samo) Another Millennium, Sutton Gallery, Melbourne
John Citizen: Coloured People, Sutton Gallery Melbourne
1999-2000 History and Memory in the Art of Gordon Bennett, Brisbane City Gallery, Brisbane;ikon Gallery, Birmingham, UK; Arnolfini, Bristol, UK; Henie Onstad Kunstsenters, Oslo, Norway
Gordon Bennett, Sutton Gallery, Melbourne
1999 Notes to Basquiat: One Tense Moment, Bellas Gallery, Brisbane
Notes to Basquiat: One Tense Moment (episode two), Sherman Galleries, Sydney
Home Decor (Calculus), Sutton Gallery, Melbourne
1998 Gordon Bennett, Bellas Gallery, Brisbane
Notes to Basquiat, Gramercy International Art Fair, New York, USA
Home Decor (Algebra), Bellas Gallery, Brisbane
1997 John Citizen: Flatland, Bellas Gallery, Brisbane
Preston + De Stijl = Citizen (Cold Comfort), Sutton Gallery, Melbourne
John Citizen: Sacred Cow, Sutton Gallery, Melbourne
Mirror Mirror: The Narcissism of Colonially, Canberra School of Art Gallery, Canberra
1996 Australian, Art for the Bridge, Institute of Modern Art, Brisbane
John Citizen: Sacred Cow, Bellas Gallery, Brisbane
Home Decor (after Margaret Preston), Bellas Gallery, Brisbane
John Citizen: Works on paper, Sutton Gallery, Melbourne
1995 BLACK: Fear of Shadow, Bellas Gallery, Brisbane
Performance with Object for the Expiation of guilt: Apple Premiere Mix, Noosa
Regional Gallery, Noosa
Mirror Mirror (The Inland Sea), Sutton Gallery, Melbourne
Surface Veil, Bellas Gallery, Brisbane
Dismember/Rememberr, Bellas Gallery, Brisbane
1994 How to Cross the Void - works on paper, Sutton Gallery, Melbourne
Present Wall, installation, Institute Building, Adelaide
Performance with Object for the Expiation of guilt, Bellas Gallery, Brisbane
D.U.H.I (Down Under Horrified), Sutton Gallery, Melbourne
A Black History, Sutton Gallery, Melbourne
Painting History, Contemporary Art Centre from South Australia, Adelaide
1993 Painting History, The Drill Hall, Canberra
Mirorama, Ian Potter Gallery, University of Melbourne, Melbourne
How to Cross the Void, Bellas Gallery, Brisbane
The Colour Black and Other Histories, Bellas Gallery, Brisbane
Relative/Abraçade, Bellas Gallery, Brisbane
1992 Gordon Bennett, Bellas Gallery, Brisbane
Dialogues with Self, Art Gallery of Western Australia, Perth
1990 Psycho(d)rama, Institute of Modern Art, Brisbane
Psycho(d)rama, Institute of Modern Art, Brisbane
1989 Gordon Bennett, Bellas Gallery, Brisbane
SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS
Biennale of Sydney: Revolutions - Forms that Turn, Art Gallery of NSW, Sydney
2008 Lines in the Sand: Botany Bay Stories from 1770, Hazelhurst Regional Art Gallery
The Pine Rivers Art Award Winner's Retrospective 1993-2007, Pine Rivers Regional Art Gallery
2007 Artist Makes Video: Art Rage Survey 1994-1998, Delf Gallery @ OCA, Brisbane
Eye to I, Ballarat Fine Art Gallery, Ballarat
Queensland Live! Contemporary Art on Tour: Queensland Art Gallery Touring Exhibition, Brisbane Photographic Portrait Prize, Art Gallery New South Wales, Sydney
Bangu Yibara: Works from the MCA Collection, Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney
2006 A Man's World, Museum of Brisbane, Brisbane
Colossal to Contemporary – Queensland College of Art 125 Years, Delf Gallery, Brisbane
 Prism: Contemporary Australian Art, Queensland Museum of Art, Ishibashi Foundation, Japan
International Biennale of Contemporary Art in Prague 2005, The National Gallery in Prague, Czech Republic
The Plot Thickens: Narratives in Australian Art, Heide Museum of Modern Art, Melbourne
Future Tense: Security and Human Rights, Delf Gallery and Galleria Space, Queensland College of Art, Griffith University, Brisbane
2005 Cook's Sites, Museum of Sydney
Cook's Sites, Museum of Sydney
after Van Gogh, Australian artists in homage to Vincent, Mornington Peninsula Regional Gallery, Melbourne
ARC Biennal, Brisbane City Hall, Brisbane
Unscripted, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
2004 Three Colours, Gordon Bennett and Peter Robinson, Heide Museum of Modern Art Touring Exhibition, Melbourne
Likan Mire - Connections, The ARTSIS Collection of Art, Drill Hall Gallery, Australian National University, Canberra
Place made: Australian Print Workshop, National Gallery of Australia, Canberra
2004 Heavenly Creatures, Heide Museum of Modern Art, Melbourne
Terra Alterius: Land of Another, Ivan Dougherty Gallery Touring Exhibition, The University of New South Wales, College of Fine Arts, Sydney
Isle of Refuge, Ivan Dougherty Gallery Touring Exhibition, The University of New South Wales, College of Fine Arts, Sydney
Synergies, Drill Hall Gallery, Australian National University, Canberra
Many Happy Returns: Celebrating Heide's 21st Birthday, Heide Museum of Modern Art, Melbourne
2003 When I was Young – Impressions of Childhood, Global Arts ink, Ipswich
War Without Boundaries – Australia and the War Against Terrorism, Australian War Memorial, Canberra