

# IAN GRANT

## still, stillness

### 6 June – 2 July 2015



**Liverpool Street Gallery is delighted to announce Ian Grant's inaugural solo exhibition titled *still, stillness* on view from 6 June – 2 July 2015, opening Thursday 11 June 2015, 6-8pm.**

"I try to make paintings which are impactful enough to attract and engage, then seductive enough to explore".  
(Ian Grant, 2012)

Ian Grant is a painter best known for his fictional landscapes and still life compositions that imbue a soothing atmospheric calm. For his upcoming exhibition, Grant will present new body of work that evokes a feeling of transience through two genres of representational painting – still life and landscape.

Grant's paintings depict unspecified places. Whilst not exact locations, Grant states: "For some time I have focused on landscape imaging drawn predominately from response to experience with land and atmospherics in central New South Wales ... The works present identifiable imagery whilst seeking to evoke response which begins with identification of subject but moves to encompass a more abstracted sense of engagement."

Likewise, the still life (flowers) he portrays might be a rose or tulip, but are not botanically identified. In doing this, the image itself becomes the subject matter – the viewer's response to the form, colour, composition and the atmosphere imbued within the work becomes central to the viewing experience.

Grant immerses himself in the environment, taking time to appreciate his surroundings. "It is my encounter there with distance, stillness and silence that I find memorable." (Ian Grant, "Ian Grant", Artist Profile) The process involves taking extensive photography and sketches of the landscape before drafting his paintings. He alters small compositional details and manipulates colour, referring to memory. His gentle brush strokes and sfumato effect creates a carefully constructed ambience, a combination of direct observation and considered distillation of record and memory.

Capturing landscape and his encounters within it is a long-standing interest for Grant. His influences are wide ranging – they include Johannes Vermeer, Caspar David Friedrich, Piet Mondrian and Gerhard Richter as well as local Australian artist Fred Williams and the artists of Papunya Tula.

## **QUOTE SELECTION**

“He stands at the end of a local tradition of nocturne paintings, capturing that moment between daytime and darkness when one’s impressions become blurred and open to poetic suggestion.” (John McDonald, “**Quiet Achievers have their Day**”, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 13-14 May 2006, p17)

“His paintings have an air of habitual melancholy, a blend of sadness and pleasure that can be extremely seductive.” (John McDonald, “**Quiet Achievers have their Day**”, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 13-14 May 2006, p17)

“I try to make work that can offer layers of experience – from an immediate sense of familiarity and broad recognition, through to a more abstracted and contemplative experience.” (Ian Grant, *Artist Profile*, p126)

“I have never been concerned with the accurate depiction of specific sites.” (Ian Grant, *Artist Profile*, p126)

“Striving for poetics and sensory uplift is what I try to do with painting... I am passionate about the aesthetic environment, good design, ‘touching the earth lightly’.” (Ian Grant in conversation with Natalie Walton, Ian Grant Artist, *Daily Imprint*, 21 August 2012)

“A very subtle painting of great strength, which become evident with contemplation. This painting has the most wonderful lyrical and reflective qualities and a great sense of mood.” (William Boyle, international judge, **Fleurieu Peninsula Art Prize and LEO of Toronto’s Art and Cultural Harbourfront Centre, November 2004**)

## **BIOGRAPHY**

Born in Sydney in 1947, Ian Grant completed his studies at the National Art School (NAS), Sydney and later gained a Masters of Art (Visual Art) from the then Sydney College of Advanced Education. He was Head of Painting Studies at the University of New South Wales College of Fine Arts (COFA) between 1989 and 2006.

Ian Grant has been exhibiting since 1972. His work is held in major corporate, state and university collections, including Art Gallery of New South Wales, Bathurst Regional Gallery, National Gallery of Australia and the University of Western Australia. He has been the recipient of numerous prizes including the prestigious *Blake Prize for Religious Art* in 1987 and the *Fleurieu Peninsula Art Prize* in 2004. He has been included in the *Wynne Prize* at the Art Gallery of New South Wales ten times. Prior to his representation at Liverpool Street Gallery, Grant held regular exhibitions at Tim Olsen Gallery, Sydney and Crawford Gallery, Sydney.

**For further information about the artist and exhibition, or if you require high resolution images, please contact Liverpool Street Gallery on 02 8353 7799 or [info@liverpoolstgallery.com.au](mailto:info@liverpoolstgallery.com.au)**