



Lives and works in Sydney

Bachelor of Arts, Elam School
of Fine Art, Auckland, 1985

Australian based Matt Palmer paints New Zealand from a nostalgic distance. Palmer describes his relationship with the New Zealand landscape as one of being “constantly drawn back to its dream-like qualities and emotional resonance it is this subconscious, silent conversation that I find myself always drawn back into.” In a meditative mode of working Palmer searches for imagery that simultaneously reminds him of his childhood and the history of the painting genre, setting out to identify that place in his imagination that falls somewhere between desire and reality, a construction of intimate experiences and highly personalised landscapes.

Palmer’s father is the well known New Zealand landscape painter Stanley Palmer and a large influence on the artist growing up. Matt was brought up experiencing the New Zealand country side from multiple angles, exploring its far reaches as he went on his father’s frequent painting excursions. Palmer’s creative upbringing lead him Elam School of Art where he was taught and a further inspired by Denys Watkins; following which he moved to Sydney in the mid-nineties to explore a career as film director, working extensively on short films and music videos for which he has won a range of awards in Australia and overseas.

Throughout this period Palmer has been experimenting with the landscape genre attempting to bridge the gap between his painting, printmaking and film projects; developing a specific technique (and aesthetic) which lies somewhere between photograph, painting and film. His distinctive work is painterly and at the same time cinematic, often brooding and always loaded with potential and untold narrative.

Palmer had his first show of paintings in 2013, and two subsequent sell out exhibitions in 2014 & 2017. His paintings have been reviewed favourably by herald critic TJ McNamara and feature in a variety of private and corporate collections across Australasia, Europe and the USA.

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

2021 ‘Cinder and Smoke’, Föenander Galleries, Auckland

2020 ‘Inland From Here’, Föenander Galleries, Auckland

2019 “Someplace, Somewhere, Sometime” NKB Gallery, Auckland

2018 “From a Distance” NKB Gallery, Auckland

2017 “The Longing” NKB Gallery, Auckland

2014 “Pieces of my Past” NKB Gallery, Auckland

2013 "Memory and Myth" NKB Gallery, Auckland
2012 "Fabrications" – NKB Gallery Auckland

2012 "Joyous Child" – Syndicate at Danks Sydney

2012 "New Zealand to New York" – Agora Gallery New York

2011 "In between the silence" Flagstaff Gallery Auckland

2010 "In print" NKB Gallery Auckland

2010 "Spring catalogue" Milford Galleries Queenstown

2010 "New to gallery" Flagstaff gallery Auckland

2010 "Storyboard project" at the Studio Gallery Sydney

2009 "Meandering" Lane Gallery Auckland

2008 "BMW" Auckland Art awards emerging artists selection

2008 "Misplaced" Lane Gallery Auckland

2007 "Slipping in time" at China Heights Gallery Sydney

2007 "Large works" Group show Lane Gallery Auckland

2007 "Places I think I've been" at the Studio Gallery Sydney

2006 "Anti Portraits" at Mary Place Gallery Sydney

2005 Photographs at Deluxe Courtney place Wellington

2003 Music video instillation "Kissing booth" at Auckland City Gallery

1996 Video Instillation at Fringe film festival Wellington

1991 Paintings at Deluxe Courtney place Wellington

1989 Cross pollination at Art Space Gallery Auckland

1988 Paintings at Deluxe Courtney place Wellington

1986 Paintings at Deluxe Courtney place Wellington

FILM PROJECTS

2011 Silver Axis for Telecom Sunrise sunset for Saatchi and Saatchi Auckland Office

2011 Natalie's Story for BCRT New Zealand Awards

2010 Girl in a black hat short film for Storyboard Project exhibition

2009 Finalist Adfest for PK DDB Sydney office

2009 Dead Air short film for Sleep Deprived productions

2008 Ted Brown Precious Moments music video for NZ on Air

2008 Kick started" short film for B boy productions
2007 Slipping in time short film for China Heights exhibition

2007 Lion Cannes Finalist Book Council of New Zealand for Colenso BBDO Auckland

2007 Finalist Cinematography Adfest ICA "World of opportunity" Euro RSC Sydney

2006 Ted Brown "I bet myself" for Flaming Pearl Music and NZ on Air

2005 ATV Awards Trophy Thredbo "Ice Box" Campaign Palace Sydney.

2003 Melbourne Art Directors Awards Silver Yellow Pages Clemenger Melbourne.

2002 Frotteur short film for B boy productions

2002 ATV Awards Thredbo Silver trophy "Agency Bike" Campaign Palace Sydney.

2001 Mary music video for Global roots records

2001 Award Australia Silver Twisties

2001 LIONS Cannes Twisties Silver trophy

2001 D&AD Awards London Twisties Shots Silver for Clemenger BBDO Sydney

2000 AXIS Awards New Zealand Kiwi Bacon Silver for Colenso BBDO Auckland

2000 ATV Awards Australia Kiwi Bacon Finalist.

2000 Before Friday Music video for Polygram records

2000 Mary music video for Panty records

1999 Had enough Documentary for Michael Bird productions ALAC

1999 CLIO Awards New York Outstanding Creativity NZ Army for MOJO Wellington

1997 Think about using Documentary for Hanmer Institute Auckland

1995 Future stupid Music video for Wildside records

1993 NZ Film Awards Cinematography Steinlager for Saatchi and Saatchi

1992 Annie Crummer Music video for Festival records

1992 Jean Paul Sartre Experience Music video for Festival records

1991 Dead flowers Music video for Festival records NZ on Air

1990 Money Worries Music video for Wild side records

1990 Red Letter Short film for Arts council of New Zealand

1989 Naked Angel Short film for Iron Eye productions Wellington

1989 Positivity music video for Wild side records