

**Mathew Hooker** is primarily a painter working with acrylics on canvas. His works are an attempt to find the truth of the lived experience. Each picture represents a journey, or more precisely an exploration into both the landscapes and seascapes he observes and, the recesses of his memory. He simultaneously considers the observed reality, personal experience, memory and imagination giving us more than a window into a world but also a version of an environment filtered through a consciousness. He allows the image to evolve throughout the process and uses a 'whatever it takes' approach to best convey his interpretation of the subject matter.

Hookers' preoccupation with the natural environment and the ocean has been nurtured by a lifetime of surfing around the world. The ocean for him is a teacher, a place of solace, and a constant escape to regain perspective. Hence, the continual presence of the ocean and emotional undertones throughout his works.

Painting for Hooker is a way to explore and workshop through his lived psychological and emotional experiences. His choice of subject matter, his compositions and approach to painting are carefully managed to challenge and offer insights into habitual ways of perception.

Born 1974, New Zealand. He currently lives and works between Sydney, Australia, France and Indonesia.

## EDUCATION

2022 BFA National Art School. Sydney.

2020 Contemporary landscape and colour course with Nicole Kelly. ArtEst.

## UPCOMING EXHIBITIONS

2023 (17th-31st May) Group exhibition. Sheffer gallery.

2023 Hooker is currently working towards a solo exhibition at the end of the year based on an impending dive with white sharks in South Australia.

## SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2021 Wilsons Cafe and Art space, Sydney, Australia.

## GROUP EXHIBITIONS and PRIZES

2023 Shortlisted for Clyde & Co. Art Award.

2021 Margaret Olley Drawing Week, Raymor Hoff Project Space, National Art School, Sydney

2020 Coopernook, Taree, Australia.

2019 La Cantina, Contis Plage, France.

- 2018/19 La Trattoria, La Lette, France.  
2018 La Boutique, St. Julien, France.  
2018 Finalist in 'Reflections' Lennox Art Collective Gallery

#### **COMMISSIONS**

- 2022 Portrait for private collection. Australia.  
2020 Seascape for private collection. Australia.  
2018/19 Site specific Murals in several private collections, France.