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YOUNG CURATORS: ABBOTSLEIGH AND HORNSBY GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL

present

TREASURED: THE ART AND PROCESS OF ALAN JONES

27 July - 16 August 2023

Grace Cossington Smith Gallery

The ideas and process of Alan Jones

The exhibition *Treasured* offers insight into the rich and diverse practice and artmaking inspiration of Alan Jones. Since his early experience in the art world, on his award of the Brett Whiteley Travelling Scholarship to Paris in 2004, he has been compelled by ideas of originality and the origin of ideas and inspiration. Key to this is *Drawing #12*, 2004, revealing the interpretation of a masterpiece in a simplistic ‘little sketch’.

Despite his love of traditional painting – citing it as “the ultimate challenge” – Jones views experimentation as a mutually important endeavour, a facet of his artistic process warmly welcomed for its ability to simultaneously achieve functionality and creativity. He describes his portraits as a “jigsaw puzzle”; the slotting together of thin plywood boards mirroring his lifelong interest in collage. In conversation, Jones stated that his goal was to “... do something different and ... reinvent the wheel and ... explore something new, something I haven’t seen before.”

Much of the work of Alan Jones is intensely personal and his etchings are a creative faucet portraying nostalgia for his years spent in the Sydney suburb of Cherrybrook. His series of etchings reveal he has “drawn inspiration from places and times where recent history and family history connect.” In the height of Covid, Alan Jones’s outlook towards subject matter made an unforeseen shift— he began observing the presence of things immediately surrounding him, rather than further and beyond. This shift provoked the creation of his striking and intense still life paintings. This is specifically seen in *Painting 290 (The Treasure Chest)* 2021, which has a touching backstory of how Jones’s young son’s carefree craftwork stimulated the stunted creativity of his “overthinking” father. Alan Jones teaches us that when one loses sight in their artmaking process, the key to being re-inspired is to embrace the simplicity of their life’s natural course; perhaps the most fascinating and divine ideas can only be discovered in the obscure and unexpected moments of the everyday. Throughout his artmaking process, Alan Jones has collaborated with artists and photographers. *Treasured* presents two works created in a collaborative ‘swap’ with multiple prize-winner artist Nicole Kelly. In this collaboration, each artist has exchanged a painting to be reworked in their own studio spaces. *White Sand Creek* and *Painting 179 – Coogee* reveal a contrast yet cohesion between the two artists’ styles as they contributed new ideas and perspectives to each other’s works. Collaboration is a key aspect of Jones’s practice as it stimulates the development of ideas and material practice.

Collaborative writing by Abbotsleigh and Hornsby Girls High School Young Curators



Painting 286 (My Octopus Teacher)

2021

acrylic on linen

186 x 186 cm

\$23,400



Painting 291 (God)

2021

acrylic on linen

190.5 x 143.5 cm

\$19,000



Painting 287 (Well Well Well)

2021

acrylic on linen

160 x 121 cm

\$14,200



Painting 282 (Familiar to Millions)

2021
acrylic on linen
160 x 121 cm

\$14,200



Painting 290 (The Treasure Chest)

2021

acrylic on linen

110 x 101 cm

\$9,200



Painting 303 (This Moment Is Precious Don't Waste It)

2022

acrylic on linen

110 x 101 cm

\$9,200



Painting 296 (This Moment Is Precious)

2022

acrylic on linen

110 x 101 cm

\$9,200



Painting 262 (Beechwood Parade)

2019

acrylic on board

101 x 110 cm

\$9,200



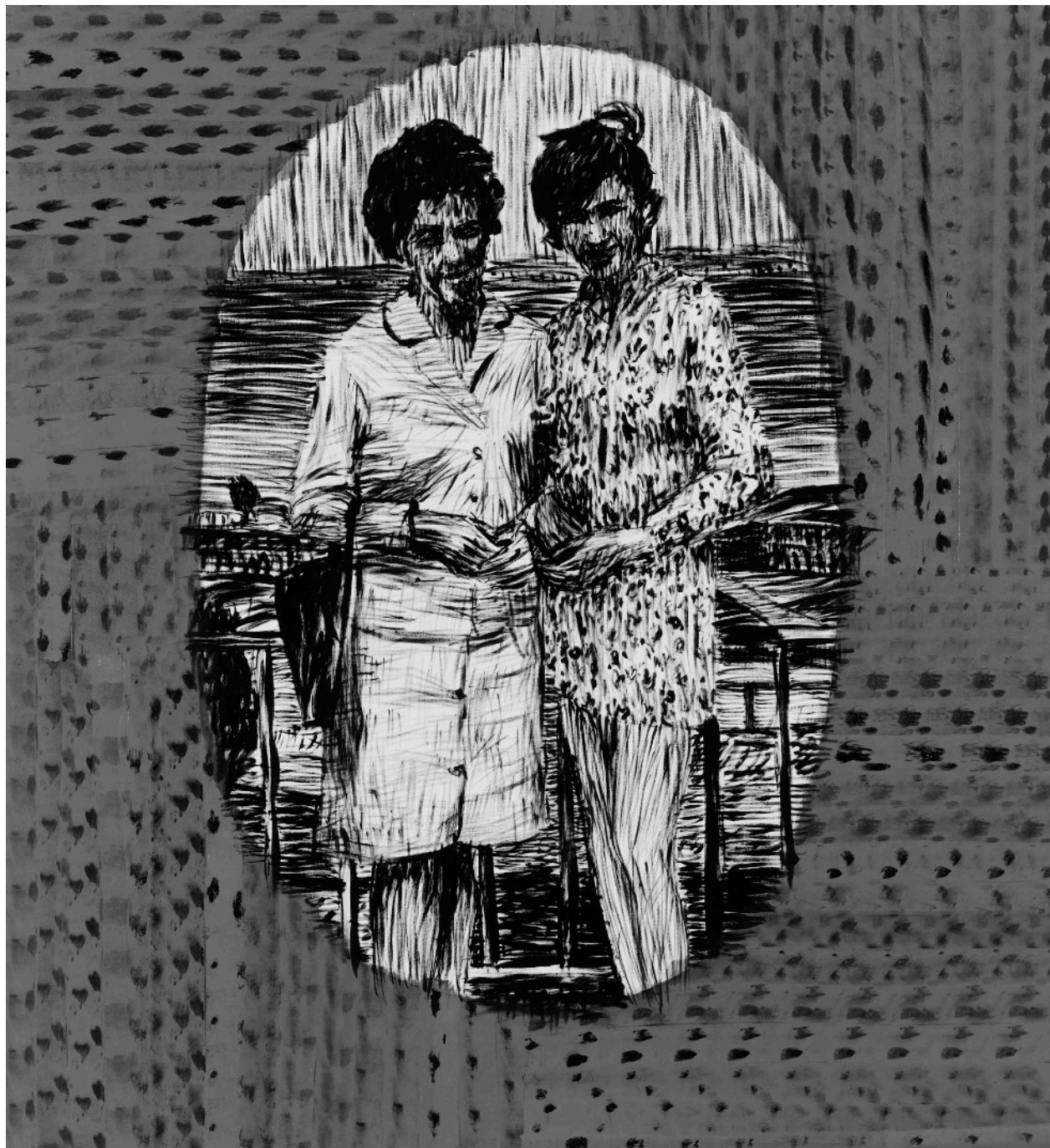
Painting 259 (Beechwood Parade)

2019

acrylic on board

101 x 110 cm

\$9,200



Mum and Granny in about 1969 #1

2010

oil on linen

168 x 170.5 cm

\$19,800



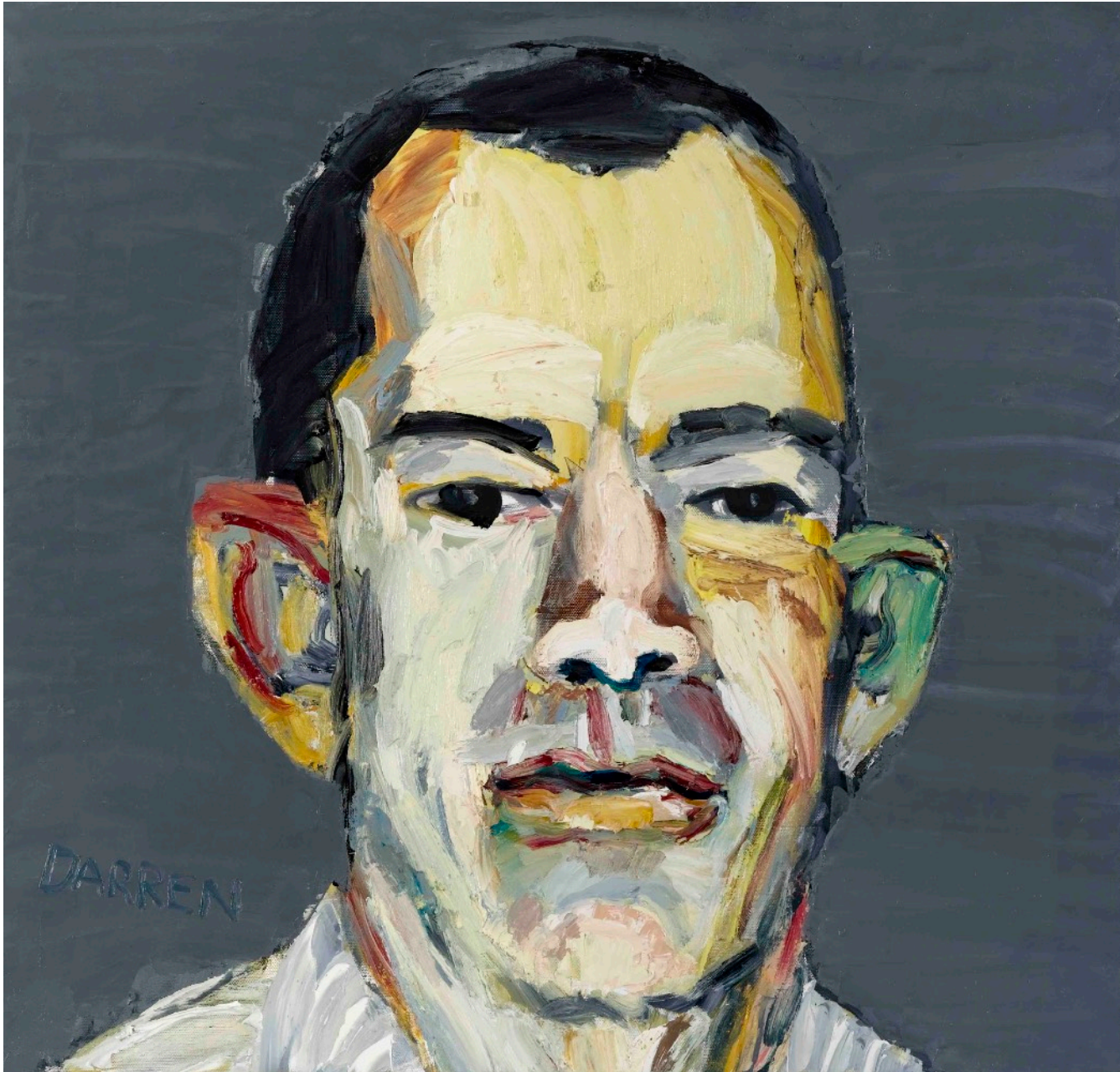
Painting 114 (Brooke)

2013

acrylic on polyester

102.5 x 87 cm

\$8,400



Painting 69 (Darren)

2007

oil on linen

87.5 x 91.5 cm

\$7,300



Self-portrait 5

2015

acrylic on board

51 x 45.5 cm

\$3,800



Head
2015
Porcelain
10 x 8 x 8.5 cm
Edition 10 + 2 A/P

\$1,000



The Fire Trail 1

2019

lithograph

paper size 80 x 99.5

edition of 10

\$1,500



Greenway Park 2

2019

etching

paper size 51 x 55 cm

image size 34.5 x 39.5 cm

edition of 20

\$1,100



Greenway Park 3

2019

etching

paper size 51 x 55 cm

image size 34.5 x 39.5 cm

edition of 20

\$1,100



The Fire Station 1

2018

etching

paper size 51 x 55 cm

image size 34.5 x 39.5 cm

edition of 20

\$1,100



The Fire Station 2

2019

etching

paper size 51 x 55 cm

image size 34.5 x 39.5 cm

edition of 20

\$1,100



The Fire Trail

2018

lithograph

paper size 57 x 64.5 cm

image size 41 x 48.5 cm

edition of 8

\$1,100



The Fire Trail 2

2019

etching

paper size 51 x 55 cm

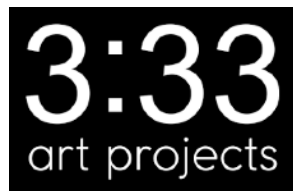
image size 34.5 x 39.5 cm

edition of 20

\$1,100

Available works are subject to change, including prices and GST. All prices include GST.

All works are courtesy the artist and Olsen Gallery, Sydney and copyright the artist.



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