

Know Thy Measure

Tom Kreisler, Anna Peters, Robert Pulie and Michael Snape

Curated by Mitch Cairns

12 April - 10 May 2025

Tom Kreisler:

Tom Kreisler was born in Argentina in 1938, to a Jewish family who had left Barcelona to escape the Spanish civil war, coming to Buenos Aires by way of Vienna in 1936-37. Soon after the sudden death of his father, and in light of his rebellious and truant behaviour, he was presented with two options by his mother: work in his uncle's millinery factory, or spend a period of time with his Aunt Edith and Uncle George in Christchurch, New Zealand. He leapt at the later opportunity and so when he was 13, he boarded a ship alone that would take him to these distant shores where he would spend much of his life.

Over the course of subsequent years, Kreisler was consistently reminded of his foreignness in this new land, but it was through his art practice that he was able to ruminate on this unique position and provide a socially, politically, and culturally dense body of work that resonates to this day. It is a testament to this artist's prescience that his work has continued to grow in stature in more recent years, more than two decades after this artist's passing.

Within his lifetime and since, Kreisler's work has been exhibited widely throughout Aotearoa New Zealand, as well as select exhibitions in Australia, Mexico, and the United States. His work is represented in important public collections across Aotearoa New Zealand and Australia, including The Govett-Brewster Art Gallery, Chartwell Collection/Auckland Art Gallery, Christchurch Art Gallery, Sarjeant Gallery, Waikato Museum, Rotorua Museum and The Art Gallery of New South Wales.

Anna Peters:

Anna Peters has been a regular exhibitor at and contributor to artist-run-initiatives in Sydney for over two decades in particular to the long-running MOP Projects (2003-2016) where she was a committee member and creator of a significant photo archive of social photographs that have become a who's who time capsule of the Sydney art scene during that period (archived on Instagram @mop_projects and in the archive of the Art Gallery of New South Wales).

Since graduating from a Master's degree in painting at Sydney College of the Arts in 2003 (supervisor Mikala Dwyer), Peters' work has focussed on acerbic cartoons on canvas and paper.

Robert Pulie:

Robert Pulie was born in 1969 on Gadigal land, where he lives and works, attempting to distil the contradictions and paradoxes underlying our language and visual culture. For *Know Thy Measure* he presents a trio of works that centre on the interactive, *Mirror of Self Under Standing*, 2023.

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Michael Snape:

Michael Snape has been a full-time sculptor for 53 years. He has exhibited widely in Australia and overseas. He has held over thirty solo shows and has executed 30 public and private commissions including *Become The Part*, in Camperdown in collaboration with Agatha Goth-Snape, *Continuum*, 2004, at Docklands and *Coming Down The Creek in Good Time*, 2005, at Broadway in Sydney. In 2017 he completed *Eclipse* in Canberra, and *Eclipse Shadow* at Bawley Point NSW. He shows with Australian Galleries.

Mitch Cairns:

Mitch Cairns (b. 1984, I. Gadigal Country/Sydney) is an artist whose distinctive painting practice balances a quickness and playfulness of improvised pictorial concepts with an unparalleled ability with his oil paint medium, rare in an artist of his generation. The surprising pairing of wit and discipline provides paint outcomes that are at once thin and flat but extraordinarily complex and subtle. For his subject matter, Cairns recounts a poetics of domestic/familial life where love, banality, self-reflection, eroticism, melancholy, anxiety provide ample image-ideas. On top of this foundation of the everyday, he builds homages to artist and literary heroes and other enthusiasms. Cairns often uses text as material for his work indebted to concrete poetry and spilling over to printmaking and collage, the domain of his extensive production on paper.

Cairns was awarded the Archibald Prize (2017) and the Brett Whiteley Traveling Art Scholarship (2012). In 2022, Cairns was the judge of the Brett Whiteley Traveling Art Scholarship, and he curated *Primavera: Young Australian Artists* in 2019 at the Museum of Contemporary Art Australia.

Cairns has produced several artist books and serial publications: *Pebble* (2021—2024, with Mitchel Cumming), *Selected Scuffs* (2021), *The Reader's Voice* (2015) and *Dip or Skinny Dip* (2014). He has founded/curated two exhibition programs as an adjunct to his studio activities: ANKLES (2018—2021) and Cellar Door (2023—2024), both Sydney.