

ART RESUME OF MATTHEW BENSON-PARRY / DRAEGATH 2025

Matt Benson Parry / Draegath, is a visual artist whose practice of 25 years spans the intricate worlds of figurative and abstract expressionism, and the innovative use of natural materials, informed by ancient and contemporary practice. Benson Parry's work is deeply rooted in the exploration of identity, transformation, and the interplay between the tangible and the ethereal.

Benson Parry delves into whimsical explorations of the Australian landscape, as well as darker, more introspective narratives, creating evocative pieces that challenge conventional artistic boundaries. Along with his use of encaustic wax techniques, Benson Parry has mastered the harvesting and preparation of balga resin, a localised and culturally significant material derived from the Australian grass tree (*Xanthorrhoea preissii*), which he incorporates into his mixed media works. This unique approach, shared by only a handful of artists such as Christopher Pease and Sharyn Egan, reflects Benson Parry's commitment to sustainability, cultural reverence, and the fusion of traditional materials with contemporary art practices. Through his layered, textural paintings, Benson Parry invites viewers to engage with the profound connections between land, memory, and creativity, offering a transformative experience that celebrates the beauty of the unconventional and the power of artistic innovation.

Benson Parry is based in Fremantle, Australia. He has been involved in a number of solo and group shows in Australia, Canada, US, Portugal & UK. Benson Parry was previously represented by Rolf Contemporary Art Gallery in LA and Broderick Art Consultancy in Perth. In 2014 he was the recipient of an International Scholarship to attend 8th Symposium of Encaustic Art in Provincetown, Massachusetts, USA. In 2006, he was the recipient of the Robert Tindale Scholarship for Fine Arts while at the University of Western Australia. Outside of his own practice, Benson Parry conducts classes for adults and children in painting, drawing and encaustic wax techniques. He works as a teacher at Byford Secondary College.

Selected exhibitions:

- 2016 Cambridge Studio Gallery, Melbourne, Australia (group)
- 2013 P&S Art Studios, Donation of work, Fremantle, Australia (group)
- 2012 & 13 Woogi Espresso, Perth, Australia (group)
- 2012 Sima 120 Gallery, Claremont, Australia (solo)
- 2011 Artists for Peace, Fremantle & Beirut (group)
- 2010 Lana Santorelli Gallery, New York, USA (group)
- 2009 Freshly Baked c/- 1000 £ Bend, Melbourne, Australia (group)
- 2009 Inbox Gallery, Fremantle, Australia (group)
- 2009 NeoPopRealism Starz, New York, USA (group)
- 2009 Agendo, Phoenix Gallery, Melbourne, Australia (group)
- 2009 Moores Contemporary Art Gallery, Fremantle, Australia (solo)
- 2009 Chapman & Baileys, Brisbane, Australia (group)
- 2009 Art For Progress, New York, USA (group)
- 2008 Gingers Garage, Northbridge, Australia (solo)
- 2006 Lavan Legal Art Exhibition, WA Govt House, Australia (group)
- 2005 Artrage Salvation Show, Pallas Hotel Site, Northbridge, Australia (group)
- 2005 Fetish Gallery, Cottesloe, Australia (group)
- 2003, 04 & 05 Kurb Gallery, Northbridge, Australia (group)
- 2003, 04, 05 & 06 Cullity Gallery, Nedlands, Australia (group)
- 2001 Nevermore Nightclub, East Perth, Australia (solo)

Published Articles:

2013 - 2014 Death of Draegath, blog
2010 - 2012 Society 6, blog
2009 Verb-ate-him e-journal, Australia - 1 page bio
2009 Thorn Magazine, USA - 2 page interview
2009 FORM magazine, Australia - 1 page interview
2008 Creative Capital magazine - 1 page interview
2004 welshpaintings.co.uk - Featured artist of the month

Commissions:

2025 Landscape on board, North Perth, WA
2024 Djitta djitta on canvas, Leeming, WA
2020 Suburban private mural, Scarborough, WA
2017 Pinata, Perth, WA
2016 Portrait on board, Willagee, WA
2016 Fantasy painting on board, Success, WA
2015 Large scale work on canvas, Scarborough, WA
2014 Bird on canvas, Perth, WA
2014 Portrait on canvas, Scarborough, WA
2013 Stage Flats, Kent Street Senior High School, WA
2013 Quintet of crocodile paintings, Como, WA
2013 Abstract on board, Perth, WA
2012 Abstract with portrait of pet on canvas, Perth, WA
2012 Black dog painting on canvas, Wembley, WA
2011 Religious piece on canvas, Winthrop, WA
2009 Series of birds on canvas, Heathridge, WA
2009 Monster on canvas, Claremont, WA
2009 Imp & the Moon on canvas, Perth, WA
2009 Bird on canvas, Floreat, WA
2009 Abstract on canvas, Perth, WA
2009 Black Dog on canvas, Psychologist Firm, WA
2009 Series of small pen & ink on board, Fremantle, WA
2008 Willy Wagtails, Madeley, WA
2008 Three mosaics, Corpus Christi Catholic College, WA
2008 Stage flats, Kent Street Senior High School, WA

Education:

2021 Bachelor of Secondary Education (double major History & Visual Art*), MU, Australia
2014 Pre-Apprenticeship in Painting & Decorating, Thornlie TAFE
2003 - 06 Bachelor of Fine Arts, UWA, Australia,
Recipient of Robert Tindale Scholarship 2006
1998-2000 Courses in colour theory, woodworking, drawing, design, art business studies,
mounting, hanging & web design.