

John Olsen

b.1928, Newcastle, New South Wales

Solo Exhibitions

- 2021 *John Olsen: Goya's Dog*, National Art School, Sydney
- 2019–20 *John Olsen*, OLSEN Gallery, Sydney
John Olsen Archive, OLSEN Gallery, Sydney
- 2018 *John Olsen – Figures in Landscape*, OLSEN Gallery, Sydney
- 2017 *John Olsen – New Paintings*, OLSEN Gallery, Sydney (formerly OLSEN IRWIN)
John Olsen: The You Beaut Country, touring the National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne; Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
- 2016 *John Olsen*, OLSEN IRWIN, Sydney
John Olsen: The City's Son, Newcastle Art Gallery, New South Wales
- 2015 *Destination Sydney*, Mosman Art Gallery, Sydney
John Olsen, Philip Bacon Galleries, Brisbane
- 2014 *Myself and other Animals*, Metro Gallery, Melbourne
John Olsen: Etchings, OLSEN IRWIN, Sydney
- 2013 *John Olsen: An Exhibition of New Work*, Osborne Samuel, London, United Kingdom in conjunction with OLSEN IRWIN, Sydney
- 2013–14 *John Olsen: Recent Work*, OLSEN IRWIN, Sydney (formerly Tim Olsen Gallery)
- 2012 *John Olsen – Lake Eyre: The Desert Sea*, Metro Gallery, Melbourne
- 2011 *John Olsen, Lake Eyre – The Desert Sea, Ruminations on an empty landscape*, Tim Olsen Gallery, Sydney
John Olsen, Lake Eyre – The Desert Sea, Ruminations on an empty landscape, Tim Olsen Gallery at the Hong Kong Art Fair
- 2010 *John Olsen, Culinaría – The Cuisine of the Sun*, Tim Olsen Gallery, Sydney
- 2009 *Olsen: Paintings & Drawings*, Metro Gallery, Melbourne
- 2007–08 *Sky High, John Olsen's ceiling and wall commissions*, Newcastle Region Gallery, New South Wales
- 2007 *John Olsen, A Salute to Sydney*, Tim Olsen Gallery, Sydney
John Olsen: Works on Paper, Tim Olsen Gallery Annex, Sydney
- 2006 *The Coorong: Un finished Journey*, Metro 5 Gallery, Melbourne
Selected works by John Olsen, Tim Olsen Gallery, Sydney
John Olsen: His Complete Graphics, Tim Olsen Gallery, Sydney
John Olsen, Selection of Graphics, Eastgate and Holst Gallery, Melbourne
- 2005 *The Flight to Broome*, Tim Olsen Gallery Annex, Sydney
Pulse: Paintings by John Olsen 1961–2005, TarraWarra Museum of Art, Victoria
Teeming with Life, His Complete Graphics 1957–2005, Book launch and exhibition of selected etchings, Cosa Gallery, London, United Kingdom
The Coorong Suite, New Releases, Print Survey, Port Jackson Press Gallery, Melbourne
A selection of recent etchings by John Olsen, Impressions on Paper Gallery, Canberra
- 2004 *John Olsen: Recent Works*, Tim Olsen Gallery, Sydney
- 2003 *John Olsen*, Metro 5 Gallery, Melbourne
Sydney Harbour, Seaport of Desire, a survey of prints and drawings, Port Jackson Press, Melbourne
Seaport of Desire, Tim Olsen Gallery, Sydney
- 2001 *Recent works on paper*, Tim Olsen Gallery, Sydney
- 2000 *John Olsen: Past & Present*, Tim Olsen Gallery, Sydney
- 1999 *John Olsen: A Survey Exhibition*, Savill Galleries, Sydney
John Olsen, Savill Galleries, Sydney
- 1998 *John Olsen: Recent Paintings 1995–1998*, Olsen Carr ArtDealers, Sydney
New York Nowhere, recent paintings and works on paper, Olsen Carr Art Dealers, Sydney
Launch of the Lytlewode Press publication *New York Nowhere*; poems by Geoffrey Dutton, etchings by John Olsen
- 1995 *John Olsen: Recent Works*, Philip Bacon Galleries, Brisbane
- 1994 *John Olsen: Recent Work 1992–1994*, Deutscher Fine Art, Melbourne
- 1993 *John Olsen: Recent Works*, Sherman Galleries Goodhope, Sydney
John Olsen: Recent Etchings, Olsen Carr Art Dealers, Sydney
- 1992 *John Olsen Retrospective*, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
- 1991–92 *John Olsen Retrospective*, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne
- 1991 *John Olsen*, Australian Galleries, Melbourne
- 1990 *John Olsen*, Australian Galleries, Sydney
- 1989 *John Olsen*, Greenhill Gallery, Perth
- 1988 *John Olsen – Encounters with Drawing*, Australian Galleries, Melbourne
- 1987–8 *John Olsen – Encounters with Drawing*, Wollongong City Gallery, New South Wales
- 1986 *Paintings and Drawings by John Olsen from the permanent collection*, Museums and Art Galleries of the Northern Territory, Darwin

- John Olsen – In Search of the Open Country 1961-1986*, Heide Park and Art Gallery, Melbourne
John Olsen: 'Gold', Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
John Olsen, Australian Galleries, Melbourne
- 1985 *John Olsen*, Tynte Gallery, Adelaide
- 1984 *John Olsen*, Tynte Gallery, Adelaide (Adelaide Festival)
- 1983 *John Olsen: Selected Graphics*, Art Gallery of Western Australia, Perth
John Olsen – The Land Beyond Time, Art Gallery of Western Australia, Perth (touring nationally until 1990)
- 1982 *John Olsen*, Australian Galleries, Melbourne
John Olsen 81-82 and Noela Hjorth, (Festival of Perth) Bortignon's Kalamunda Gallery of Man
- 1981 *John Olsen: A Sliver of Time*, Barry Stern Galleries, Sydney
- 1980 Festival of Perth, Perth
John Olsen: Exhibition of Recent Paintings, Australian Galleries, Melbourne
John Olsen: Paintings and Drawings 77-80, Lister Gallery, Festival of Perth, Western Australia
John Olsen: My Complete Graphics, David Reid Gallery, Sydney
- 1979 *John Olsen: Earth Hold Etchings*, Cintra House, Brisbane
- 1978 *John Olsen: Paintings and Drawings 77-78*, Barry Stern Galleries, Sydney
- 1977 *John Olsen: Recent Paintings*, Australian Galleries, Melbourne
- 1976 *John Olsen: Recent oil paintings, gouaches, drawings and etchings*, Ray Hughes Gallery, Brisbane
The Child in us All, St John's Anglican Cathedral, Brisbane
- 1975 *John Olsen: Edge of the Void*, Rudy Komon Gallery, Sydney
John Olsen 74-75: Edge of the Void and Opera House Mural Studies, Australian Galleries, Melbourne
Edge of the Void: Paintings, Drawings, Etchings and Lithographs by John Olsen, Greenhill Galleries, Adelaide
John Olsen: Etchings, Gallery Huntly, Canberra
- 1974 *John Olsen*, Atelier 72 Gallery, Adelaide (courtesy Rudy Komon Gallery)
- 1973 *John Olsen*, Rudy Komon Gallery, Sydney
- 1972 *John Olsen*, Australian Galleries, Melbourne
- 1971 *John Olsen*, Rudy Komon Gallery, Sydney
- 1970 *John Olsen*, Reid Gallery, Brisbane
- 1969 *The Dunmoochin Summer: John Olsen '69*, Rudy Komon Gallery, Sydney
John Olsen '69- Exhibition of Gouaches and Oil Paintings, White Studio, Adelaide
- 1967 *Entrance to the Castle of Life: John Olsen 66-67*, Clune Galleries, Sydney
Entrance to the Castle of Life: John Olsen 66-67, South Yarra Gallery, Melbourne
- 1965 *John Olsen*, Terry Clune Galleries, Sydney
John Olsen, South Yarra Gallery, Melbourne
- 1963 *An Exhibition of Recent Paintings, Gouaches & Drawings by John Olsen*, Terry Clune Galleries, Sydney
John Olsen: Recent Paintings, Australian Galleries, Melbourne
- 1960 *Olsen*, Galerie Lambert, Paris, France
John Olsen, Terry Clune Galleries, Sydney
- 1958 *John Olsen*, Macquarie Galleries, Sydney: exhibition of works sent back from Spain 1957-58
- 1955 *John Olsen*, Macquarie Galleries, Sydney

Selected Prizes & Awards

- 2011 Doctor of letters, honorary doctorate from the University of Newcastle, New South Wales
- 2010 Life Governor of the Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
- 2008 National Art School Fellowship
- 2005 Archibald Prize, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
- 2003 Doctor of Letters, honorary doctorate from the University of New South Wales, Sydney
- 2001 Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) for services to the arts
 Centenary Medal, New South Wales for service to Australian society and art
 Painters & Sculptors Association Medal, presented by Prime Minister, Mr John Howard OM AC SSI
- 1993 Australian Council Creative Fellowship (5 years)
- 1989 Sulman Prize, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
- 1987 Jack Manton Art Prize, Queensland
- 1985 Wynne Prize (Landscape), Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
- 1977 Order of the British Empire (OBE) for Services to the arts
- 1969 Wynne Prize (Landscape), Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
- 1964 Launceston Prize, Tasmania
- 1963 Georges Invitation Prize, Melbourne
- 1961 H.C. Richards Memorial Prize, QAGOMA ,Brisbane
 Perth Prize
 Royal Easter Show Prize, Sydney
- 1960 Rockdale Prize, New South Wales

Selected Comissions

- 2017 Commissioned to paint the property, Minderoo and the Pilbara region, Western Australia by Andrew Forrest AO and Nicola Forrest AO
- 2016 *Life Burst*, commissioned for the new Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre: tapestry woven at the Australian Tapestry Workshop, Melbourne
- 2015 *Sun over the You Beaut Country*, private commission: tapestry woven at the Australian Tapestry Workshop, Melbourne
- 2014 *The King Sun*, a mural commission for Walker Corporate, Melbourne
- 2008–09 *The Yellow Sun and the Yarra*, painting commissioned by the Deague Family, Toorak, Victoria
- 1997 *Rising Suns over Australia Felix*, tapestry commissioned by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Canberra: tapestry woven at the Australian Tapestry Workshop, Melbourne
- 1989 *Light playing with Evolution*, tapestry commissioned through Australian Galleries for display in the zoology building, University of Melbourne: tapestry woven at the Australian Tapestry Workshop, Melbourne
- 1988 *Big Sun and the Sydney Summer*, large mural for the Darling Harbour Convention Centre, Sydney
- 1984 A series of eight paintings inspired by the opera commissioned by John Truscott for the State Theatre complex of the Victoria Arts Centre, Melbourne
- 1977 *The Bay and the Tidal Pool*, mural commissioned for the Master Builders Association, Victoria (now in a private collection, Victoria)
- 1971 *The Terry Whelan suite*, a dinner service with settings for sixteen, commissioned by Terry Whelan and undertaken with potter, Robert Mair, mostly completed in Creswick, Victoria
- 1970–73 *Salute to Five Bells*, mural for the Sydney Opera House, commissioned by the Dobell Foundation (Olsen's largest mural to date: eight hardwood panels measuring 2.90 x 21.53 metres)
- 1964 *Sea Sun and Five Bells*, privately commissioned ceiling, New South Wales (now in the Newcastle Art Gallery collection)
Painted ceiling, commissioned by Tony and Sandra McGrath, New South Wales
Life Burst, painted ceiling, commissioned by Thelma Clune, New South Wales (now in the Newcastle Art Gallery collection)
Painted ceiling, commissioned by Pat and Penny Allen, London, United Kingdom (gifted to the Art Gallery of Ballarat, Victoria 1976)
- 1963 *Five Bells*, mural, commissioned by George and Eva Clarke, New South Wales. Now in the Art Gallery of New South Wales collection
- 1962 *Summer in the You Beaut Country*, painted ceiling commissioned by Frank McDonald, New South Wales (gifted to the National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne in 1978)

Selected Bibliography

- 2021 John Olsen, *John Olsen's Minderoo*, The Forrest Family, Perth
- 2015 John Olsen, *My Salute to Five Bells*, NLA Publishing, Canberra
- 2016 Gallery of New South Wales with Thames & Hudson, Australia
- 2005 John Olsen, *Pulse: Paintings by John Olsen 1961–2005*, TarraWarra Museum of Art, Melbourne
- 2005 Ken McGregor, John Olsen & Jeffrey Makin, *Teeming with Life: John Olsen: His Complete Graphics, 1957–2005*, Macmillan Art Publishing, Melbourne
- 1991 Deborah Hart, *John Olsen, Craftsman House*, Sydney (2nd edition, 2000)
- 1998 Lytlewode Press publication *New York Nowhere*; poems by Geoffrey Dutton, etchings by John Olsen
- 1980 John Olsen, *My Complete Graphics, 1957–79*, Gryphon Books, Melbourne
- 1986 John Olsen, *John Olsen: Gold*, exhibition catalogue, introduction by Edmund Capon, essay by John Olsen, AGNSW, Sydney
- 1988 Deborah Har, John Olsen, *Encounters with Drawing*, Australian Galleries, Melbourne
- 1997 John Olsen, *Drawn from Life*, Duffy & Snellgrove, Sydney,
John Olsen, *John Olsen: A Recipe (in conjunction with the 'You Beaut Country' exhibitions)*, Edited by Leanne Santoro with Deborah Edwards, Art Gallery of New South Wales with Thames & Hudson, Australia
- 1984 Olsen, John, et al., *The Land Beyond Time: A Modern Exploration of Australia's North-West Frontiers*, Macmillan, Melbourne
- 1981 Sandra McGrath and John Olsen, *The Artist and the Desert*, Bay Books, Sydney and London
- 1973 John Olsen, *Salute to Five Bells: John Olsen's Opera House Journal*, Angus and Robertson, Sydney
Virginia Spate, *John Olsen*, Georgian House, Melbourne

Selected Donations

- 2019 Gift of the painting, *Tipping Landscape: Helicopter above the Pilbara*, 2019, to Orange Regional Gallery, New South Wales
Gift of the drawing *Sleeping Dog (Outback)*, 1994, to the National Art School, Sydney
- 2017 Gift of 5 drawings, *Newcastle Harbour I–IV and Octopus*, a sculpture, *Frog*, and his Newcastle Sketchbook to Newcastle Art Gallery, New South Wales
Gift of the painting, *Dingo Country*, 2016, to the National Gallery of Australia, Canberra
Gift of the painting, *Animal Landscape*, 2016, to the Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney

- Gift of the painting, *You Beaut Country: Landscape Crawling*, 2016, to the National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne
- 2015 Donated 20 boxes, two large folio boxes and map folios to the National Library of Australia consisting of personal papers, journals, original manuscripts, sketchbooks and notebooks from 1957–2015.
- Gift of the painting, *The Rolling Sea (and that Streeton Painting)*, 2014, to Mosman Art Gallery, Sydney
- 2014 Gift of the painting, *Brindabellas*, 2015, to Canberra Museum and Gallery, Canberra
- Gift of the painting, *The Shearer's Mattress*, 2014, to the Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide
- 2012 Gift of 4 drawings, *Farewell to Five Bells Sketches*, 1973, to the National Library of Australia, Canberra
- Gift of the watercolour, *The Flood – Towards Lake Eyre*, 2008–2012, to the National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne
- 2009 Gift of the watercolour, *Desert Seedling*, 2008–2010, to the Home of the Arts Gallery, Queensland
- 2003 Gift of the painting *Loopy River's, Cape York*, 2007, to the Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
- 1998 Gift of the painting, *Country Life Rydal*, 1998, to TarraWarra Museum of Art, Victoria
- 1996 Gift of a hand-decorated plate, 2003, to the Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
- 1998 Gift of 8 works on paper and 12 etchings to Cairns Art Gallery, Queensland
- 1996 Gift of 63 drawings and works on paper to the Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
- 1996 Gift of the drawing *Untitled (female nude)*, 1996, to the Kedumba Collection of Australian Contemporary Drawings, New South Wales
- 1995 Gift of the original manuscript of *My complete graphics, 1957-1979*, the original manuscripts of *Salute to Five bells: John Olsen's opera house journal, 1971-1973*, manuscript extracts from journals, photographs and 24 original drawings to the National Library of Australia, Canberra
- 1994 Gift of 28 works on paper and etchings to the National Gallery of Australia, Canberra
- 1992 Gift of 7 drawings to the Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
- Gift of *Bold Frog*, 1993, to Bathurst Regional Art Gallery, New South Wales
- 1991 Gift of 12 works to the Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
- 1982 Gift of the painting *Elegy for Fred Williams*, 1982, and drawing, *Sketch of Russell Drysdale*, 1981, to the National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne
- Gift of the painting, *Wild owers Passing a Lake*, 1982, to Heide Museum of Modern Art, Victoria
- 1979 Gift of *Pelicans procuring food*, 1979, to QAGOMA, Brisbane
- 1970 Gift of the watercolour, *Summer at the Chasing Bird Landscape*, 1970, to Darnell Collection, The University of Queensland, Brisbane
- 1960 Gift of the work on paper, *Australian Flux*, 1960, to the Art Gallery of New South Wales (with Terry Clune)

Collections

Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
 Art Gallery of South Australia
 Art Gallery of Western Australia
 Arts Centre Melbourne, Victoria
 Australian National University Art Collection, Canberra
 Bathurst Regional Gallery, New South Wales
 Cairns Art Gallery, Queensland
 Chartwell Collection, Centre for Contemporary Art, Hamilton, New Zealand
 Deakin University Art Collection, Victoria
 Heide Museum of Art, Victoria
 National Gallery of Australia, Canberra
 National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne
 National Library of Australia, Canberra
 National Portrait Gallery, Canberra
 Newcastle Art Gallery, New South Wales
 Parliament House, Canberra
 Sydney Opera House Trust, Sydney
 TarraWarra Museum of Art, Healesville, Victoria
 University of Melbourne Art Collection, Victoria
 Private and corporate collections across Australia and abroad