

Carl Plate
CV and Biographical Note

Born 1909 Perth, Western Australia
Died 1977 Woronora, New South Wales

Solo Exhibitions

2019

Carl Plate: The Last Exhibition He Never Had 1971-1976, Annette Larkin Fine Art, Sydney

2017

Carl Plate Hard Colour: Paris Works 1970-1971, Annette Larkin Fine Art, Sydney

2012

Carl Plate: Surrealism to Abstraction & Beyond, Painting & Collage 1940-1976, Damien Minton Gallery, Sydney

2010

Carl Plate: 60s & 70s Paintings & Collage, Damien Minton Gallery, Sydney
Carl Plate, Charles Nodrum Gallery, Melbourne

2009

Carl Plate: Collage 1938-1976, Hazelhurst Regional Gallery and Arts Centre, Sydney

2006

Carl Plate: Works From the Collection, Art Gallery of NSW, Sydney

2006

Carl Plate: Paintings from the 50s, 60s and 70s, Eva Breuer Art Dealer, Sydney

1987

Carl Plate, Painters Gallery, Sydney
Carl Plate: Works on Paper 1939-1957, Niagara Galleries, Melbourne

1984

Carl Plate 1909 - 1977, Niagara Galleries, Melbourne

1981

Carl Plate: Paintings - Paris 1970-71, David Jones Art Gallery, Sydney
Carl Plate, Zanders Bond Gallery, Melbourne
Carl Plate, Niagara Galleries, Melbourne

1979

Carl Plate, David Jones Art Gallery, Sydney
Carl Plate, Zanders Bond Gallery, Melbourne

1978

Carl Plate, David Jones Art Gallery, Sydney
Carl Plate, Zanders Bond Gallery, Melbourne

1977

Project 22: Carl Plate 1909 – 1977, Art Gallery of NSW, Sydney

1974

Carl Plate, Town Gallery, Brisbane

1972

Carl Plate, Macquarie Galleries, Canberra

1971

Carl Plate, Bonython Gallery, Sydney, November

1969

Carl Plate, Johnstone Gallery, Brisbane

1968

Carl Plate, Bonython Gallery, Sydney

1967

Carl Plate, Lewers Gallery, Emu Plains

Carl Plate, Hungry Horse Gallery, Sydney

1965

Carl Plate, Hungry Horse Gallery, Sydney

1964

Carl Plate, Gallery A, Melbourne

1963

Carl Plate, Hungry Horse Gallery, Sydney

Carl Plate, Hungry Horse Gallery, Sydney

1962

Carl Plate, Knapik Gallery, New York

1961

Carl Plate: Some Paintings for New York, Terry Clune Galleries, Sydney

Carl Plate, David Jones Art Gallery, Sydney

1960

Carl Plate, Macquarie Galleries, Sydney

Drawings & Small Paintings by Carl Plate, Terry Clune Galleries, Sydney

Carl Plate and Elwyn Lynn, Museum of Modern Art, Melbourne

1959

Carl Plate Paintings 1957-59, Leicester Galleries, London

1958

Carl Plate: Paintings 1957-58, David Jones Art Gallery, Sydney

Carl Plate, Newcastle City Art Gallery, Newcastle

1956

Carl Plate: Paintings 1954-6, Gallery of Contemporary Art, Melbourne

Carl Plate, Macquarie Galleries, Sydney

1954

Carl Plate, Johnstone Gallery, Brisbane
Carl Plate, Macquarie Galleries, Sydney ‘

1953

Paintings by Carl Plate, Peter Bray Gallery, Melbourne

1952

Carl Plate, Johnstone Gallery, Brisbane
Carl Plate, Macquarie Galleries, Sydney

1951

Carl Plate, Macquarie Galleries, Sydney
Carl Plate, John Martins Gallery, Adelaide
Carl Plate, Stanley Coe Gallery, Melbourne

1941

Carl Plate, Notanda Gallery, Sydney

Selected Group Exhibitions**2017**

Emu Island: Modernism in Place, Penrith Regional Art Gallery & Lewers Bequest, Sydney

2016

Art of Parts: Collage and Assemblage from the Collection, Art Gallery of NSW, Sydney

2015

Lurid Beauty: Australian Surrealism and its Echoes, National Gallery of Australia, Canberra
Sydney 6: Hinders, Lewers, Plates, Newcastle Art Gallery, Newcastle

2014

SNO 109: Photography, Sydney Non Objective Contemporary Art Projects, Sydney

2010

Planned for Progress, Reserve Bank of Australia, Sydney

2009

Cubism and Australian Art, Heide Museum of Modern Art, Melbourne
Curating the COFA Collection, Ivan Dougherty Gallery, Sydney

2008

Australian Surrealism, The Agipatos/Wilson Collection, National Gallery Australia, Canberra

1999

The Antipodeans: Challenge & Response in Australian Art 1955-1965, National Gallery of Australia, Canberra

1993

Surrealism By Night, National Gallery of Australia, Canberra

1991

New Directions 1952-1962, Penrith Regional Gallery & Lewers Bequest, Sydney

1980

Abstract Expressionism in Sydney 1956 -1964, Ivan Dougherty Gallery, Sydney

1968

Exposition des Ouvres des Residents, Cité des Arts, Paris

1967

Australian Painting, Expo '67, Montreal

1966

Aspects of Australian Painting, Auckland City Art Gallery, Auckland

1963-65

Australian Painting Today, Australian and European tour

1963

Australian Art, National Gallery, Kuala Lumpur

Survey 1963: Paintings from Galleries in all States, Museum of Modern Art and Design, Melbourne

1962

Australian Painting, Adelaide Arts Festival, and Tate Gallery, London
Commonwealth Art Today, Commonwealth Institute, London

1961

Contemporary Australian Painting, Whitechapel Gallery, London

Survey 1: Sydney Avant-Garde Exhibition, Farmer's Blaxland Gallery, Sydney

Painting from the Pacific, Auckland City Gallery, Auckland

9 Sydney, David Jones Gallery, Sydney

Nine Sydney Artists, Gallery A, Melbourne

Australian Art, Burr Gallery, Los Angeles

Australian Contemporary Art, Bienal de São Paulo, São Paulo

1959

Matson Lines Exhibition of Australian Art (San Francisco and Pacific)

1956

Contemporary Australian Painting (Pacific tour)

1951-60

Society of Artists exhibitions, Sydney

1944

Some Recent Australian Painting, National Art Gallery of NSW, Sydney

1941-66

Contemporary Art Society (CAS) Annual exhibitions, Sydney

Biographical Note

Eminent curator Nick Waterlow described Carl Plate's work as 'quite unlike any other artist of his generation ... forged in abstraction with at times vestiges of Cubism and Abstract Expressionism. ... The unique abstract language he developed combined a European awareness and sensibility with an acute understanding of the psyche of the place he lived.'

"Master of the abstract", "arresting and original", "unfailing imagination" are some of the appraisals given by critics. James Gleeson wrote that "there are many abstract painters but only one Carl Plate."

Carl Plate (1909-1977) was born in Perth to a Swedish-German father and an English-born mother, moving to Sydney in 1913. He studied under Raynor Hoff and Fred Leist at East Sydney Technical College (1930-4).

In 1935 he travelled to Europe via Cuba, Mexico and the USA. In London he mixed with many influential artists and writers including Henry Moore, TS Eliot and Herbert Read, and saw the 1936 International Surrealist Exhibition, which altered his view of the world. Carl studied at St Martins School under Vivian Pitchforth and the Central School of Arts and Crafts under Bernard Meninsky in London (1935-40), and travelled to the Soviet Union and Scandinavia. He continued to travel widely throughout his life, primarily to his beloved Paris. In 1940 he brought back works from 32 modern British artists, holding two of the first exhibitions of modern art in Sydney and Melbourne, at his newly-established and influential Notanda Gallery in Sydney's Rowe St, and Myers in Melbourne. In that same year he became an early member and office-bearer of the newly-formed NSW Contemporary Arts Society, then the powerhouse of Sydney modernism. Along with his wife Jocelyn (née Zander) and four children he lived in the bush near Sydney.

As an artist and gallerist he was actively engaged with the Sydney art scene, notably the post WW11 modernist movement. His work was widely exhibited nationally and internationally and is held in the National and all State Galleries, University collections, Art Bank, The Reserve Bank and many private collections.

A 1959 exhibition at London's Leicester Galleries is considered the first solo show of an Australian abstract artist in that city. Carl Plate held another landmark solo show in New York in 1962. His work has been the subject of two exhibitions at the Art Gallery of NSW in 1977 and 2006, followed by a major retrospective at the Hazelhurst Regional Gallery and Arts Centre. *Carl Plate: Collage 1938-1976* celebrated his lifelong work as a uniquely talented collage artist, work which developed a new language in both collage and painting.

Major Collections

National Gallery of Australia
Art Galleries of New South Wales, Queensland, Tasmania, Victoria and Western Australia
Universities of Sydney, NSW, Melbourne, Canberra, ANU, Cornell
Art Bank
Reserve Bank of Australia