

Ashley Frost: Bio

Ashley Frost was born in Sydney and now lives and works in Thirroul, NSW. His first solo show in 1996 was in Sydney at 235 Nelson Gallery. The exhibition of paintings and plein air studies was titled Eclectic Antarctica and built on around 100 gouache paintings created during a working trip to Antarctica in the summer of 1992. This pivotal experience would lead to Frost founding the [Theme Polar Arts Program](#) 2005-2017, creating opportunities for around 350 artists from around the world to travel to Antarctica and the Arctic.

Frost has worked as an exhibiting artist for 30 years with many solo shows in Sydney, solo shows in New York (2000, 2002, 2004 & 2016), a solo show in Austin Texas in 2018 and group exhibitions in Hong Kong, Tokyo and Guangzhou. He has participated in art residencies in Texas, Antarctica, Norway and Long Island New York. He won the Kings Art Prize in 2004, the Hills Art Prize 2018, the Mosman Art Prize Viewer's Choice in 2017 and Highly Commended in the 2009 Waverley Art Prize and 2021 Flow Contemporary Watercolour Prize. He has been a finalist in the Archibald 2017, Wynne 2021 and Sulman 2021 prizes and a number of other art prizes, including the Paddington Art Prize, Adelaide Perry, the NSW Plein Air Prize, the Gallipoli Prize and the Kedumba Drawing Award in 2020. His works are in collections around Australia including Mosman Art Gallery, Wollongong City Gallery and the University of Wollongong as well as private collections around the world.

He is a graduate of the National Art School East Sydney Australia receiving his BFA with a Distinction in painting. He has travelled widely conducting research for his PhD candidacy on public art in the cities of Brasilia, Beijing, New York and Canberra. During this time he taught art theory in Creative Arts at the University of Wollongong. Ashley's teaching style is eclectic and energetic with an underlying focus of the formalities of drawing, color theory, tonal design, composition and brush work. He has also taught internationally, in Kathmandu Nepal where he taught a group of students and facilitated a cultural exchange with Nepalese painters in 2024 and in October 2025 he took a group of painters to Long Island and New York. Between 2010 and 2017 Ashley worked on expedition cruise ships traveling to the polar landscapes of the Arctic and Antarctica where he taught passengers drawing, watercolour and acrylic painting. In Australia Ashley has taught painting, drawing and printmaking to adults and teens at ArtEst art school in Sydney, Waverley Art School, Hazelhurst Arts Centre and Lane Cove Gallery. In addition to term classes he has run art workshops at Bundanon Trust in the Shoalhaven and Fowlers Gap in regional NSW. He was the resident artist at The Shore School in Sydney 2018 and PLC Croydon 2024 and participated in visiting artist programs teaching at The King's School, Abbotsleigh, Queenwood and Reddam House in Sydney.

As a local government cultural officer 1999-2003 he was awarded the United Nations Healthy City Award for his work facilitating community art projects with local and Indigenous communities across the Illawarra region resulting in creation of temporary and permanent public artworks. Early in his career following art school 1995-1999 Ashley co developed the state funded Matthew Talbot Art Program where he taught painting, drawing and ceramics to homeless communities across Sydney.

Education

2023-2024 Open Studio Printmaking Wollongong TAFE
1991-93 Diploma of Fine Arts National Art School
1996 Certificate in Studio Ceramics, Gympie TAFE
1999 BFA (Conversion Course) National Art School
2001-10 PhD Candidate, A Theory of Public Art UOW

Current Employment

2025 Term classes teaching drawing and painting
2025 Art Tours Regional Australia, Nepal & USA

Solo Exhibitions

2026 Terrain Vague Stella Downer Fine Art Sydney
2024 Adelaide Perry Gallery Resident Artist Exhibition
2022 Southern Highlands Art Centre
2021 Escarpment Stella Downer Fine Art Sydney
2020 Seacoast Nancy Sever Gallery Canberra
2019 At Bundanon Stella Downer Fine Art Sydney
2019 New Work Wentworth Barristers Chambers
2018 Coastal Earthwalker Cafe Coledale
2018 Through the Bush Stella Downer Fine Art Sydney
2017 Chasing the Light Stella Downer Fine Art Sydney
2016 New Work / New York Parasol Projects
2016 Frost, Art & Wine residency exhibition Texas
2016 I do Talk to Clouds Stella Downer Fine Art Sydney
2015 Every Step You Take is Forever CSA
2014 Harbour Studies, Stella Downer Fine Art Sydney
2014 Coastal Egg and Dart Gallery Thirroul
2013 The Long View of Things Cult Design Melbourne
2012 Urban Patinas Stella Downer Fine Art, Sydney
2012 Urban Patinas II Egg and Dart Gallery Thirroul
2010 New Works Stella Downer Fine Art, Sydney
2006 Convergence Stella Downer Fine Art, Sydney
2005 Recent works on paper UOW
2004 Urban Landscapes Desiron, New York City
2004 Polar Arts Exhibition Khlebnikov Antarctic Voyage
2002 Urban Air Desiron Gallery, Soho, New York City
2000 Sydney to New York Desiron Gallery, New York City
1998 Portraits Exhibition Hazelhurst Gallery, NSW
1998 A Tale of Two Cities Gallery Equinox, Austinmer
1997 Eclectic Antarctica 235 Nelson St Gallery, Sydney

Collections

University Of Wollongong, Hong Kong Campus
PLC School Sydney
Mosman Art Gallery, New South Wales
Wollongong Art Gallery, New South Wales
University Of Wollongong, New South Wales

Group Exhibitions and Prizes (selected)

2026 *Pull, Print, Paint*, Lancaster Press Gallery, Fiji
2025 Paddington Art Prize Finalist
2025 Hawkesbury Art Prize Finalist
2024 Greenway Art Prize Finalist
2023 Dobell Drawing Prize Finalist National Art School
2023 Tokyo Tower Art Fair Tokyo Japan
2022 Art in the Valley Finalist
2022 Calleen Art Prize Finalist
2022 Fishers Ghost Finalist
2022 Salon de Refusé Finalist
2022 SHAC joint exhibition with Riste Andrievski
2022 Antarctic Futures University of Wollongong
2021 Wynne Prize Finalist AGNSW
2021 Sulman Prize Finalist AGNSW
2020 Paddington Art Prize Finalist
2020 Greenway Painting Prize Finalist
2020 Kedumba Drawing Prize Finalist
2020 Mosman Air Prize Finalist Mosman Art Gallery
2020 Artists in Isolation Stella Downer Fine Art Sydney
2019 Affordable Art Fair Hong Kong, Global Gallery
2018 Affordable Art Fair New York, Global Gallery
2018 Paddington Art Prize Finalist Sydney
2018 Tattersall's Prize Landscape Art Prize Brisbane
2018 Hurford Hardwood Portrait Prize, Lismore Gallery
2018 Bush to Bay Mosman Art Gallery
2018 Gallipoli Art Prize Gallipoli Club Sydney
2018 Calleen Art Award Cowra Regional Gallery
2018 Hills Art Prize (winner) Oakland College Castle Hill
2017 Archibald Prize Finalist Art Gallery of NSW
2017 En Plein Air Prize NSW Parliament House, Sydney
2017 Eutick Memorial Still Life Award Project Gallery
2017 Mosman Air Prize Winner of People's Choice Award
2017 Tokyo International Art Fair Tokyo Japan

Awards & Residencies

2025 Lancaster Press Residency Fiji
2024 PLC Residency
2019 Artist in residence Bundanoon
2018 Hills Art Prize winner - first prize
2017 Mosman Air Prize Winner of People's Choice
2016 Expedition Artist in Residence Norway
2016 Artist in Residence Austin Texas
2015 Expedition Artist in Residence Antarctica
2012 Waverley Art Prize (Highly Commended)
2008 Expedition Artist in Residence Norway
2005 Expedition Artist in Residence Antarctica
2003 The Kings School Art Prize (winner)
2003 The Australian Postgraduate Award UOW
1992-2002 Expedition Artist in Residence Antarctica