

Criss Canning

A MAJOR EXHIBITION OF NEW WORKS BY RENOWNED CONTEMPORARY AUSTRALIAN ARTIST, CRISS CANNING, HAS MET WITH EXTRAORDINARY DEMAND AT SMITH & SINGER

Fifteen Exceptional & Previously Unseen Still-life Subjects Form the Artist's Second Solo-Exhibition at Smith & Singer

Only One of the Fifteen Paintings Remains Available Following the First Day of Exhibition



Criss Canning born 1947

The Ruby Glass 2020

oil on board, 63 x 52.5 cm

SOLD

© Courtesy of Criss Canning

MELBOURNE, 25 November 2020 – Smith & Singer is delighted to announce that following three days of showing in our Melbourne premises, our second solo-exhibition of paintings by renowned contemporary Australian artist, Criss Canning, has almost sold out – with fourteen of the fifteen available works placed on the first day. Vibrant, meticulous and alluring, Canning's still life subjects are widely and appropriately celebrated by public institutions and private collectors throughout the world. These major new compositions will be on show in our Melbourne galleries at 14-16 Collins Street until 18 December 2020.

Smith&Singer

Melbourne | +61 (0)3 9508 9900 | Thomas Austin | Thomas.Austin@smithandsinger.com.au

Driven by the enduring pursuit of beauty through the creation of art, Canning's distinctive eye resonates through every work in this exhibition. From the tranquil precision of her compositions to the clean lines of her subjects – for she breathes more life into the glasses, vases and earthenware than their inanimate forms should hold – the artist's recognisable style could not be better illustrated by the present exhibition. Long inspired by the beauty of her immediate environment, we see flowers plucked from Canning's vibrant gardens outside Ballarat, such as the spirited cuttings that appear to reach out to the viewer from works such as *Banksia* 2019 and *Waratah* 2019.



Criss Canning born 1947

Banksia 2019

oil on board, 55 x 50 cm

SOLD

© Courtesy of Criss Canning



Criss Canning born 1947

Waratah 2019

oil on board, 55 x 50 cm

SOLD

© Courtesy of Criss Canning

The sharp modernist framework of Canning's paintings belies a greater historical understanding and stands as a fitting development to a genre that has existed across independent artistic histories throughout the ages. Through the paintings in this exhibition, Canning acknowledges the breadth and importance of still-life painting to both Western and Eastern civilisations, marrying both style and subject from East and West effortlessly. We can see this most clearly by the influence of Japanese porcelain and woodblock printing, in concert with the geometric abstraction of European twentieth-century practitioners, in paintings such as *The View from Oshino* 2020 and *The Deco Tray* 2020 (both pictured below). Indeed, it is through Canning's recognition and understanding of her influences that she is able to marry them with such delicacy and ease.

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Born in Melbourne, Canning has lived in various parts of Victoria, New South Wales and Greece. Through many personal trials and tribulations, Canning continued to pursue her artistic calling. An accomplished landscape and portrait painter, interiors began to be her source of inspiration, with still-life and interior subjects winning the battle for her affections. Canning now calls the region near Ballarat home.

Canning's works are held in the permanent collections of the National Gallery of Australia, Canberra; Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney; Art Gallery of Ballarat, Ballarat; Castlemaine Art Museum, Castlemaine; Cairns Art Gallery, Cairns; Artbank, Melbourne; and private collections in Australia, Canada, France, Hong Kong, Singapore, United Kingdom, and the United States of America.



Criss Canning born 1947
The View from Oshino 2020
oil on board, 50 x 40 cm
SOLD
© Courtesy of Criss Canning



Criss Canning born 1947
The Deco Tray 2020
oil on board, 50.5 x 50.5 cm
SOLD
© Courtesy of Criss Canning

Canning's work has also been celebrated in numerous publications, including two new volumes appearing in 2020. David Thomas's *Criss Canning: The Pursuit of Beauty* (rev. ed.) will be published by Thames & Hudson Australia and includes illustrations of each painting from this forthcoming exhibition. In addition, Smith & Singer will be releasing an accompanying hard-bound catalogue to the present exhibition, which is available to buy via our website below, and in our premises. We are additionally delighted to announce two book-signing events at Smith & Singer to celebrate the exhibition and publication of *Criss Canning: The Pursuit of Beauty* – these will be held in our Melbourne galleries at 14-16 Collins Street on Saturday 28 November and Saturday 12 December, from 10 am to 12 pm, and 1-3 pm on both days.

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Geoffrey Smith, Chairman of Smith & Singer commented: 'We are delighted to welcome the sumptuous and vivid paintings of Criss Canning into our galleries for her second solo-exhibition at Smith & Singer, and are thrilled by the enthusiastic response from our clients over the last three days. I have known and admired Criss's work for many years and have witnessed her develop a distinguished reputation in Australia and internationally for her still-life subjects, which extend our appreciation for the natural and built environment. It is an honour to promote her work to Australia and the world, and we welcome visitors to our Melbourne galleries this November/December to see her work in person. Criss is a remarkable Australian contemporary artist who continues to beguile, challenge and inspire.'

AT A GLANCE

Criss Canning

15 works

23 November – 18 December, Monday-Saturday, 10 am to 5 pm, 14-16 Collins Street, Melbourne

Book signing of *Criss Canning: The Pursuit of Beauty* by Criss Canning

Saturday 28 November, 10 am to 12 pm and 1-3 pm, 14-16 Collins Street, Melbourne

Saturday 12 December, 10 am to 12 pm and 1-3 pm, 14-16 Collins Street, Melbourne

Exhibition & Catalogue details available here:

<https://www.smithandsinger.com.au/catalogue/AUEX023>

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