

TWN 'N CUNTRY

MATT BAX

29 13

10 12

2026 2026

Painted during the enforced interiority of the pandemic lockdowns, this series navigates a psychological landscape of confinement and a yearning for the vastness of the Australian bush. Drawing on a childhood in the remote South Australian town of Naracoorte, Bax confronts the tension between memory and immediate experience, engaging directly with the Western canon of Australian art, from the "alien" landscapes of early colonial paintings to the beautiful depictions of children lost in the bush, through to the structural abstraction of Arthur Boyd and Fred Williams.

Bax adopts the role of a "student of nature," narrowing the gaze to eliminate the noise of the periphery. Where Williams sought the vast, empty horizon to make sense of the continent, Bax finds the bush in the minute details of the urban environment, collapsing the macro into the micro to dissolve the boundary between the organic and the industrial.

There is a quiet optimism in this recalibrated vision. Rather than getting "lost" in the bush, we are asked to find it anew, to recognise the iridescent spectrum of a gum tree on a city street as a vital, living tether to the land. Bax offers these works as a reminder that connection to nature is not a luxury of location, but a discipline of attention.

MATT BAX (b. 1974, Adelaide)

Matt Bax is a Melbourne based contemporary painter whose practice excavates the poetics of the overlooked, transforming the mundane detritus of urban existence into meditations on emptiness and presence. Drawing from the Japanese aesthetic philosophy of wabi sabi: the beauty found in imperfection, impermanence, and incompleteness, Bax locates profound resonance in the incidental marks of daily life.

Central to Bax's conceptual framework is the notion of mu, the Buddhist concept of nothingness or void. Influenced by John Cage's assertion that "every something is the echo of nothing," and the material investigations of Antoni Tàpies who described the void as "that play of emptiness and fullness which composes everything and which reveals the meaning of nature," Bax's paintings function as visual koans, inviting contemplation of what exists in the spaces between intention and accident, between presence and absence. His canvases become sites where the ordinary is transfigured, where the overlooked backdrop of existence is foregrounded as worthy of sustained attention and aesthetic consideration.

Bax brings both rigorous theoretical engagement and intuitive material sensibility to his practice, an artist who finds wonder in the quotidian and reassurance in knowing nothing.

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Commerce, Flinders University

Master of Fine Art, Goldsmith-Lasalle College of Arts
(Singapore)

Master of Contemporary Art, VCA, University of Melbourne

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2026 Tw'n Country, Grau Projekt, Melbourne
2025 SAMU, Old Shit New Shit, Melbourne
2023 Waiting for Something to Happen, MPavillon10, Melbourne
2020 Momento Moribana, Grau Projekt, Melbourne
2018 Cockrocker, Grau Projekt, Melbourne
2017 #partsofpaintings, Public Installation, le Sydnicat, Paris, France / Venice, Bellagio, Matera, Italy Alonissos, Greece
2013 Please LIKE me, Anna Pappas Gallery, Melbourne
2012 Pretty Little Stupid Pretty Pictures, Anna Pappas Gallery, Melbourne, Australia
2010 Is Text Cheating? Fost Gallery, Singapore
2010 God's Away on Business, ICAS Galleries, LASALLE College of Arts, Singapore
2009 My Life as an Open Book, Fost Gallery, Singapore
2007 This Little Piggy Went to Market, Anna Pappas Gallery, Melbourne, Australia
2006 Tiles, Anna Pappas Gallery, Melbourne, Australia
2005 Waiting for Something to Happen, Anna Pappas Gallery, Melbourne, Australia
2003 Un-Titled, Dickerson Gallery, Melbourne, Australia
2003 Madrid Wall Studies, Marquardt Ausstellungen, München, Germany
2002 Sec. 101c, Marquardt Ausstellungen, München, Germany
2001 Rolltreppe, NEU Ausstellungsraum, Hamburg, Germany
2001 España, Cornelia von Wagenheim, Frankfurt, Germany
2000 Recent Paintings, Marquardt Ausstellungen, München, Germany
1999 Subway, Marquardt Ausstellungen, München, Germany

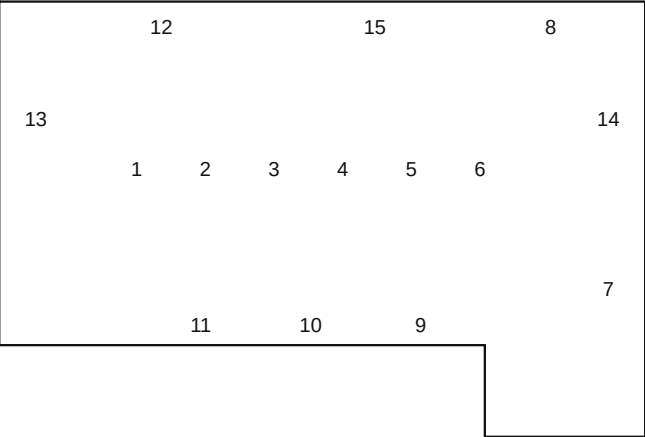
GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2020 Life in The Time of Covid, GAG Projects, Adelaide
2019 Venice - Word of Mouth, Curated by Dr Hill, Venice, Italy
2017 Saturation Point, Victorian College of the Arts, Melbourne
2017 WTF? Victorian College of the Arts, Melbourne
2016 What Can we All Agree on? Victorian College of the Arts, Melbourne
2015 Art Stage Singapore, Curated by Paul Greenaway, Australian Video Pavilion, Singapore
2011 11 Show, Curated by Charles Mereweather, ICAS Galleries, Goldsmiths-Lasalle College of Arts, Singapore
2011 Trappole, Curated by Daniela, Art Trove, Singapore
2011 Object, Curated by Ian Woo, Praxis Space, LASALLE College of Arts, Singapore
2009 Past Perfect, Fost Gallery, Singapore
2009 North – South, Gasworks, Melbourne, Australia
2008 1x1, Fost Gallery, Singapore, Singapore, Australia
2007 Southside Arts Project, Treasury, Melbourne, Australia
2006 Melbourne Art Fair - Anna Pappas Gallery, Melbourne, Australia
2005 Discovery, Gasworks, Melbourne, Australia
2001 Weis, Marquardt Ausstellungen, München, Germany
1999 Mut Zur Farbe - Gelb, Marquardt Ausstellungen, München, Germany
1999 Mut Zur Farbe - Rot, Marquardt Ausstellungen, München, Germany
1999 Mut Zur Farbe - Blau, Marquardt Ausstellungen, München, Germany

SELECTED PRESS

Australian Art Review, Australia
The Age, Australia
The Straits Times, Singapore
Artshub, Australia
Broadsheet, Australia
The Arts Show, PBS Radio, Australia
ABC Radio, Australia
The Melbourne Review, Australia
Channel 31 Arts Program, Australia
Arts Beat, Singapore
TimeOut, Singapore
GQ Magazine, Australia
Inside Out, Australia
Designaré, Singapore
Szene, Germany
Melbourne Magazine, Australia
Triple R FM Radio, Australia
CNN New York, USA
The Business Times, Singapore
I-S Magazine, Singapore
Edge, Singapore
Dumbo Feather, Australia
Singapore Tatler, Singapore
938 LIVE Radio, Singapore
Joy FM Radio, Australia
Lush Radio, Singapore
Prestige, Singapore
Juice, Singapore
Luxury Travel Stories, Singapore
Wallpaper, London

WORKS



1 Untitled
2020
Spray paint, binders, acrylic on linen
300 x 300 mm
AUD 2,500.00 (incl. GST)

2. Untitled
2020
Spray paint, binders, acrylic on linen
300 x 300 mm
AUD 2,500.00 (incl. GST)

3. Untitled
2020
Spray paint, binders, acrylic on linen
300 x 300 mm
AUD 2,500.00 (incl. GST)

4. Untitled
2020
Spray paint, binders, acrylic on linen
300 x 300 mm
AUD 2,500.00 (incl. GST)

5. Untitled
2020
Spray paint, binders, acrylic on linen
300 x 300 mm
AUD 2,500.00 (incl. GST)

6. Untitled
2020
Spray paint, binders, acrylic on linen
300 x 300 mm
AUD 2,500.00 (incl. GST)

7. Untitled
2020
Spray paint, binders, acrylic on linen
300 x 300 mm
AUD 2,500.00 (incl. GST)

8. Untitled
2020
Spray paint, binders, acrylic on linen
300 x 300 mm
AUD 2,500.00 (incl. GST)

9. Untitled
2020
Spray paint, binders, acrylic on linen
1115 x 760 mm
AUD 6,500.00 (incl. GST)

10. Untitled
2020
Spray paint, binders, acrylic on linen
1115 x 760 mm
AUD 6,500.00 (incl. GST)

11. Untitled
2020
Spray paint, binders, acrylic on linen
1115 x 760 mm
AUD 6,500.00 (incl. GST)

12. Untitled
2020
Spray paint, binders, acrylic on linen
765 x 510 mm
AUD 4,750.00 (incl. GST)

13. Untitled
2020
Spray paint, binders, acrylic on linen
1800 x 1500 mm
AUD 12,000.00 (incl. GST)

14. Untitled
2020
Spray paint, binders, acrylic on linen
1800 x 1500 mm
AUD 12,000.00 (incl. GST)

15. Untitled
2020
Spray paint, binders, acrylic on linen
1980 x 1370 mm
AUD 14,000.00 (incl. GST).00 (incl. GST)

TWN 'N CUNTRY MATT BAX TRINK AUTOMAT MENU

1. LIMESTONE COAST* LUCKY DIP

Leanne Altmann



2024 Wangolina 'A-Series' Grüner Veltliner
2025 Wangolina Seasons 'Mitski' Garganega
2024 Wangolina Seasons Malvasia Istriana

*where Matt grew up.

2. MANGO STICKY RICE

Andy Chu



Gin, Coconut Rum, Mr Black, Clarified Mango, Yoghurt Whey

3. PEACE & GLORY (MARTINI)

Dan Hunter



Furneaux Distillery Untamed Gin, 2026 Brae Arbequina EVOO
organic olive oil, Dry Vermouth

4. EMPIRE STRIKES BAX

Hayden :Lambert



Cold drip infused Italian Vermouth, Campari, Amaro Montenegro,
AB Bitters, orange twist

5. RHUBARB SHRUB

Annie Smithers



Champagne, Victorian organic rhubarb, organic vanilla, organic
apple cider,

* Non alcoholic version also available - ask gallery team

HOW TO TRINK

1. Check in at reception to receive your token.
2. Make your selection (1–5) on the TRINK AUTOMAT.
Your choice will illuminate.
3. Door will open. Place token on tray. One token per drink.
4. Door will close and your trink will be created.
5. Light will switch off. Door will open.
6. Consume enthusiastically whilst sipping in the exhibition.

Additional tokens can be purchased on the night. \$20 each.