

**ALUN LEACH-JONES &
THE AUSTRALIAN
TAPESTRY WORKSHOP**



REVISITED OBJECTS

NICHOLAS
THOMPSON
GALLERY

1 TO 18 JULY 2026

Revisited Objects is an exhibition of works by significant Australian abstract artist Alun Leach-Jones, with particular emphasis on his relationship with the Australian Tapestry Workshop. Including tapestries, paintings and works on paper, the exhibition demonstrates the artist's distinctive visual language across four decades.

Alun Leach-Jones (1937-2017) had a long and enduring relationship with the Australian Tapestry Workshop. He was the first artist engaged by the workshop's weavers, at a time when the workshop was based in the Ministry of the Arts boardroom and the artist was teaching at the Victorian College of the Arts. The first work completed was the mural-scale tapestry *Emerald Hill* (1976), which is held in the workshop's archives.

The tapestry *Revisited Objects*, presented in this exhibition, was completed in 1988 when the workshop was twelve years old and well established as a leading producer of large-scale commissioned tapestry works in Australia and internationally. The tapestry was based on a work on paper, which is also included in the exhibition.

Leach-Jones collaborated with the workshop's weavers on several large-scale tapestries between 1976 and 1993. Of the weavers, he commented: "If you do a lot of work, you relinquish more ego and let the weavers move in. They are artists in their own right. You cannot overplay the weavers' role; they are a staggeringly talented bunch."

Leach-Jones recognised the unique qualities of tapestry and the opportunities afforded by the medium in contrast to painting and printmaking, commenting that "we must never make paintings in wool" and promoting tapestry as being "profoundly

different to painting". He allowed the weavers to make significant contributions to the designs, including adjustments to colour relationships that were more coherent in wool than in paint.

Revisited objects includes several small studies for tapestries completed by Leach-Jones and the Australian Tapestry Workshop, including *Light in the West* (1980), the final work commissioned by the Western Australian Government and installed in the Perth Law Courts; *Revisited Objects* (1988), represented in this exhibition; and *Seated Poets and Sirens* (1991 - this study completed 2016-17), commissioned by Howard Tanner and Associates in Surry Hills, NSW.

During preparations for this exhibition, the opportunity emerged to include a significant large-scale painting by Leach-Jones, *The Romance of Death #1* (1981), courtesy of Charles Nodrum Gallery. Painted in New York, the work was exhibited at Bertha Urdang Gallery, New York (1982), Rudy Komon Gallery, Sydney (1982), and *The Field Now* at Heide (1984). The *Romance of Death* series marked a significant period in Leach-Jones's practice, characterised by a pared-back use of primary colours and black as anchoring compositional element, realised at significant scale, "in which the ties to the real world of objects are evidently cut" (Jonathan Goodman and Rex Butler, *Alun Leach Jones – Painting and Sculpture*, Marling Press, Sydney, 2009, p. 13).

To complement these significant works, **Revisited objects** also includes works on paper and paintings demonstrating the development of Leach-Jones's visual language from the 1980s to the 2010s.



ALUN LEACH-JONES

Explorative study 'Light in the west'

1980

wool and cotton tapestry, framed

25 x 25 cm

\$1,500

Collection The Australian Tapestry Workshop, Melbourne

Woven by Allan Holland, Australian Tapestry Workshop,
Melbourne, 1980

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ALUN LEACH-JONES

Explorative study 'Light in the west'

1980

wool and cotton tapestry, framed

25 x 25 cm

\$1,500

Collection The Australian Tapestry Workshop, Melbourne

Woven by Sonja Hansen, Australian Tapestry Workshop,
Melbourne, 1980

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ALUN LEACH-JONES

Romance of Death, No 1

1981

acrylic, glitter, sand and ground glass on canvas

234 x 269.5 cm

\$45,000

Collection Charles Nodrum Gallery, Melbourne

Exhibited: 'Alun Leach Jones: Paintings and Paper Works' Bertha Urdang Gallery, New York 1982; 'Alun Leach Jones: Recent Paintings', Rudy Komon Gallery, Sydney 1982; 'The Field Now', Heide Park and Art Gallery, Melbourne, 4 Sept - 21 Oct 1984, no. 23



1. Alun Leach-Jones at work in New York Studio, 1981



2. Installation view 'Alun Leach Jones: Recent Paintings', Rudy Komon Gallery, Sydney 1982

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ALUN LEACH-JONES

Cypress and acacia

1986

linocut, from edition X, framed

39 x 46 cm

\$1,200

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ALUN LEACH-JONES

Revisited objects 3

1988

screenprint from edition of 30, framed

61 x 61 cm

\$1,500

Created by the artist Alun Leach-Jones and the printer
Larry Rawling at Larry Rawling Fine Art Prints,
Melbourne, Victoria, Australia, 1988

Collections: National Gallery of Australia

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ALUN LEACH-JONES

Revisited objects

1988

wool and cotton tapestry

225 x 198 cm

\$39,000

Collection The Australian Tapestry Workshop, Melbourne

'Revisited objects' designed by Alun Leach-Jones in 1988, woven by Chris Cochius, Hannah Rother & Joy Smith, 1988

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ALUN LEACH-JONES

Explorative study 'Revisited objects'

1988

wool and cotton tapestry, framed

27.5 x 24 cm

\$1,500

Collection The Australian Tapestry Workshop, Melbourne

Woven by Chris Cochius, Australian Tapestry Workshop,
Melbourne, 1988

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ALUN LEACH-JONES

Petite paysage

1991

screenprint from edition of XX, framed

45 x 65 cm

\$1,100

Created by the artist Alun Leach-Jones and the printer
Larry Rawling at Larry Rawling Fine Art Prints,
Melbourne, Victoria, Australia, 1991

Collections: National Gallery of Australia



ALUN LEACH-JONES

Aubade

1994

screenprint from edition of 40, framed

60 x 60 cm

\$1,500

Created by the artist Alun Leach-Jones and the printer
Larry Rawling at Larry Rawling Fine Art Prints,
Melbourne, Victoria, Australia, 1994

Impression exhibited in 'Alun Leach-Jones: A Print
Retrospective 1966-1994' Bendigo Art Gallery, 1994

Collections: National Gallery of Australia, Bendigo Art
Gallery

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ALUN LEACH-JONES

The plain sense of things 2 (Nocturne)

2010

acrylic on canvas, framed

97 x 122 cm

\$15,000



ALUN LEACH-JONES

Explorative study 'Seated poets and sirens 1991'

2016-17

wool and cotton tapestry

44 x 42.5 cm

\$1,900

Collection The Australian Tapestry Workshop, Melbourne

Woven by Karlie Hawking, Australian Tapestry
Workshop, Melbourne, 1991

Christopher Heathcote

Signs of our Times

Art Beat, Melbourne

[Christopher Heathcote](#)

Jul 08, 2026

Mixing prints with paintings and tapestry, Nicholas Thompson Gallery presents a very tasty show of mid-career work by Alun Leach-Jones (1937-2017). The focus is a 1988 tapestry *Revisited Objects* which is flanked by the screenprint which it was developed from (*illus. above*), and small woven preparatory test samples. Its worth visiting the show just for the opportunity to inspect this stately tapestry close up, and see exactly why the Victorian Tapestry Workshop is so respected internationally.

With the original composition interlocking forms were surrounded by a thin Manganese blue line and sat within a Cobalt blue surround, although in the subsequent tapestry these were converted into shades of episcopal purple. In the gallery you not only get to study those and other changes made by weavers at the South Melbourne workshop when adapting a composition to their demanding medium; but getting in close to a finished tapestry enables you to seeing how such a richness of colour is produced by the workshop's signature method of weaving together a blend of differently tinted woollen threads.

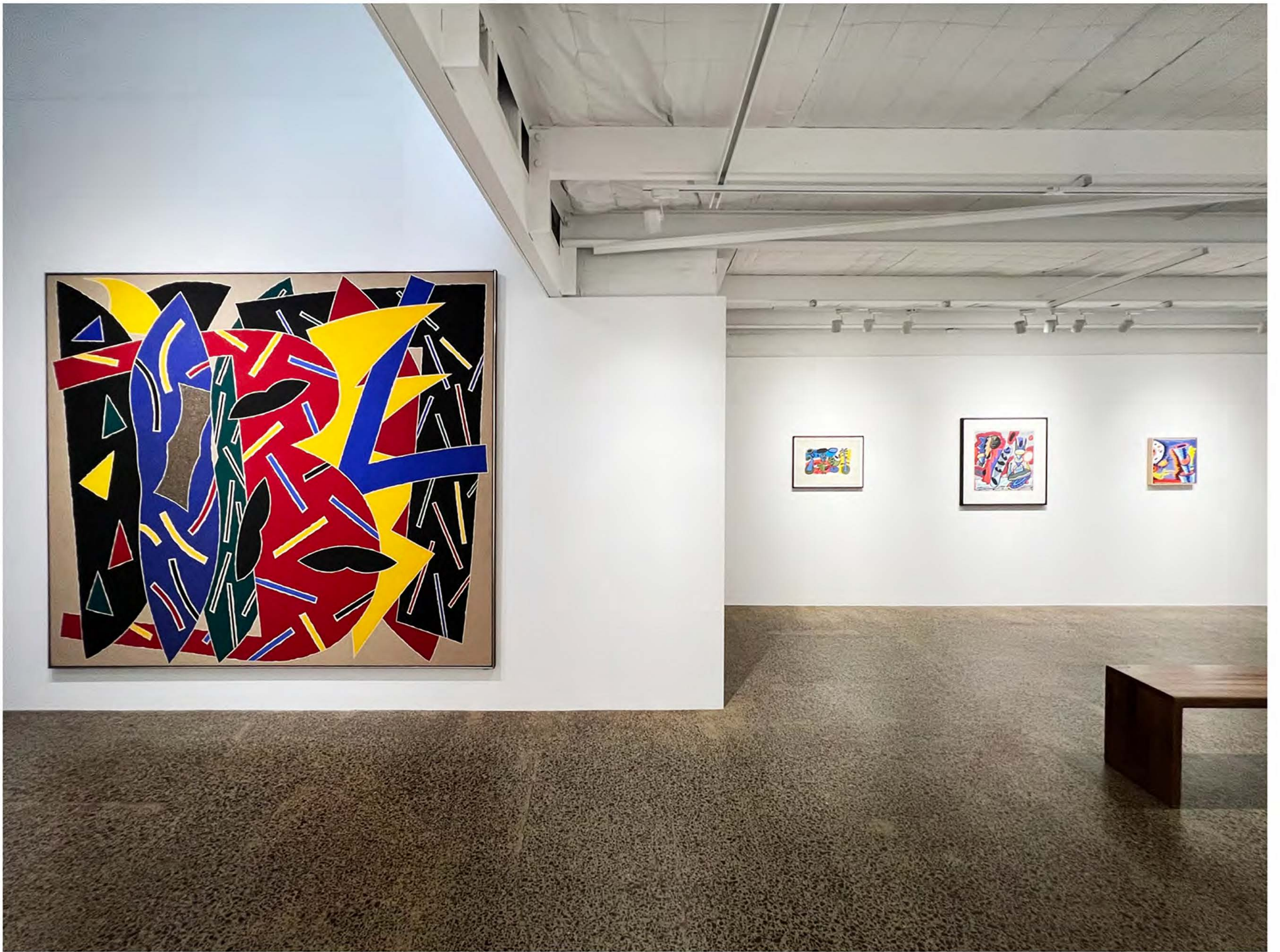
Welsh born Leach-Jones initially gained attention on the 1960s Australian gallery scene with Colour-Field abstractions which crossed the latest style from the US with devices lifted from traditional Celtic decorative arts. His square-shaped paintings and prints consisted of a dominant circular form which he then filled with flattened curvilinear patterns, sometimes combining knotwork, interlocking geometric shapes, spirals and triskeles, executed using a bright crisp Sixties palette. Younger and progressive collectors really took to his eye-catching abstractions. But staff at the Victorian Tapestry Workshop did not warm to the flattened and schematic Celtic visual mazes of those earlier works. Instead, the weavers saw great possibilities in the still life-based abstracts Leach-Jones produced decades later. Steeped in 1920s French cubism, some of these more spatial compositions were deliberate homages to Fernand Léger and Georges Braque. He even gave several typical '20s cubist titles.

Several walls in the gallery are hung with these visually intelligent, if light-hearted pieces, the larger major paintings *The Plain Sense of Things* (Nocturne) and *Romance of Death* each getting their own walls, where they are displayed as considered statements. But, as stated at the start, the entire exhibition has been visually designed around the *Revisited Objects* tapestry which, as the photograph shows, by filling the end wall indisputably holds the commanding position.











Alun Leach-Jones (1937 - 2017) held more than 80 solo exhibitions between 1964 and 2017. His work has been included in significant group exhibitions including *The Field* at the National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne (1968) and the *Bienal de Sao Paulo*, Brazil (1969). Survey exhibitions of Leach-Jones' work have been held at Lalit Kala Academy, New Delhi, India (1974), Monash University Gallery, Melbourne (1976), Kunstlerhaus Bethanien, Berlin, Germany (1981) Glyn Vivian Art Gallery, Swansea, Wales (1992), Geelong Art Gallery, Victoria (1995) and Newcastle Region Art Gallery, New South Wales (2007). Leach-Jones is represented in the collections of the National Gallery of Australia, Canberra; the National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne; the Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney; the Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane; the Art Gallery of Western Australia, Perth; the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York; the Museum of Modern Art, New York; National Museum of Wales, Cardiff; British Museum, London and Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool.

The Australian Tapestry Workshop (ATW) is an international leader in contemporary tapestry, collaborating with a diverse range of international and Australian artists to produce exceptional handwoven works of art. Established in 1976, they have created over 500 tapestries in creative collaborations for nearly fifty years, promoting innovation and excellence in tapestry weaving and textile art. Located in Melbourne, Australia, their open studio space, bespoke Dye Lab and galleries are a creative hub for engagement with tapestry, textiles and contemporary art. The ATW invites public and private tapestry commissions to be woven in their South Melbourne studio.

ALUN LEACH-JONES

b. 1937, Maghull, United Kingdom

arr. Australia 1959

d. 2017, Sydney, Australia

STUDIES

Liverpool College of Arts 1957 – 1959

South Australian School of Arts 1960 – 63

POSTHUMOUS SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2026 *Revisited Objects (with The Australian Tapestry Workshop)*, Nicholas Thompson Gallery, Melbourne

2019 *Paintings 1998 to 2008*, Nicholas Thompson Gallery, Melbourne
Painting, Sculpture & Collage, Defiance Gallery at Mary Place, Sydney

2018 *The Country Beyond the Stars*, Nicholas Thompson Gallery, Melbourne
A Language of His Own – A Memorial Exhibition, UNSW Library, Sydney
Fifteen Impressions 1970s – 2010s, Nicholas Thompson Gallery, Melbourne

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2017 *Work and Days*, Nicholas Thompson Gallery at Sydney Contemporary, Sydney
- 2015 *The Drawn Image: 30th Anniversary Commemorative Exhibition* (with Guy Warren and Colin Lanceley), Nicholas Thompson Gallery, Melbourne
Recent Paintings (with Helen Maudsley), Nicholas Thompson Gallery, Melbourne
- 2013 *Modernism Redux*, Glasshouse Port Macquarie Regional Gallery, N.S.W.
- 2012 *Sculpture*, Rex Irwin Art Dealer, Sydney
- 2011 Heiser Gallery, Brisbane
- 2010 *New Paintings*, Rex Irwin Art Dealer, Sydney

- 2009 **Recent Paintings**, Heiser Gallery, Brisbane
BMG Art, Adelaide
- 2008 **Paintings**, Rex Irwin Art Dealer, Sydney
- 2007 **Works on Paper from the Collection, 1969-2007**, Newcastle Region Art Gallery,
N.S.W. curated by Rodney Cones-Brown
- 2006 Heiser Gallery, Brisbane
BMG Art, Adelaide
- 2005 **Recent Sculpture**, Rex Irwin Art Dealer, Sydney
- 2003 **Paintings, Sculpture & Relief Drawings**, Berkeley Square Gallery, London
- 2002 **Recent Paintings**, BMG Art, Adelaide (Adelaide Festival Exhibition)
Selected Prints, Wagga Wagga Regional Art Gallery, N.S.W. (Selected Prints)
- 2001 **Paintings & Drawings**, Berkeley Square Gallery, London
- 2000 Robert Lindsay Gallery, Melbourne
- 1998 Robert Lindsay Gallery, Melbourne
Royal Cambrian Academy, Conway, Wales
Paintings 1994-1998, Annandale Galleries, Sydney
Luise Ross Gallery, New York
- 1997 Luise Ross Gallery, New York
- 1996 Solander Gallery, Canberra
- 1995 **Everyman -The Invention of Signs (Selected Paintings and Drawings)** Geelong Art
Gallery, Victoria. curated by Ann Carew
Robert Lindsay Gallery, Melbourne
Annandale Galleries, Sydney
Luise Ross Gallery, New York
- 1994 **A Print Retrospective: 1966-94**, Bendigo Art Gallery, Victoria. (touring Victorian
Regional Galleries in 1995). curated by David Thomas
- 1993 **Drawings**, Annandale Galleries, Sydney
- 1992 **Gwalia Derserta: Selected Works by Alun Leach (1980-92)**, Glynn Vivian Art, Gallery

- and Museum, Swansea Wales curated by Alison Lloyd
- New Pastels, Bronzes and Some Etchings by Alun Leach-Jones***, Australian Galleries,
Melbourne
- Michael Milburn Galleries, Brisbane
- 1991 ***New Paintings***, Luise Ross Gallery, New York
- Instruments for a Solitary Navigator***, Macquarie Galleries, Sydney
- 1990 ***Works on Paper***, Michael Milburn Gallery, Brisbane
- 1989 ***Recent Paintings***, Luise Ross Gallery, New York
- 1988 ***Recent Paintings***, Powell Street Gallery, Melbourne
- 1987 ***Recent Works***, Luise Ross Gallery, New York
- Macquarie Galleries, Sydney
- Fremantle Arts Centre, Western Australia
- 1986 ***The Prints of Alun Leach-Jones 1966-86***, New England Regional Art Museum,
Armidale, N.S.W. curated by Joe Eisenberg.
- Paintings, Drawings and Prints***, Solander Gallery, Canberra
- Silkscreen Prints***, Powell Street Gallery, Melbourne
- Bertha Urdang Gallery, New York
- Paintings 1985-86***, Macquarie Galleries, Sydney
- 1985 ***Paintings 84-85***, Bertha Urdang Gallery, New York
- 1984 ***Recent Drawings***, Ray Hughes Gallery, Brisbane
- Recent Paintings and Works on Paper***, Macquarie Galleries, Sydney
- Powell Street Gallery, Melbourne
- 1983 ***Recent Paintings***, Bertha Urdang Gallery, New York
- 1982 ***Paintings and Paper Works***, Bertha Urdang Gallery, New York
- Recent Paintings***, Rudy Komon Gallery, Sydney
- Recent Works on Paper***, Solander Gallery, Canberra
- The Manhattan Suite, Cast Paper Paintings 1981***, Powell Street Gallery, Melbourne
- 1981 ***Berliner Arbeiten***, Kunstlerhaus Bethanien, West Berlin

- 1979 Rudy Koman Gallery, Sydney
Ray Hughes Gallery, Brisbane
- 1977 Macquarie University, Sydney
Paintings and Collages, Powell Street Gallery, Melbourne
- 1976 **The Compendium Series**, Rudy Komon Gallery, Sydney
Survey Paintings 1964-76, Monash University. Exhibition Gallery, curated by Grazia Gunn
Survey Paintings 1964-76, Albert Hall, Canberra (Monash University/Arts Council of Australia Exhibition). Curated by Professor Patrick McCaughey
Collages, Prints, Ray Hughes Gallery, Brisbane
Recent Screenprints, Crosley Gallery, Melbourne
Paintings and Prints, Solander Gallery, Canberra
- 1975 **Graphics**, Townsville Arts Centre, Queensland (Australia Council Exhibition)
- 1974 **Paintings and Graphics**, Lalit Kala Academy, New Delhi (Dept. of Foreign Affairs and Australia Council Exhibition).
Affinities – A Tribute to Vernon Watkins, National Museum of Wales, Cardiff
- 1972 **Artist of Australia: Graphics, Acrylics: Alun Leach Jones**, Samat Gallery, Kuala Lumpur
Mandarin Galleries, Singapore
Recent Works, Watters Gallery, Sydney.
- 1971 Bonython Art Gallery, Adelaide.
Barry Lett Gallery, Auckland.
Recent Paintings, Tolarno Galleries, Melbourne.
Crossley Gallery, Melbourne.
Skinner Gallery, Perth.
- 1970 **Recent Works**, Watters Gallery, Sydney. Victorian Regional Art Galleries (travelling exhibition).
Screenprints, Gallery One Eleven, Brisbane (Ray Hughes)
- 1969 **Screenprints**, Newcastle Region Art Gallery, N.S.W.

- 1968 *New Works*, Strines Gallery, Melbourne
1967 *Paintings and Prints*, Watters Gallery, Sydney
1966 *Paintings and Drawings*, Australian Galleries, Melbourne
1964 *Paintings*, Australian Galleries, Melbourne

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2019 *APW George Collie Memorial Award Exhibition, Alun Leach-Jones + Kevin Lincoln*,
Australian Print Workshop Gallery, Melbourne
The Paul Guest Collection, Bendigo Art Gallery, Bendigo
2018 *The Field Revisited*, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne
2015 *21st Century Heide: The Collection Since 2000*, Heide Museum of Modern Art,
Melbourne
Opening Exhibition, Nicholas Thompson Gallery, Melbourne
1988 *Aspects of Australian Art*, Houston International Festival, United States
1988 *Sightings, Institute of American Studies*, Barcelona and Pratt Manhattan Gallery,
New York, touring Spain
1987 *Backlash*, National Gallery of Victoria
1987 *Field to Figuration*, National Gallery of Victoria
1984 *The Field Now*, Heide Museum of Modern Art, Victoria
1977 *Tapestry and the Australian Artist*, National Gallery of Victoria
1969 *Beinale del Sao Paulo*, Brazil
1968 *The Field*, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne

SELECTED RESIDENCIES

- 1985 Fremantle Arts Centre, Western Australia 1985
1981 Claremont School of Arts, Western Australia
1981 State University New York, USA

1980 Kunstlerhaus Bethanien, West Berlin, Germany

1977 Macquarie University, Victoria

SELECTED AWARDS

2019 George Collie Memorial Award, Australian Print Workshop, Melbourne (posthumous)

1990 Honourable Life Fellow, Royal Society of Painter-printmakers UK

1990 British Council Grant, London

1985 Fremantle Print Award

1980 Victorian Arts Board Grant

1979 Henri Worland Memorial Art Prize, Warrnambool Art Gallery

1970 Georges Art Prize (second award)

1968 Wangaratta Prize

1967 Benalla Art Gallery (Aquisition Award)

1967 Print Patron, Print Council of Australia

APPOINTMENTS

1972-77 Victorian College of the Arts

1969-71 Teacher Prahran CAE, then National Gallery of Victoria School

SELECTED COLLECTIONS

National Gallery of Australia

National Gallery of Victoria

Art Gallery of New South Wales

Queensland Art Gallery

Art Gallery of South Australia

Art Gallery of Western Australia

Parliament House

Artbank

Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York
Museum of Modern Art, New York
The British Museum, UK
Victoria and Albert Museum, UK
National Museum of Wales, UK
Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, UK
Museum of Modern Art, Wales, UK
National Gallery of Malaysia
Auckland City Art Gallery, New Zealand
Perth Cultural Centre
many tertiary and university collections, and most state collections

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Goodman, J. 'Alun Leach-Jones: Painting and sculpture' Marnling Press, 2009
Gray, R. Sturgeon, G. 'Alun Leach-Jones', Craftsman House 1998
Eisenberg, J. 'A Studio Book: Alun Leach-Jones: First etchings' Gwalia Press, Sydney, 1987