

# PIA MURPHY



## LOOK WHAT I FOUND

NICHOLAS  
THOMPSON  
GALLERY

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS IN 2025

7 TO 24 MAY 2025

Inspired by the insatiable curiosity of childhood, *Look What I Found* is a series of nine oil paintings that navigate the space between abstraction and figuration—exploring colour, texture, and form.

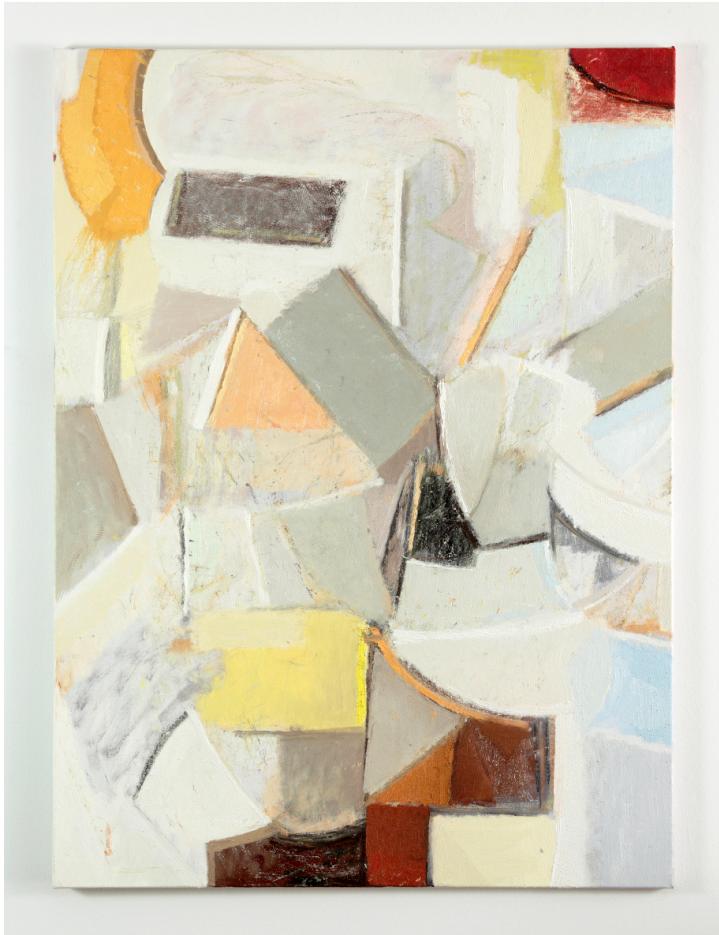
Averse to rigid planning or predetermined outcomes, my process embraces uncertainty and engages with materials openly. It is within this indeterminate space that new visual languages can emerge and previously unarticulated knowledge may be revealed.

Imagination has long served as a source of comfort. Encountering Heinz Kohut's theory of the 'self-object,' I realised that creativity had functioned as such an object from a young age. In this context, painting becomes a reparative act—one that facilitates self-cohesion and nurtures a sense of belonging.

Pia Murphy, 2025

NICHOLAS  
THOMPSON  
GALLERY

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS IN 2025



**PIA MURPHY**

*Brain storms*

2025

oil and sand on canvas

138 x 102 cm

\$5,500

NICHOLAS  
THOMPSON  
GALLERY

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS IN 2025



**PIA MURPHY**

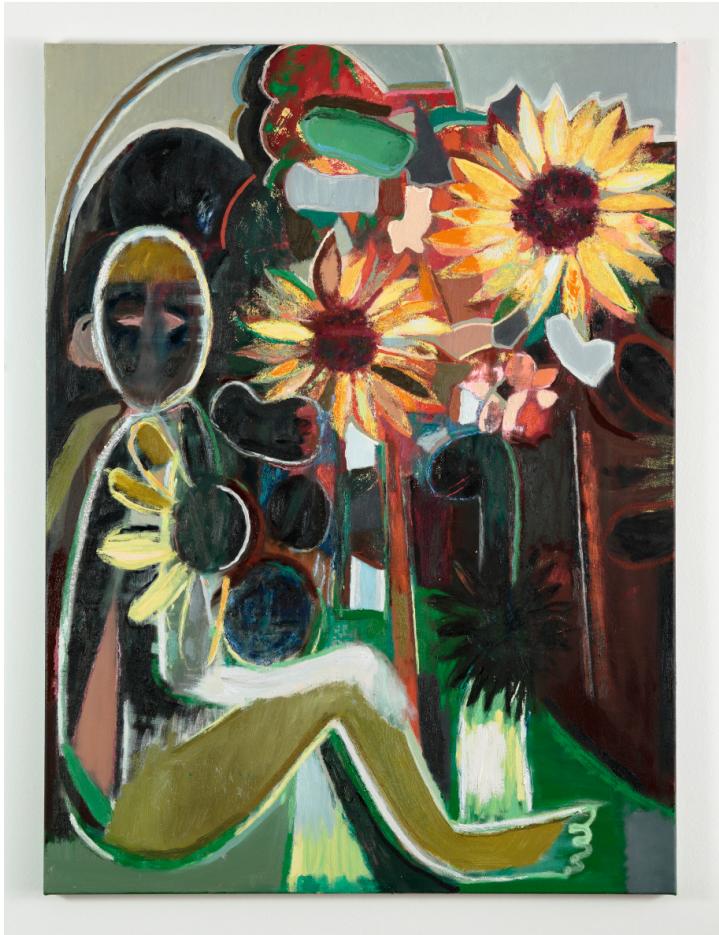
*Indeterminate growth*

2025

oil and sand on canvas

138 x 102 cm

\$5,500



**PIA MURPHY**

*Night garden*

2025

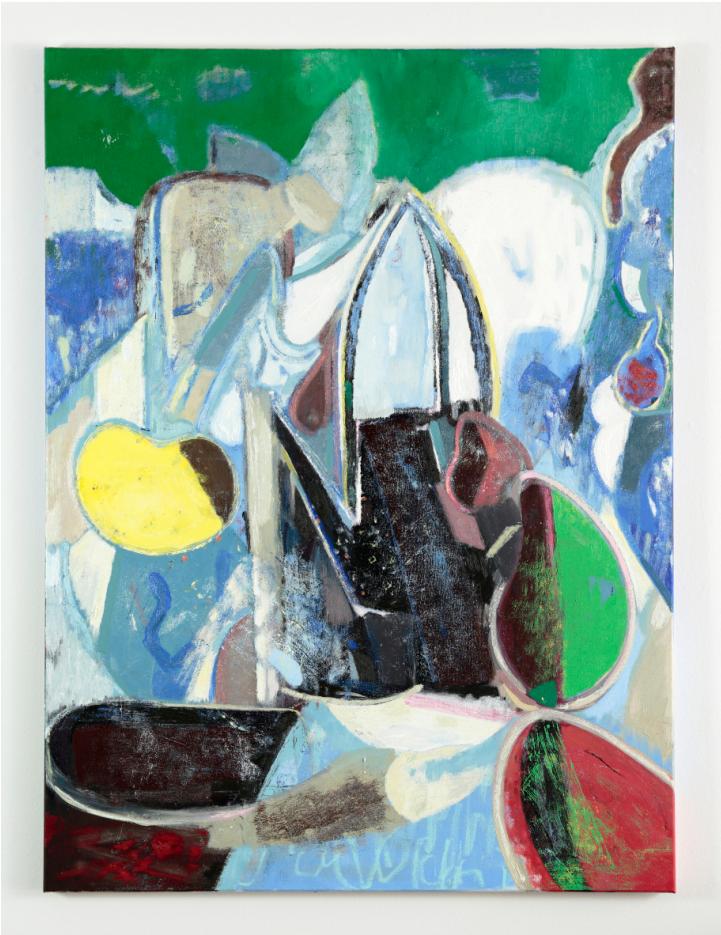
oil and sand on canvas

138 x 102 cm

\$5,500

NICHOLAS  
THOMPSON  
GALLERY

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS IN 2025



**PIA MURPHY**

*Self object*

2025

oil and sand on canvas

138 x 102 cm

\$5,500

NICHOLAS  
THOMPSON  
GALLERY

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS IN 2025



**PIA MURPHY**

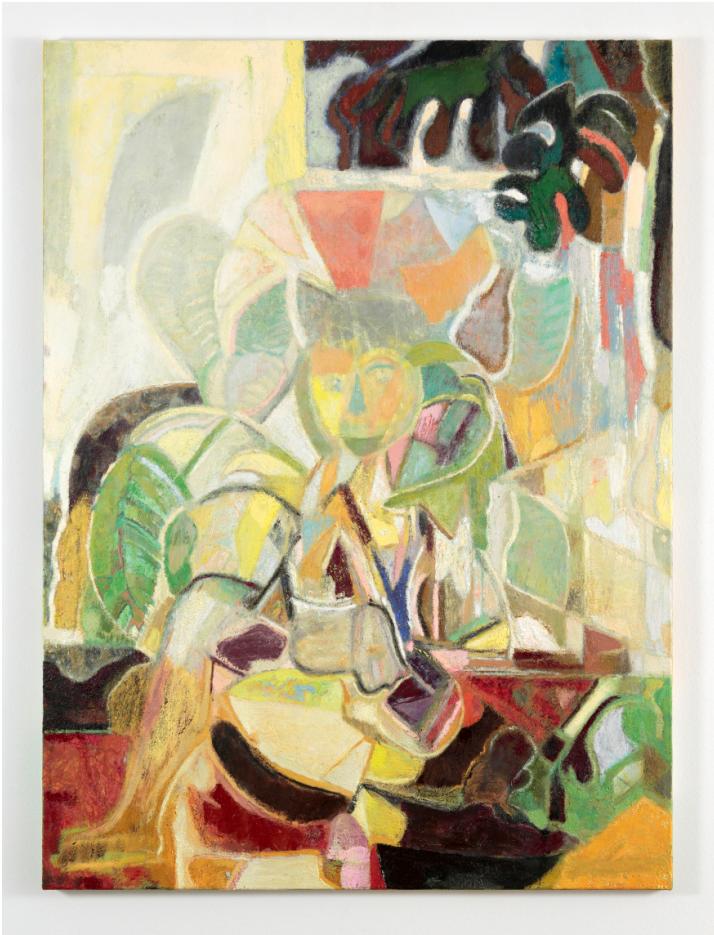
*Sudden density*

2025

oil and sand on canvas

138 x 102 cm

\$5,500



**PIA MURPHY**

*The value of uncertainty*

2025

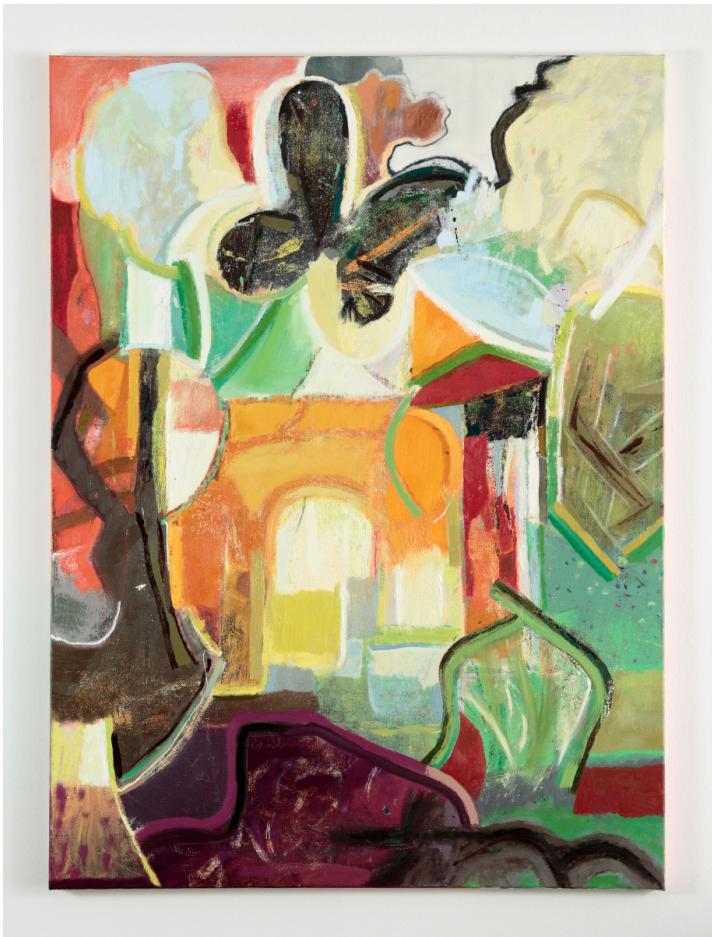
oil and sand on canvas

138 x 102 cm

\$5,500

NICHOLAS  
THOMPSON  
GALLERY

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS IN 2025



**PIA MURPHY**

*These days*

2025

oil and sand on canvas

138 x 102 cm

\$5,500

NICHOLAS  
THOMPSON  
GALLERY

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS IN 2025



**PIA MURPHY**

*Unfamiliar hilarity*

2024

oil and sand on canvas

138 x 102 cm

\$5,500

NICHOLAS  
THOMPSON  
GALLERY

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS IN 2025



**PIA MURPHY**

*Un chien*

2025

oil and sand on canvas

55 x 46 cm

\$2,600

NICHOLAS  
THOMPSON  
GALLERY

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS IN 2025



**PIA MURPHY**

*Look at the flowers*

2024

oil and sand on canvas

55 x 46 cm

\$2,900

NICHOLAS  
THOMPSON  
GALLERY

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS IN 2025



**PIA MURPHY**

*Sings it's songs into the world*

2024

oil and sand on canvas

55 x 46 cm

\$2,900

NICHOLAS  
THOMPSON  
GALLERY

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS IN 2025



**PIA MURPHY**

*The small things*

2024

oil and sand on canvas

55 x 46 cm

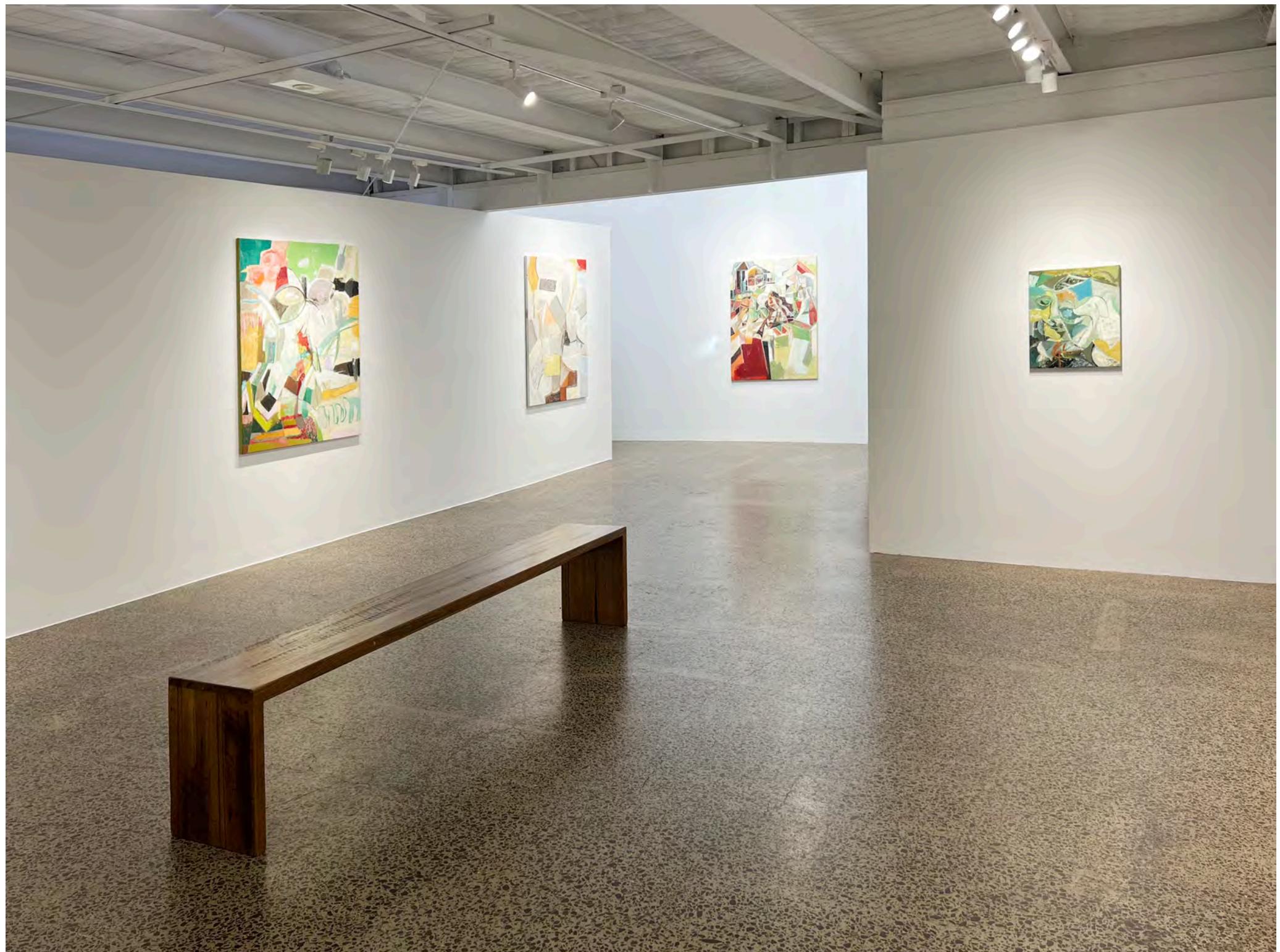
\$2,900



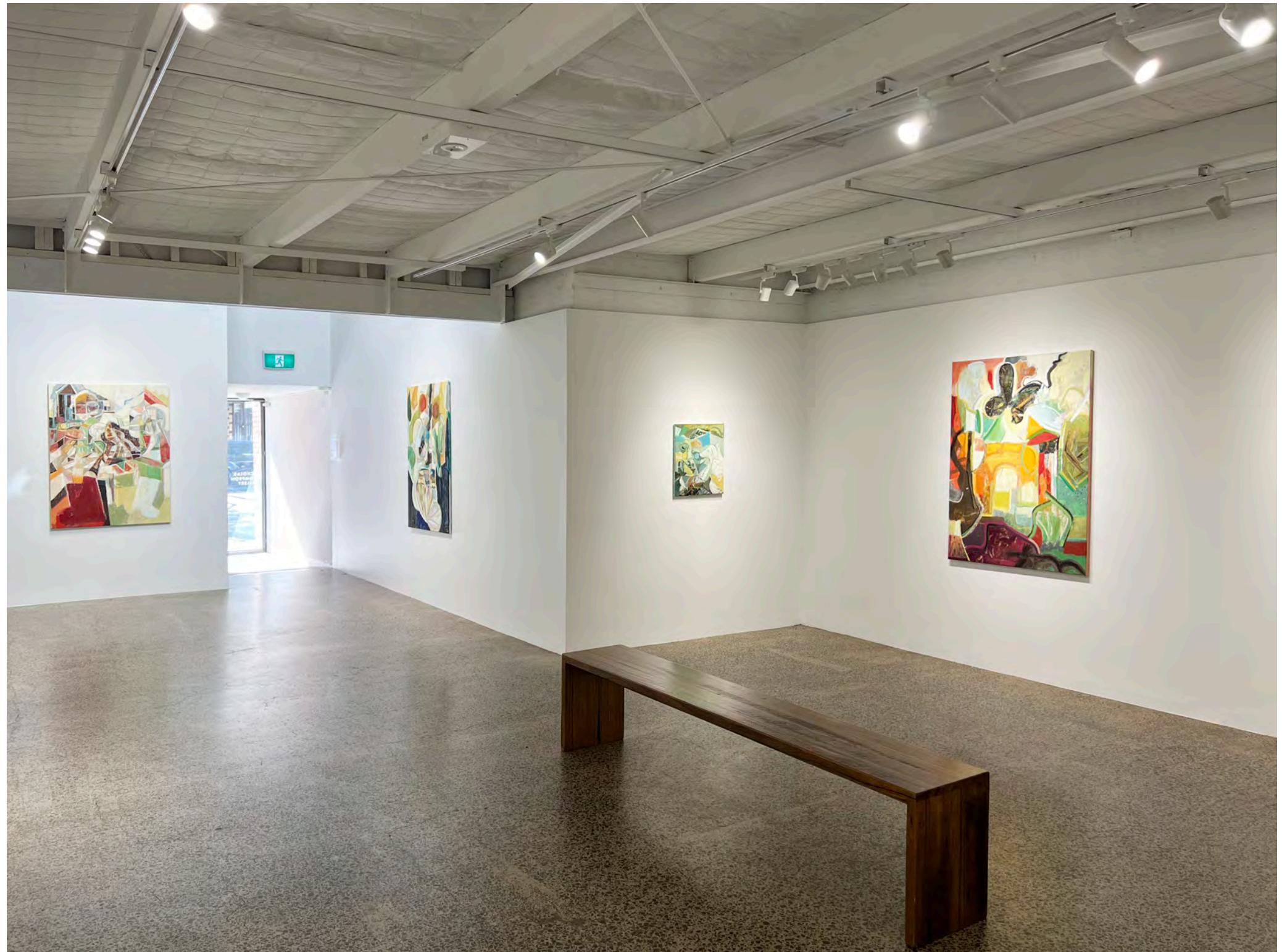




















Pia Murphy is a graduate of the Victorian College of the Arts (2004) and has held solo exhibitions in Melbourne, Brisbane and Sydney since 2010. Her work has been included in group exhibitions at significant Australian galleries including CAVES, C3 Contemporary Art Space, Bayside Arts and Cultural Centre Brighton, Arts Project Australia, Chapterhouse Lane Gallery, St Helliers St. Gallery, Campbelltown Arts Centre, Geelong Regional Gallery, Hobson's Bay City Council Gallery and internationally in Spain.

Pia Murphy has been awarded a Visual Arts Fellowship from the Edward F. Albee Foundation (2025) and received the National Gallery of Victoria Women's Association Encouragement Award (2004). Pia has been featured in Art Guide Australia, the Age, the Journal of Australian Ceramics and Broadsheet. Murphy's work is held in private collections in Australia, USA, Italy, Spain, Switzerland and Germany.



## PIA MURPHY

### EDUCATION

2004 Bachelor of Fine Art, Printmaking, Victorian College of the Arts

### SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2025 *Look What I Found*, Nicholas Thompson Gallery, Melbourne  
2024 *Florescence*, EDWINA CORLETTE, Brisbane  
    *Garden Gravity*, Nicholas Thompson Gallery, Melbourne  
2022 *Eternal Springtime*, Michael Reid Northern Beaches, Sydney  
2018 *Twin Flames*, LON Gallery, Melbourne  
2017 *A great big shape and a smaller one*, Caves Gallery, Melbourne  
2014 *Land*, Chapterhouse Lane Gallery, Melbourne  
2013 *Saccade*, Pieces of Eight Gallery, Melbourne  
2012 *Woolgather*, Chapterhouse Lane Gallery, Melbourne  
    *New work*, C3 Contemporary Art Space, Melbourne  
2011 *Gorman presents - Pia Murphy*, Melbourne  
2010 *New work*, C3 Contemporary Art Space, Melbourne

### GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2025 *Qurantine Art Fair*, Portsea with Nicholas Thompson Gallery  
2024 *How to Swim*, curated by Sally Anderson, EDWINA CORLETTE, Brisbane  
2023 *Small Works*, Edwina Corlette Gallery  
    *The Birregurra Art Show*, Birregurra, Victoria  
    *Sunday Salon showroom*, Melbourne  
2022 *Softly, Softly*, Curated by Amber Cresswell Bell, Michael Reid Northern  
    Beaches, Sydney  
2021 *The Birregurra Art Show*, Birregurra, Victoria  
    *A Square of Sunlight*, Curated by Helen Gory, Backwoods Gallery,  
    Melbourne  
    *The show must go on*, Sunday Salon, Melbourne  
    *Brindar con extraños*, Galeria Trinta, Spain

2019 **Spring-Time #4**, Lamington Drive, Melbourne

2018 **Spring 1883** CAVES inc. Melbourne  
*The Horse*, Curated by Noel Mckenna, Darren Knight Gallery, Sydney  
*The Birregurra Art Show*, Birregurra Hall, Victoria

2017 **Not Fair**, Melbourne  
*Last Drinks*, LON Gallery, Melbourne

2016 **Concrete Agenda**, Curated by Tai Snaith, C3 Contemporary Art Space, Melbourne  
*The ordinary instant*, Over 50 works by Clarice Beckett alongside Seven contemporary women artists, Bayside Arts and Cultural Centre, Brighton  
**Faux Studio**, C3 Contemporary Art Space, Melbourne  
**group show: second iteration**, Arts Project Australia, Melbourne

2015 **group show**, Chapterhouse Lane Gallery, Melbourne  
**Shots off the dices - an exhibition of Australian and international artists**  
Curated by Rhys Lee. Nicholas Thompson Gallery, Melbourne  
**Faux Fair**, C3 Contemporary Art Space, Melbourne

2014 **Faux Museum**, Curated by Anusha Kenny, Melissa Loughnan, Kate Tucker and Ace Wagstaff. C3 Contemporary Art Space, Melbourne

2012 **Paintings of Steves' Paintings**, St.Heliers St. Gallery, Melbourne

2011 **1.85 Million: Art Peripheries**, Curated by Joseph Allen Shea  
Campbelltown Arts Centre, Sydney  
**Scarecrow**, Curated by Rhys Lee including Rhys Lee, Pia Murphy, Heidi Yardley, Rob McHaffie, Daniel Price and Matt Hinkley. Karen Woodbury Gallery, Melbourne

2010 **Exquisite Palette Show**, St. Luke. Artist Colourmen, Melbourne

2008 **Exquisite Palette Show**, St. Luke. Artist Colourmen, Melbourne

2007 **50 - a print exchange portfolio**, Curated by Rona Green. Geelong Regional Gallery

2004 **Nguyen Van Cuong Printmaking Project**, Hobson's Bay City Council Gallery, Melbourne

#### AWARDS AND RESIDENCIES

2024 Visual Arts Fellowship from the Edward F. Albee Foundation

2004 National Gallery of Victoria Women's Association Encouragement Award

### **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

- 2025 'Pia Murphy – Preview' by Sally Gearon, Art Guide Australia, May/June
- 2024 Mind Head magazine feature issue 3.
- 2023 Miasma magazine feature issue 1.
- 2022 Hunter & Folk feature by Holly Terry
- 2016 Artists collaborate without talking - Art Guide Australia, Andrew Stephens, December 2016
- 2014 Pia Murphy + Rhys Lee - Journal of Australian Ceramics volume 53 issue 3, By Alicia Sciberras November 2014
- 2012 A new chapter - Broadsheet, May 22, 2012
- 2011 Ceramic goodness - Frankie Magazine, November 24, 2011  
Scarecrow - Dan Rule. The Age, Saturday June 17, 2011

### **COLLECTIONS**

Private collections Australia, USA, Italy, Spain, Switzerland, Germany.