

John McDonald: a very brief CV.

John McDonald was born in Cessnock, NSW, in 1961, and graduated from Sydney University in 1981 (majoring in English literature & philosophy). He has written for newspapers and journals for over 25 years, and done occasional work for radio and television. He is perhaps best known for his lengthy art columns in the *Sydney Morning Herald* from 1983-89, 1994-1998, and again from the beginning of 2005.

In Sept. 1999 JMCD took up the post as Head of Australian Art at the National Gallery of Australia, and resigned in December 2000, after acting as Curator of the NGA exhibition 'Federation: Australian Art and Society 1901-2001', which toured the nation until June 2002.

JMCD has lectured throughout Australia, and taught Art History & Theory at the National Art School, Sydney. From 2002-04 he was director of Newcontemporaries, a non-commercial exhibition space at the Queen Victoria Building in Sydney, committed to showing the work of new & emerging artists. He has acted as publisher-in-chief of East-West Editions, and founding editor of the magazines, *Australian Art Review*, and *East-West Arts*.

JMCD's publications include monographs on Australian artists such as David Strachan, Ari Purhonen and Jeffrey Smart, and an essay to accompany Rex Dupain's photographs in the book, 'From Bondi to Broken Hill'. Living in England from 1990-94, he edited the anthology, 'Peter Fuller's Modern Painters' (Methuen 1993). In 2007, with photographer, Ian Lloyd, he published *Studio*, an overview of 61 contemporary painters and their studios – as a book, an exhibition and a DVD. The show was launched at the National Portrait Gallery, Canberra, in July 2007 and is still touring Australia.

The Art of Australia – the first volume His new – and definitive – history of Australian art for Pan Macmillan, was issued in December 2008. He has written a catalogue of the White Rabbit collection of contemporary Chinese art, for a new private museum & foundation in Sydney. He is currently working on by Volume two of *The Art of Australia*.

CONTACT DETAILS:

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JOHN McDONALD IN SUMMARY:

Born: Cessnock, NSW, 2 April 1961.

Graduated: BA (English lit. & philosophy), Sydney University, 1980
Spent six years overseas, including four years in UK.

Head of Australian Art: National Gallery of Australia, 1999-2000.

Australian Newspapers: Sydney Morning Herald (senior art critic 1983-89; 1994-99; 2005 -), The Australian, National Times on Sunday, Independent Monthly, The Age, Australian Financial Review, Sun-Herald. **London:** Sunday Telegraph, The Guardian.

Australian journals: Australian Art Review (Editor, first three issues), East-West Arts (editor), The Diplomat, Art and Australia, Artworld, Age Monthly Review, Australian Art Collector, Art Monthly, Belle, Craft Arts, Art & Antiques, Artlink, Indesign, Island, Pol Oxygen, Quadrant, State of the Arts, Vogue Living, Qantas magazine, etc. **Overseas journals:** The Art Newspaper, Times Literary Supplement, Modern Painters, Contemporary Art, London Magazine, Flash Art, Artcoast, Discovery, International Travel Plan, etc.

Books: Jeffrey Smart: Paintings of the 70s and 80s (Craftsman House 1990); Ari Purhonen (Freeman Editions 1992); David Strachan (Beagle Press 1993); essay for 'Rex Dupain: Bondi to Broken Hill' (Harper 1998) 'Federation: Australian Art & Society 1901-2001' (NGA 2000); 'Studio: Australian Artists on the Nature of Creativity' - with photographer, Ian Lloyd (R.Ian Lloyd Publications 2007); The Art of Australia Vol.1 (Pan Macmillan, forthcoming); *As editor:* Peter Fuller's Modern Painters (Methuen UK 1993). *Contributor* to Australian Painters of the 20th Century (Ed. Lou Klepac, Beagle Press 2000); major contributor to catalogue, *White Rabbit* (Neilson Contemporary Chinese Art Foundation).

Curator: 'Federation: Australian Art & Society 1901-2001' (National Gallery of Australia 2000). Exhibition held initially at the NGA, toured to Melbourne, Newcastle, Darwin, Perth, Townsville and Launceston, 1999-2002. 'Nigel Thomson: Critical Realist' 2004, (Manly Art Gallery

& Museum, and touring), Richard Woldendorp: Abstract Earth (2008, S.H.Ervin, AGWA, & touring)

For *New Contemporaries* gallery: 'New Contemporaries: Emerging Art in Australia' (Aug-Sept 2002); 'Joe Furlonger: Landscape & Figure, Works on Paper 1983-2002' (Oct-Nov 2002); 'Sydney or the Bush: Rural & urban landscape photography' (Dec 02 – Feb 03); 'Walcha: City of Art' (June-July 03); etc.

Catalogue essays, book intros, chapters for: Arts Project

Australia; Tom Bass; John Beard; Michael Bell; Ian Bettinson; David Bromley; Barbara Campbell; Cressida Campbell; Kwang-Young Chun (Korea); Peter Churcher; Michael Dillon (USA); Max & Rex Dupain; Ian Fairweather; Anne Ferguson; John Firth-Smith; William Fletcher; Joe Furlonger; Rosalie Gascoigne; Guo Jian; Nicholas Harding; Hu Ming (China); Michael Johnson; William Kentridge (RSA); Leon Kossoff (UK); Colin Lanceley; Michael Le Grand; Tim Maguire; Allan Mitelman; David Moore; Clive Murray-White; Robert Natkin (USA); Peter Neilson; Ben Nicholson (UK); Bernard Ollis; Maureen O'Shaughnessy; Margaret Preston; James Robinson (NZ); William Robinson; Victor Sellu; Wendy Sharpe; Shen Jiawei; Shen Shaomin (China); Slave Pianos; Jeffrey Smart; Andrew Sullivan; Mark Tedeschi; Aida Tomescu; John Turier; Hossein Valamanesh; Vince Vozzo; Robin Wallace-Crabbe; Ruth Waller; Guy Warren; Ken Whisson; Fred Williams; Richard Woldendorp; Rose Wylie (UK), Zhao Bandi (China), etc.

Guest lecturer: Art Gallery of NSW; National Gallery of Australia; Australian War Memorial; National Art School; Sydney College of the Arts; NSW College of Fine Arts; University of Western Sydney; Newcastle University; Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology; University of Western Australia; John Curtin University, Perth; QLD Institute of Technology; Tasmanian School of Arts, Hobart & Launceston; Canberra School of Arts; Canberra TAFE; Churchie School, Brisbane; Brigidine College, St.Ives; Kincoppel School, Sydney; Art Gallery of NSW; Adelaide Festival of Arts; Melbourne Writers Festival; Byron Bay Writers Festival; FEVA arts festival, Byron Bay; Newcastle University; Newcastle Region Art Gallery; S.H.Ervin Gallery; Museum of Sydney; New England Regional Art Museum; Coffs Harbour Regional Gallery; Atheneum Club; Christies Art Course; Melbourne Art Fair; Sydney Art Fair; Riddoch Art Gallery, Mt.Gambier; Rockhampton Art Gallery; Coffs Harbour Regional Gallery; State Library of QLD; State Library of NSW; Michael Reid art education; Summersounds, Nelson, NZ. Japan Foundation, Tokyo; Petronaz Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, etc. Plus numerous spots for TV & radio.

Corporate events: Minter-Ellison Lawyers; EAST & Partners; Dibbs Abbott Stillman Lawyers.; Australia Club, Sydney & Melbourne; Union Club, Sydney.

