

Artist Biography

Matilda Davis' artworks are personal constructions imbued with peculiar characters, lush darkness and latent narrative. Extending from the magic realism genre, complex psychological landscapes composed of particular lexicons come together with forms of molten fluidity.

She is inspired by women artists associated with Surrealism – such as Leonora Carrington, Florine Stettheimer and Frida Kahlo – who share her penchant for creating personal worlds, while her colour palette at times nods to the vibrancy of Henri Matisse and Paul Gauguin. She has become increasingly interested in unpacking symbols, religion and spirituality in her work as a way of mapping out and understanding how belief systems have shaped her world.

Davis also has a background in theatre. Her works have a strong sense of theatrics, both thematically and in how she constructs her compositions. Her works are performative, and she draws elements of this medium at different stages: a script, a draft, a rehearsal and the final act. Literature also weaves through, from fairy tales to *The Secret Garden*, *Narnia* and the children's books of Enid Blyton. With their fine details and personal symbology Davis' paintings call for close viewing and contemplation.

Career Highlights

Matilda Davis (born 1996, Sydney) holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts (Visual Arts) from the Victorian College of the Arts. In 2017, she was the recipient of the Lionel Gell Foundation Scholarship and the National Gallery of Victoria Women's Association graduating prize. Her solo exhibitions include: *Romantic Geometry*, Futures Gallery (2022); *I'll leave a secret in the window for you: The Painting Grotto*, West Space (2021); *I Have Something To Show You*, Neon Parc (2019); *The Art of Dining - Table #21*, National Gallery of Victoria International (2019); *Too Many Dinner Parties*, Bus Projects (2018); *A Whole Big Hug*, Irene Rose (2018). A selection of Davis' group exhibitions include: *As Real As It Gets*, Seventh Gallery (2022); *It's Raining In Sunshine*, LON Gallery (2021); *Papier-mâché*, curated by Maddison Kitching and Louise Klerks, Missing Persons (2021); *Not Fair Art Fair*, (2021); *8 Easy Pieces*, Futures Gallery (2021); *4am Flaming Arrows*, curated by Jemi Gale, Bundoora Homestead Art Centre, (2021); *I Am Here*, curated by Katherine Hattam, Art House Gallery, (2021); *Carry*, Neon Parc, Brunswick, (2019); *The Process of Making*, West Space Fundraiser, West Space (2019); *Spring 1883*, Neon Parc (2018).