

ALLEN HICKS

Artist Biography

Allen Hicks discovered drawing as a young boy. His early teachers included the leading names in Australian art of John Brack, Ronald Miller, Alun Leach-Jones, Terry Batt and Godwin Bradbeer. Hicks completed a Research Masters of Fine Art at RMIT with a focus on Postmodernism and is represented in public and private collections in Australia and overseas. He also taught art at Mentone Grammar for over 40 years. He has had numerous solo exhibitions; the most recent was at Latrobe Regional Gallery where he had his *Tin Cups* series installed.

An accomplished teacher, he is also a committed student and has spent time analysing the work of leading 20th century artists such as Giorgio Morandi, Georgia O'Keefe and Patrick Heron, each of whom have instilled in Hicks a sense of patience and calm respect for nuances of tonal light and its effect on nature. He is drawn to artists work (which, like his own) can appear invariably prosaic, but also deliver an unerring sense of proportion and unity, whether simple abstractions or complex fields.

Hicks is an intrepid traveller and has been engaged by Parks Victoria and National Geographic to lead expeditions into pristine and uncharted Australian environments. These experiences have made a significant impact on his artistic practice and the confluence of natural elements – light, form and space - remain recurring themes explored in his work. Indeed, this forms the basis for the paintings featured in the current exhibition and deliberately evoke a contrast for the audience: Nature peacefully relaxed and nature at risk. In a way they both deal with the ever-present reality of life dependant on water.