

CONTEMPORARY EDITIONS

MONICA ROHAN

FLOATING TRANSCENDENCE AND ANCHORED REALISM SHARE EQUAL MAGNITUDE IN MONICA ROHAN'S PAINTINGS. INSPIRED BY RURAL-IDYLL OF A CHILDHOOD IN SOUTH EAST QUEENSLAND, ROHAN REFLECTS ON THE GENRE OF AUTOBIOGRAPHY THROUGH A MYSTERIOUS FORM OF SELF PORTRAITURE. ALLOWING HER IMAGINATION FREE REIN, ROHAN REPRESENTS THE FIGURE IN A VARIETY OF EMOTIONAL ROLES AND PHYSICAL STATES. USING SPACE AS A STRIKING PICTORIAL DEVICE, HER FEMALE SUBJECT IS POSITIONED IN ADVENTUROUS SETTINGS, ENDLESSLY FLOATING OR FALLING, CLIMBING OR RECLINING, HUNTING OR HIDING.

ROHAN'S SENSITIVITY TO HER SURROUNDINGS IS EVIDENT IN THE CAREFULLY COMPOSED WORKS, WHICH REVEAL A LOVE OF PATTERN, LIGHT AND COLOUR. THERE IS AN INTRIGUE WITHIN HER IMAGES WHICH FIRST PRESENT AS INNOCENT AND WHIMSICAL: ON CLOSER ENGAGEMENT, ISOLATION AND HUMAN FRAILTY SEEM TO SHADOW THE PENSIVE LANGUOR OF THE PROTAGONIST.

A 2011 HONOURS GRADUATE FROM QUEENSLAND COLLEGE OF ART, ROHAN'S WORK HAS ALREADY ATTRACTED SIGNIFICANT INTEREST. IN 2015 SHE WAS SELECTED FOR THE SIGNIFICANT SURVEY SHOW, GOMA Q, WHICH SHOWCASED QUEENSLAND ARTISTS AT THE QUEENSLAND ART GALLERY/GALLERY OF MODERN ART. SHE HAS BEEN A FINALIST IN SEVERAL MAJOR PRIZES INCLUDING THE SULMAN PRIZE (2017), ARCHIBALD PRIZE (2016) AND THE GOLD AWARD (2016).