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EXHIBITIONS Margaret Ackland *The Watercolour News* 4th August 2015 - 22nd August 2015

Margaret Ackland is represented in a range of national collections including **Artbank**, the **Holmes a Court Collection** and **Deakin University**. She has won and been a five time finalist in the **Portia Geach Portrait Prize**, a **Blake Prize** and **Gallipoli Prize** Finalist, and has had her work featured in Italian Vogue and on ABC TV's Compass series. In 2012 She was included in *Not the Way Home -13 Artists Paint the Desert*, a group expedition organised by **Artist Profile Magazine** and exhibited at the National Trust S.H. Ervin Gallery, Sydney.



Margaret Ackland
A Table of Observations, Autumn 2015
Watercolour on paper, framed
88cm x 104cm
\$7,500 AUD



Essay by Kate Britton: *The Watercolour News*
 Sydney-based painter Margaret Ackland describes her new body of work as 'accidental history'. Departing from her traditional oils, *The Watercolour News* is an iterative series of hundreds of watercolours, mostly A5 and smaller. The turn to watercolour, she says, came as a result of a deadline prohibitive of the time an oil painting needs to dry. It turned out to be a productive constraint, setting the artist off on a more than year-long creative obsession.



It begins at 6am every day with Ackland at a large dining room table in her wide-fronted terrace, reading the newspaper. The project began around the time Fairfax cut their photographic staff, a trend Ackland – like many – finds disturbing. She began to paint from the journalistic images in the newspapers in front of her – one piece of card per day. There is no rigid system to her choice of subjects; rather she responds to the



Margaret Ackland
iPhones et al 2015
 Watercolour on paper, framed
 20cm x 20cm framed 35x35cm each
 \$650 AUD

Margaret Ackland
A Working Week et al 2015
 Watercolour on paper, framed
 20cm x 20cm framed 35x35cm each
 \$650 AUD



Margaret Ackland
Painting et al 2015
 Watercolour on paper, framed

particular topics presented to her. Some days its news, some social snaps, and some sports – bodies in motion have long been fodder for artists. The often unintentional juxtapositions that occur in news media ultimately become Ackland's subject, informed by her abiding interest in politics on both a local and global scale.



It's something of a performance, Ackland muses. She likens her daily process to word association – the free flow of ideas and intuitive selection and assemblage of her material. The Watercolour News is undoubtedly an archive, but it is inflected with Ackland's life. The images painted from newspapers are interwoven with more personal and serendipitous encounters – people who've caught Ackland's eye on the streets of Redfern; her mother and grandchild; workmen and the seemingly constant construction that pervades inner city Sydney. These images and moments make up the tapestry of a life, with no two people ever likely to compile the same litany of images.



This archival impulse is nothing new for Ackland, who has been exploring the trace and relic of human experience for more than 20 years. Whether through landscape, watercolour or her acclaimed series of painstakingly rendered images of historical garments,

20cm x 20cm framed 35x35cm each
\$650 AUD



Margaret Ackland
Jan, Feb, March 2014
Watercolour on paper, framed
15cm x 21cm framed 29.5 x 32cm each
\$550 AUD



Margaret Ackland
April to August 2014
Watercolour on paper, framed

her practice has been one of unearthing and assembling these patchy, intimate and ephemeral histories. The largely monochromatic watercolours that compose *The Watercolour News* are but one history among many. They represent Ackland's own movement through the world, inevitably a hash of the global and public events of the news and the comings and goings of her daily life, the inseparable blend of macro and micro narratives that compose our experience.



One large frame of some 30 smaller works catches my eye across the dining table. It contains Ackland's output from April 2014. The faces of Peter Greste and Gillian Triggs look out into the distance. Images of the schoolgirls kidnapped in Nigeria by Boko Haram mingle with those of ANZAC Day in Australia. The search for missing Malaysian airlines flight 370 pervades the series. Among these are images of Ackland's mother and granddaughter and the faces of her neighbourhood. The renderings are deft and lively, full of movement and faces caught in action. As an archive it is very touching; the record of a complex and often frightening world couched in the intimacies of a life lived within and sometimes in spite of this world.



[MARGARET ACKLAND PROFILE](#)
[DOWNLOAD BIO / CV \(PDF\)](#)

15cm x 20cm framed 29.5 x 32cm each
 \$550 AUD



Margaret Ackland
September to December 2014
 Watercolour on paper, framed
 15cm x 20cm framed 29.5 x 32cm each
 \$550 AUD



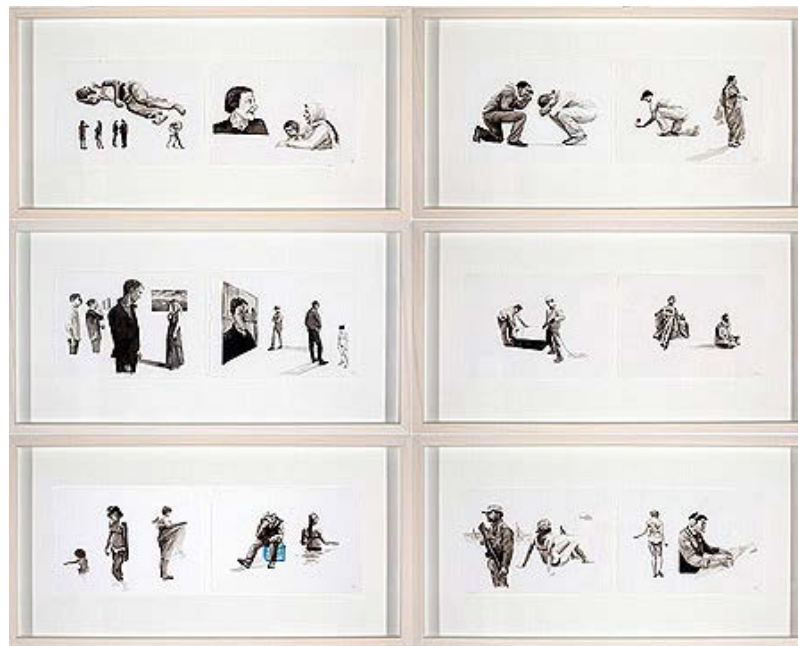
Margaret Ackland
January to May 2015
 Watercolour on paper, framed

15cm x 42cm framed 29.5 x 60cm each
\$850 AUD

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Margaret Ackland
June to September 2015
Watercolour on paper, framed
15cm x 42cm framed 29.5 x 60cm each
\$850 AUD



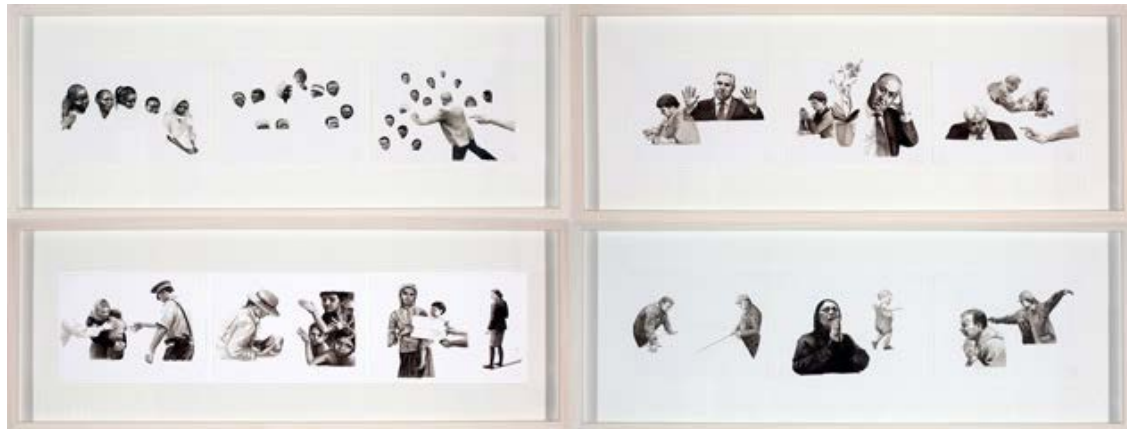
Margaret Ackland
September to December 2015
Watercolour on paper, framed
15cm x 42cm framed 29.5 x 60cm each
\$850 AUD



Margaret Ackland
January to February 2015
Watercolour on paper, framed
15cm x 65cm framed 29.5 x 78cm each
\$1,100 AUD



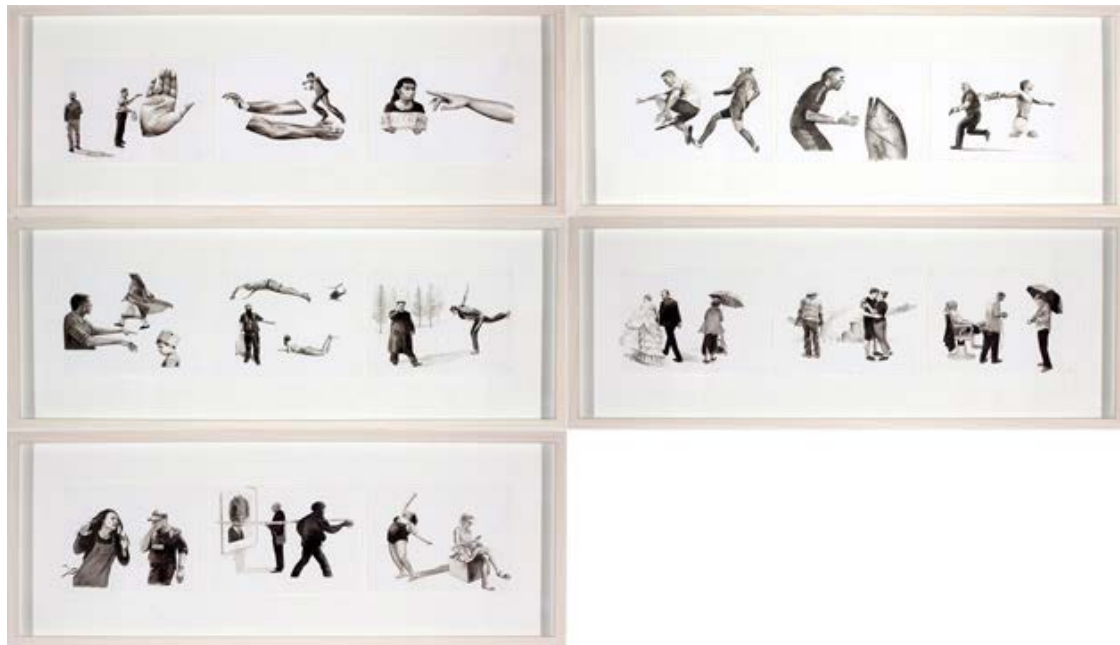
Margaret Ackland
March to April 2015
Watercolour on paper, framed
15cm x 65cm framed 29.5 x 78cm each
\$1,100 AUD



Margaret Ackland
April to June 2015
Watercolour on paper, framed
15cm x 65cm framed 29.5 x 78cm each
\$1,100 AUD



Margaret Ackland
July to September 2015
Watercolour on paper, framed
15cm x 65cm framed 29.5 x 78cm each
\$1,100 AUD



Margaret Ackland
October to December 2015
Watercolour on paper, framed
15cm x 65cm framed 29.5 x 78cm each
\$1,100 AUD



Margaret Ackland
January & February 2014
Watercolour on paper, framed
32cm x 42cm framed 50 x 60cm each
\$1,350 AUD



Margaret Ackland
March & April 2014
Watercolour on paper, framed
32cm x 42cm framed 50 x 60cm each
\$1,350 AUD



Margaret Ackland
May & June 2014
Watercolour on paper, framed
32cm x 42cm framed 50 x 60cm each
\$1,350 AUD



Margaret Ackland
July & August 2014
Watercolour on paper, framed
32cm x 42cm framed 50 x 60cm each
\$1,350 AUD



Margaret Ackland
August & September 2014
Watercolour on paper, framed
32cm x 42cm framed 50 x 60cm each
\$1,350 AUD



Margaret Ackland
October, November & December 2014
Watercolour on paper, framed
32cm x 42cm framed 50 x 60cm each
\$1,350 AUD

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