

JOHN KELLY

PAINTING & SCULPTURE

MAJOR EXHIBITION OF NEW WORKS BY INTERNATIONALLY RENOWNED CONTEMPORARY AUSTRALIAN ARTIST, JOHN KELLY, OPENS 15 FEBRUARY 2021

Twelve Exceptional Paintings & Sculptures Form the Artist's Second Solo-Exhibition at Smith & Singer

Collector Stampede Following Online Catalogue Announcement Re-affirms Kelly as One of Australia's Most Collectable Artists



JOHN KELLY born 1965

Cow up a Tree, 2020

oil on canvas, 150 x 114 cm

SOLD

© John Kelly

MELBOURNE, 8 February 2021 – in one week, Smith & Singer's 2021 exhibition program will commence with the greatly anticipated solo-show of paintings and sculptures by internationally renowned contemporary artist, John Kelly. Admired for his large sculptures and paintings of cows and kangaroos,

Smith&Singer

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Kelly has had a wide and varied career, establishing a unique and distinguished style which has garnered significant acclaim throughout the world. Following the digital catalogue announcement at 10 am this morning, a surge of interest from collectors resulted in three-quarters of the exhibition selling – one week in advance of its opening – with further enquiries continuing.



JOHN MINIHAN born 1946

John Kelly with 'Cow up a Tree (South Reen)'

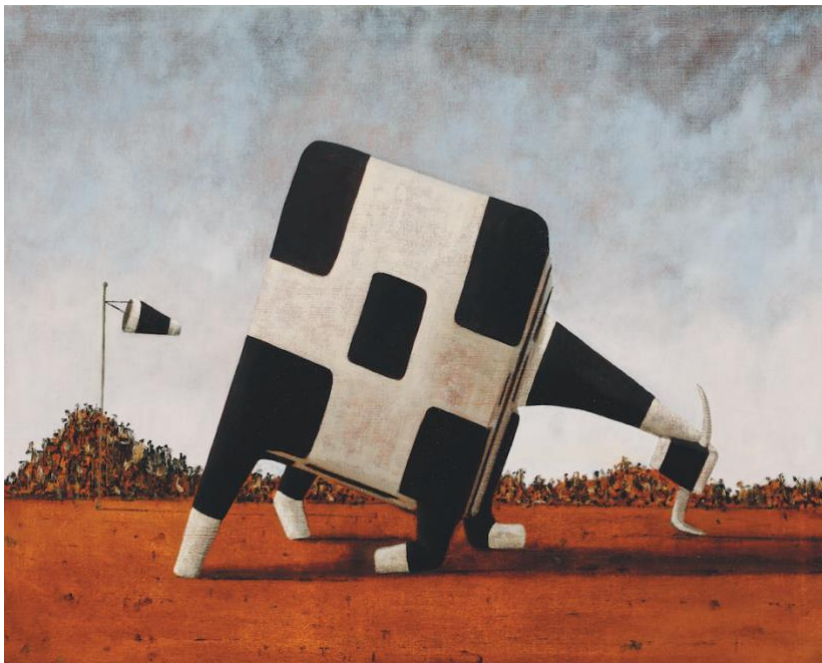
© John Minihan Photographer

Bristol born, Kelly moved to Australia with his parents in 1965, the same year he was born. Kelly now resides in West Cork, Ireland and has English, Australian and Irish

nationality. It was during his time in Australia that Kelly developed his affinity with one of his most recognised subjects, William Dobell's camouflaged cows – created when, during World War II, Dobell was commissioned to make paper-mâché cows with the purpose of confusing enemy aircraft about the locations of Australian airbases.

Working across a range of media, Kelly completed a Bachelor of Arts in Visual Arts Painting in 1985 and a Master of Arts in Painting from 1991-1995, both at RMIT University, Melbourne. He went on to win an Anne & Gordon Samstag International Visual Arts Scholarship and study as an Affiliate Student at the Slade School of Art in London from 1996-1997. While in London Kelly exhibited at the prestigious Piccadilly Gallery and later was represented by Agnew's.

A STYLE & WIT CELEBRATED AROUND THE WORLD



JOHN KELLY born 1965
Oblique View from Afar, 2020
oil on canvas, 122 x 152 cm
SOLD
© John Kelly

John Kelly's monumental sculptures have been featured on the Champs Elysées, Paris, in *Les Champs de la Sculpture* (1999), in Monte Carlo, at *La Parade des Animaux* (2002), and at The Goodenough Trust, Mecklenburgh Square, London (2005), Glastonbury Festival, Somerset (2005 and 2007), The Hague (2007) and in Melbourne Docklands (2001 to present). Kelly's three-dimensional work was also highlighted in the *Guangzhou Triennale* (2008), the *Goteborg Biennale* (2011) and in the *Fleurieu Art Prize*, Anne & Gordon Samstag Museum of Art, Adelaide (2016). More recently, a 5.5 m public

commission titled *Man Lifting Cow* 2016 was unveiled by Brimbank City Council in Sunshine to critical and public acclaim, while in 2019, the Yale Center for British Art (USA) acquired a major 'Dobell's Cows' painting from 2000 for their permanent collection, following exhibition that year.

Geoffrey Smith, Chairman of Smith & Singer commented: 'We are delighted to commence our 2021 exhibition program with this selection of paintings and sculptures by the celebrated artist, John Kelly. During the past two and a half decades, John has developed a distinguished reputation in Australia and internationally for his work, which combines his unique intellect and humour. Held in our Melbourne galleries, the tightly-curated group of works represents an artist working at the height of his abilities, and we warmly invite viewers to visit and experience these exceptional pieces for themselves.'

COLLECTION HIGHLIGHTS



JOHN KELLY born 1965

Branded (Australian Landscape) 2020

oil on canvas, 122 x 182.5 cm

SOLD

© John Kelly

AT A GLANCE

John Kelly: Painting & Sculpture

12 works

15 February – 12 March 2021, Monday-Saturday, 10 am to 5 pm, 14-16 Collins Street, Melbourne

Smith & Singer are the exclusive Australian agent for John Kelly.

Exhibition & Catalogue details available here:

<https://www.smithandsinger.com.au/catalogue/AUEX026>

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