



SAM BULLOCK

AUTISTIC SPECTRUM:
DARKNESS AND LIGHT



JEAN-MICHEL BASQUIAT 2020

Acrylic on canvas

136 x 133 cm

£1,980

JEAN-MICHEL BASQUIAT 2020

This is a portrait of Jean-Michel Basquiat and I got this idea from looking at his work. I took a real interest in the beautiful work he does and the mixture of his culture — being Haitian and Porto Rican in descent. He was Andy Warhol's protégé and I loved his work. I was going to sleep one night and this image came to my mind.

After I looked at some of his portraits it just sort of painted itself really. I looked at his work and I thought he was an amazing artist, I really admire him. I reckon he was way better than Andy Warhol actually — considering Warhol never even picked up a bloody paint brush.



MASKING 'WATCH OUT FOR THE SKIN DEEP' 2020

Acrylic on canvas

152 x 107 cm

£1,980

MASKING 'WATCH OUT FOR THE SKIN DEEP' 2020

The interesting thing about women on the autistic spectrum is they do something called 'masking', where they can mimic neurotypical behaviour. This means they usually get diagnosed way later than men, way later than most boys do — so they generally don't pick up on it as much.

But I kind of twisted my narrative around to say that people who aren't autistic are amazing at masking as well. They usually hide their true intentions and their sinister motives behind the mask they wear to hide their true motives and to mask and deceive who they really are and what they are really doing and what their real agenda is. So it's kind of a double entendre of both those things to do with masking.

Watch out from the skin deep comes from a Stranglers song which was about watching out for friends and people who are fake and watching out for seditious and fake people. Unfortunately, in Wynnum, I have encountered quite a lot of those people. I think that after what happened with me and Frances — no longer being a friend — and Nicole and a lot of the other people I knew around Wynnum who were fake. Ziggy is the only genuine person in Wynnum I would ever trust to be honest with you. Most of the other people there I wouldn't trust them as far as I could throw them. Especially never with money.



BREAKING OUT OF THE AUTISTIC BOX 2020

Acrylic on canvas

100 x 130 cm

£1,650

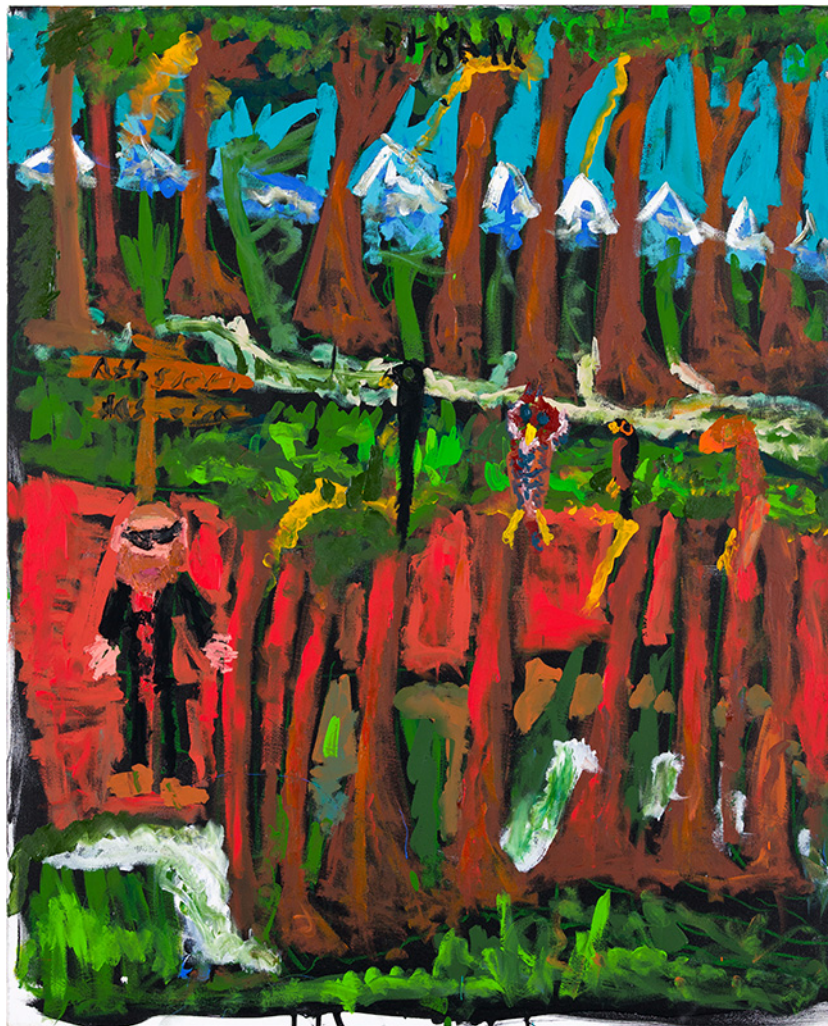
BREAKING OUT OF THE AUTISTIC BOX 2020

This is about stereotypes to do with autism — I hate those stereotypes. All the time you see them on TV: *The Good Doctor*, Sheldon Cooper off *The Big Bang Theory*, I wish I could smack him in the fucking head. Can't stand him, he is a wanker. And the stereotypes of 'high-functioning', 'low-functioning', 'Aspie', you've got it.

They try to put you in a box, which is like, "All autistic people go in this box, or in this box, or in this box". But you're on the spectrum, you are your own person and you don't fit the stereotype — so this is me breaking out of that autistic box.

Looking at the jigsaw pieces as a symbol of autism, with words like, "You don't fit in here", "You are not your disability" and "Autistic box, exit this way", I'm smashing my way out, going to nature and breaking my way out out of this box that people try to categorise and put me in all the time.

The face at top is of someone looking into the box from above, always looking down on me, being condescending.



LOST IN THE FOREST 2020

Acrylic on canvas

120 x 97 cm

£1,320

LOST IN THE FOREST 2020

This was an idea from a song by The Cure. It was kind of a metaphor almost for your autism — trying to find your way out of that woods with years of people telling you which way to go, what to do, how to go, where to go. But you always seem to find yourself lost because people always give you the arse steer and you can't see where the signs are and follow them even though they are there. You follow them and they always take you in the wrong direction so you have got to find your own way out, somehow, of this maze that you've got yourself into.



MAO AND THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION 2020

Acrylic on canvas

84 x 127 cm

£1,320

MAO AND THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION 2020

In the period after my expulsion from the CPA I have always considered myself a Maoist, so I was looking more at other parties to join. I was considering joining the Communist Party of Australia Marxist-Leninists but I joined the Communist Workers Party instead. I looked at Maoist ideologies and the Cultural Revolution and it is amazing how far China has come.

From what Mao had done in the Cultural Revolution — to Deng Xiaoping to now Xi Jinping — China's progression down the pathway of Socialism with Chinese characteristics is seen to pretty much replace the Soviet Union and become a world power house that demands respect.

But instead they have to deal with Australia, essentially America's little tame lapdog. Because Australia really is just a Porto Rico of the South Pacific, let's face it, we are not really even a country. We are just like Guam or Porto Rico or another US colony that does America's bidding when we are told to.



HONEY IN THE BACK YARD 2020
85 x 120 cm
\$1,320

HONEY IN THE BACK YARD 2020

When I first got Honey, I got a really large backyard, considering it's in suburban Wynnum, but yeah Honey absolutely adores it. She runs through the yard up-and-down and plays with the ball and chucks it in the pool. You can see the house next door and the gum trees and I tried to capture the landscape of an Australian suburban backyard, the neighbours, and the house next door to mine.



HONEY PLAYING WITH SHADOW AT THE DOG PARK 2020

Acrylic on canvas

83 x 123 cm

£1,320

HONEY PLAYING WITH SHADOW AT THE DOG PARK 2020

I take Honey to a dog park at Wynnnum. It's just around the corner from my place, it's an off-leash park. I take her there and let her off the leash and she goes ballistic. She loves to play with the other dogs.

Generally she plays with Shadow, a German Shepherd. When they are play together they both jump up. It's just beautiful watching how happy they are, just playing and jumping up on each other. They mouth each other and try to nip each other's ears. They roll on the ground, get up and then rear up on their hind legs and put their paws together. To an outsider it could look like they are trying to kill each other but they're actually just being playful.



JULIAN ASSUNGE—PRISONER OF CONSCIENCE 2020

Acrylic on canvas

81 x 122 cm

£1,320

JULIAN ASSANGE—PRISONER OF CONSCIENCE 2020

I followed Julian Assange for ages and always respected and admired him.

I found it interesting that the Socialist Alliance and Socialist Alternative championed Assange when he exposed all the footage from the war in Iraq that Chelsea Manning leaked to him. But when he exposed that the Free Syrian Army were funded by the United States, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and Qatah, the Socialist Alliance and Socialist Alternative dropped Julian Assange like a loaded gun, especially after WikiLeaks opened an office in Damascus and Julian had taken shelter in the Ecuadorian Embassy.



BRETT WHITELEY—AUSTRALIA'S FIRST ROCK STAR ARTIST 2020

Acrylic on canvas

84 x 117 cm

£1,320

BRETT WHITELEY—AUSTRALIA'S FIRST ROCK STAR ARTIST 2020

I watched a documentary on Brett Whitley on the ABC. I was pretty stoned at the time and thought it was really interesting. I have always loved his work, I have always seen him as one of my main inspirations — an Australian rock star artist.

You know, the way he put the Australian art scene on the map. He mingled with lots of celebrities, went around the world, did some amazing work but unfortunately he ended up dying of a heroin overdose. Pretty much a rockstar death in a hotel room somewhere.

The painting in the background is of his wife Wendy in the shower. I didn't show her arse, so I could have gone a bit further down.



BLACK LIVES MATTER 2020

Acrylic on canvas

120 x 81 cm

£1,320

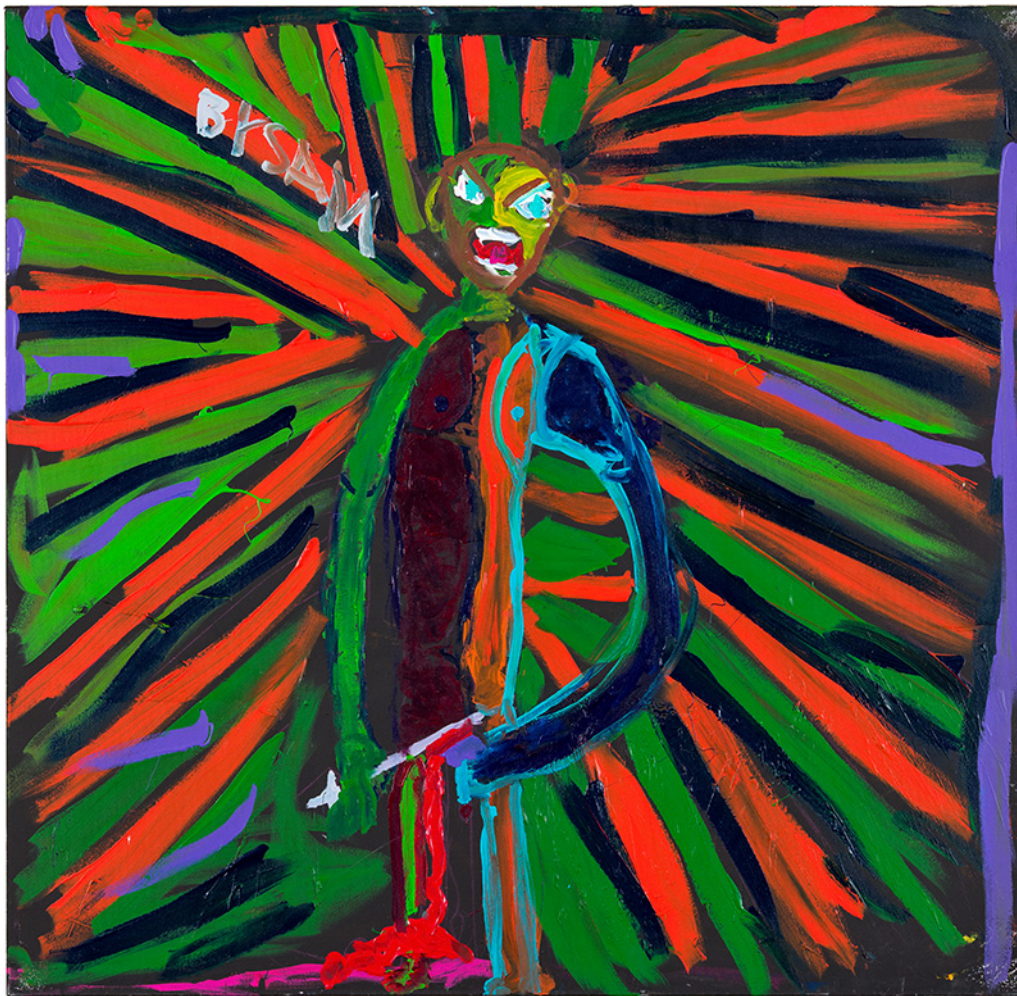
BLACK LIVES MATTER 2020

I am inspired by Aboriginal and African American protests and seeing similarities between the two. With the number of Aboriginal people murdered in police custody and the same in the US, where black lives are so cheap that, if you are a black man, you can be murdered for a pack of cigarettes.

Afro Americans are not native to the US, so the black, green and red flag top-right is the Pan-African flag. The flag on the left is, of course, the Aboriginal flag.

I was looking at the similar backgrounds of the two people. The Aboriginal man is in shackles. He has an Australian flag over his eyes and mouth symbolising the fact that the government is trying to censor what he sees, what he says — it is trying to gag him.

The Afro American has the Confederate flag over his mouth and the US flag over his eyes, the same deal really. A systemic history of racism in the United States which is a lot similar.



AUTISM AND EMASCULATION 2020

Acrylic on canvas

104 x 107 cm

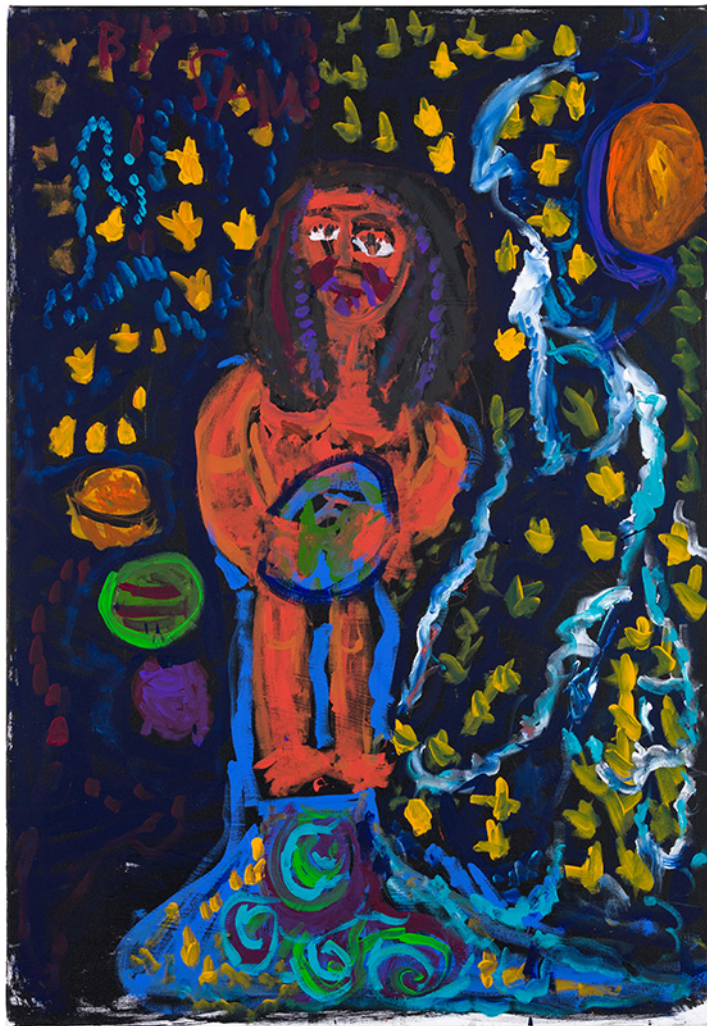
£1,320

AUTISM AND EMASCULATION 2020

I made this painting after my girlfriend of three or four years, Laurel, decided to dump me. We were on and off again, and the reason she left me for good was that she is obsessed with money. She pretty much dumped me for this guy who was a miner. Essentially saying, "You are autistic and unemployed, you are just a dole bludger and a loser".

This made me feel like I might just as well cut my balls off with a knife, because it felt like that. I didn't actually do it, of course — this is just metaphoric, or else my voice would be a hell of a lot higher than it is now.

Tracy, my partner before Laurel, was another one — she was the one who ran off with a truck driver.



MOTHER EARTH 2020

Acrylic on canvas

112 x 77 cm

£1,100

MOTHER EARTH 2020

This was inspired by the song *Sister Moon* by a band called Transvision Vamp — it's pretty cool, I really love that song. Also, I was inspired by one of my mates, Jacob. We were going to paint some retro album covers, but it never really came to fruition. He was a bit scatter brained and never followed through with it.

The painting depicts Mother Earth as eternally young, beautiful and gentle — holding the earth to her breast. And as she did, so did the women who gave birth to us all. She is adored by Indigenous people the world over as well as Celtic, European and other ancient people who worship the Earth and respect it.



1950s FUCKWIT NOSTALGIA 2020

Acrylic on canvas

86 x 102 cm

£990

1950s FUCKWIT NOSTALGIA 2020

I find it interesting that conservatives and nationalists have a fascination with the 1950s. It's like they want to go back to a time in the 1950s when everything was, as they look at it, perfect — which is not the case at all. And it's always the case with people like Donald Trump, Tony Abbott, Lyndon LaRouche, who was the head of the Citizens Electoral Council and lots of conservative nationalists — they all want to go back to 1950s — with a perfect nuclear family with two Holden cars in the garage.

But, in reality, let's face it, the 1950s was pretty fucked. Aboriginal people were still considered second-class citizens, there were no Asians or any multiculturalism in Australia and essentially it was a xenophobic shit hole at that point.

For the nuclear family in this picture — most likely the dad would have come home and expected his wife to have dinner on the table. But he probably would have been to the pub after leaving the office and came home 'half cut'. And the wife had probably been cooking that dinner and popping dexamphetamine pills and going up the wall to lose weight in order to fit this perfect image.

And the kids — seen and not heard — well you know the dad would have come home, the kids, if any of the daughters had a disability or anything like that they were just told that they were retards and fuck off and just blamed for it — I tried to capture this sort of retro ideologies. Also it was considered the golden age of capitalism because, post World War II, the only reason that Australia's economy flourished so much — and the United States — was because all industries in Europe were completely levelled to the ground by the war. There were no automated industries, so Australia and the capitalists flourished only because of that reason. So I kind of found an interest in this kind of nostalgia going back to the way things were, you can kind of see this with Trump too. He wanted to go make America great again — like going back to the 1950s again.



ANARCHO-SYNDICALIST PARTY OF QUEENSLAND 2020

Acrylic on canvas

92 x 71 cm

\$880

ANARCHO-SYNDICALIST PARTY OF QUEENSLAND 2020

Marxist and anarchists are completely contradictory in their ideologies and this is a 'piss take' on them. Queenslanders have this weird mentality where they always want to be seen as separate from the rest of Australia. I often wonder if Queensland shouldn't just succeed and call itself a country in its own right.

The Communist Party of Australia expelled me in 2018 after I questioned Hannah Nielsen, this intellectual stuck up English bitch who was talking down to me — about Aboriginal rights and me being an activist — like she was a kindergarten teacher. And it turned out she was actually also the former Mayor of Sainsbury in Pommy land so she is not even an Australian. And I thought I really don't need a fucking lecture from someone who is not even an Australian about how to talk to Aboriginals thanks. I have very good ties with the Warriors of Aboriginal Resistance and a lot of the activists in Brisbane. If you want to learn about Aboriginal people, as Gary Foley, an Aboriginal activist said, "Don't go out in the bush and become an expert on the Aboriginal bush tribes, go talk to the black fellas in your local community".

Maybe there is a hint for the CPA when Aboriginals say they don't want constitutional recognition and they oppose the ideology of it. It would be a good idea for the Communist Party to base its policies on what Aboriginal people are saying, not their own preconceived ideologies.



SCO MO FIDDLES WHILE NYMBOIDA BURNS 2020

Acrylic on canvas

46 x 61 cm

฿660

SCO MO FIDDLES WHILE NYMBOIDA BURNS 2020

This painting I did way before Covid. Nymboida is a small town in New South Wales which is at the back of Kyogle and near Coffs Harbour and just out near Grafton — out the back. And I wanted to point out the hypocrisy and the corruption of Scott Morrison being a thieving mongrel there. As the rest of Australia burns, the only thing he cared about was the profits from coal mines, not giving a fuck about global warming and not giving a shit about the fact that half this country went up in flames — and what did he do, went on a little holiday to Hawaii. And so I captured a suburban house in the middle of regional Australia, a house in Nymboida, New South Wales, in a typical sort of beautiful colonial house with blue verandas and that's what the houses look like in New South Wales.

There's a koala on fire jumping across the roof as it caught on fire and it's jumping across the roof as it is burning.

The two figures — one is Scott Morrison and the other one is Mr Adani, the dodgy Indian developer who tried to get his mine put through that kind of went arse over tit. They are going to relocate it to New South Wales now apparently, that's if the funding goes through, fat chance of that. So I did the figure of Mr Morrison, Mr Adani give Scott Morrison a big wad of cash in his hand waving it around as Mr Adani crookedly puts a cheque in his back pocket and considers it a generous donation to a Liberal National Party in order to get rid of all these fucking hippies and all this environmental regulationship so he can get his mine approved.



UNCLE KOKO (WAYNE WALTON) — WARRIOR OF THE ABORIGINAL RESISTANCE 2021

Acrylic on canvas

46 x 61 cm

\$660

UNCLE KOKO (WAYNE WALTON) — WARRIOR OF THE ABORIGINAL
RESISTANCE 2021

The next portrait is a portrait of Uncle Koko. His real name is Wayne Walton or Uncle Koko. It's a portrait of him, he's strong, he's a leader of the warriors of the Aboriginal resistance. I saw him speak the other day actually at Invasion Day when it was on. He gave an invasion speech when he called Scott Morrison a thief and proud boy racist dog *%/\$, those were his exact words.

He called Scott Morrison a proud boy racist dog *%/\$ and said he is nothing more than a racist proud boy and he's nothing fucking more than another racist mongrel and how he talked about how Australia Day should be abolished. And it was a good speech I thought. I have spoken to him a few times. He used to drive around Wynnum in this car that he used to have, this old station wagon with an Aboriginal flag on it with words 'white pigs kill black fellas' painted on it with a huge aboriginal flag on and drive around the middle of Wynnum. My mum saw it and she nearly had a heart attack. I went, "Hey Uncle Koko" and mum's like, "Do you know him?" and I said, "Yep, he's a mate of mine". "Don't call him, don't talk to him".

The fire is because, in Aboriginal culture the fire is where they do ceremonial language, where they tell stories and where they practice their cultural practices. So the fire burns at Musgrove Park at the Embassy and it's an eternal symbol that burns of cultural practices. So it's part of their spiritual practices. Wayne Walton's a Wakka Wakka man, he's from New South Wales and he talks a lot about the culture of Aboriginal people and maintaining language and culture and saying what a crock Australia Day is — which I totally agree with.



ZIGGI AT MY PLACE 2020

Acrylic on canvas

36 x 61 cm

฿550

ZIGGI AT MY PLACE 2020

This painting is called *Ziggy at my place*. I have known Ziggy since about 2014. I met her at the train station at Wynnum Central and we became best mates. I met her after I ended up breaking up with, I think it was Tracy my ex-girlfriend and when we — we kind of knew each other for a while and saw her kiss her on the main street in Wynnum in front of Francis and a lot of other people in the middle of the main drag.

She is a real character. She says she is a lesbian but you know she is pretty cool. And she is one of my best mates. She is a New Zealand Maori woman who is my best mate. We usually chill out together a lot of the time and always have a laugh. She has got the most wicked sense of humour, hey. Just every time I see her we just make each other laugh.

She's dorky, she is funny. She has got a really awesome sense of humour. And we usually sit down and chill and smoke bonges together at my place and sit down and have a few drinks and smoke a few bonges and she usually ends up sleeping at my place and crashing on the couch.



TEX BULLOCK 2020

Acrylic on canvas

36 x 61 cm

£550

TEX BULLOCK

This is a portrait of Tex and a portrait of my dad. I did this during lockdown. It was sort of just something came around and I was kind of just going through things about — yeah that's the shirt he normally wears. I was trying to capture that moment in my mind when I was locked in that fucking house for god knows how long, during lockdown in that mother fucking house and I couldn't get out of the thing and I was locked in it for ages.



CAGED ANIMAL, FIRST DAY IN LOCKDOWN 2020

Acrylic on canvas

30 x 46 cm

฿440

CAGED ANIMAL, FIRST DAY IN LOCKDOWN 2020

This is what I felt on the first day of lockdown when I had to isolate and had to tell Ziggi to leave and the others to leave. I had to start counting down the days and it was the first day of lockdown and I felt like a caged animal ripping at the bars and feeling like I want to rip at the bars like a snarling beast kept in a zoo which is sort of how I felt when I was in there.



HONEY AND ME IN LOCKDOWN 2020

Acrylic on canvas

30 x 46 cm

£440

HONEY AND ME IN LOCKDOWN 2020

This is me and Honey my cattle dog. I got her about probably about a year and a half ago now. When lockdown started about March last year, I had her with me and she really helped me because I could walk her twice a day and I think she kind of knew something was up, it was sort of weird. Cattle dogs are very instinctive animals. They kind of know when something is not right and that's a portrait of mine on my bed. She usually jumps up on me first thing in the morning and in the afternoon when she wants doggy cuddles so she usually jumps up on me and wants cuddles and then starts licking my face and putting her head on my chest and pretty much - I think having a dog kind of really helped keep my sanity too - it has. She is a beautiful girl. She is two years old now.



TRANQUILITY OF THE MIND 2020

Acrylic on canvas

36 x 36 cm

฿330

TRANQUILLITY OF THE MIND 2020

This painting is called *Tranquillity of the mind*. When I was in lockdown I started doing meditation a lot and I would close my eyes and imagine Ganesh or (ui) and I would just imagine I was sitting on the beach down in New South Wales and I would kind of sit there on my couch and put my phone on, put my headphones in and just drift away in order to keep my mind and my sanity to keep me from going stark raving mad when I had to spend at that time in lockdown when Covid hit. Trying to use meditation so I've been doing what I could do in order to keep my sanity and not go stark raving bonkers which is what happens. It's not natural for human beings to be kept in captivity.

SAM BULLOCK

BIOGRAPHY

Born 24 March 1979, Canberra

Lives Brisbane

STUDIES

1992 St James College, Brisbane

1992-94 Sunnybank Autistic Centre, Brisbane

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2017 *Autistic spectrum: Darkness and light*, Andrew Baker Art Dealer, Brisbane

2017 *Life in Focus*, Andrew Baker Art Dealer, Brisbane

2013 *Latin America in Focus*, Andrew Baker Art Dealer, Brisbane

2011 *Wild International*, Andrew Baker Art Dealer, Brisbane

2009 *Revolution in Motion*, Andrew Baker Art Dealer, Brisbane

2007 *World Reflections*, Andrew Baker Art Dealer, Brisbane

2005 *Through the Mind's Eye*, Andrew Baker Art Dealer, Brisbane

2003 *The Human Experience*, Andrew Baker Art Dealer, Brisbane

2002 *Dreams and Realities*, Andrew Baker Art Dealer, Brisbane

2000 *Observations*, Andrew Baker Art Dealer, Brisbane

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2014 *Unaffected and Connected*, Redcliffe City Art Gallery, Queensland

2012 *Renegades: Outsider Art*, Centre of Contemporary Arts, Cairns, Queensland

2011 *3rd Annual Belle Arti Chapman & Bailey Art Award 2011*, Chapman & Bailey Gallery, Melbourne

2010 *18th Annual Outsider Art Fair*, 7 W New Yorkna, New York, NY, USA

The Artist's Ego, Amsterdam Outsider Art, Amsterdam, Netherlands

The Artist's Ego², OLOF Art Gallery, Leiden, Netherlands

The Artist's Ego³, Matisse Club Art Gallery, Saint Petersburg, Russia

Erotica: National Acquisitive Prize, Artworkers Alliance, Brisbane

2009 *17th Annual Outsider Art Fair*, 7 W New Yorkna, New York, NY, USA

2008 *European Outsider Art Fair*, Österreichische Nationalbibliothek, Vienna, Austria

The Australian Connection, OLOF Art Gallery, Leiden, Netherlands

New Generation: ART Brisbane, Brisbane Convention Centre, South Brisbane

- Art of the Nude: Works from the Alex Mackay Collection*, Albury City Art Gallery, New South Wales
- 2005 *Gateway Art Exhibition*, Positive Life Store, Brisbane
- 2004 *The Unusual Suspects II*, Andrew Baker Art Dealer, Brisbane
- 2003 *Sex and Sexuality: Selected Works from the Alex Mackay Collection of Erotic Art*, Noosa Regional Gallery, Tewantin, Queensland
- 2002 *Out of this World*, The Old Schoolhouse Gallery, Cleveland, Queensland
- 2001 *Visionary Images*, Access Arts, Brisbane Powerhouse, Brisbane
- Action Forum 2001*, Brisbane Convention Centre, South Brisbane

ARTIST IN RESIDENCE

- 2001 *Action Forum 2001*, Brisbane Convention Centre, South Brisbane

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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- Brown, Phil. 'Brutal honesty', *Brisbane News*, 5–11 September 2007
- Bullock, Sam. *Sam Bullock: Revolution in Motion* (ex. cat.), Andrew Baker Art Dealer, Brisbane, 2009
- Bullock, Sam. *Sam Bullock: Global Perspective* (ex. cat.), Andrew Baker Art Dealer, Brisbane/OLOF Art Gallery, Leiden, Netherlands, 2008
- Bullock, Sam. *Sam Bullock: World Reflections* (ex. cat.), Andrew Baker Art Dealer, Brisbane, 2007
- Bullock, Sam. *Sam Bullock: Through the Mind's Eye* (ex. cat.), Andrew Baker Art Dealer, Brisbane, 2005
- Cahill, Jason. 'Sam Bullock, art and revolution in motion', *Green Left Weekly*, Issue 812, 23 September 2009
- Haxton, Nancy. 'Autistically Artistic', *The Wynnum Herald*, 4 May 1994
- Loughnan, Melissa. *Australiana to Zeitgeist: An A–Z of Contemporary Art*, Thames & Hudson, Melbourne, 2017
- McLean, Sandra. 'Star shines at opening', *The Courier Mail*, 1 May 2002
- Maier, Heidi. 'In your face', *The Courier Mail*, 2 April 2003
- Smith, Sue. 'Freedom of expression', *The Courier Mail*, 14 April 2000

COLLECTIONS

- QUT, Brisbane
- Alex Mackay Collection of Erotic Art, Brisbane
- Peter Fay Collection, Sydney

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