

**JAMES DODD**

**‘A CHAT WITH FRED’**

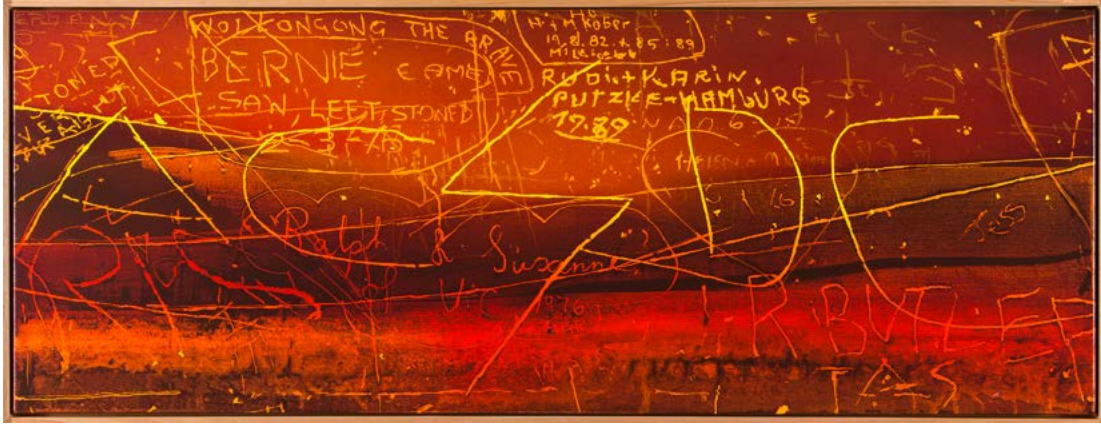
SOUTH AUSTRALIAN LIVING ARTISTS FESTIVAL RESIDENCY 2016

ADELAIDE FESTIVAL CENTRE

This project revolves around a revisitation of Fred Williams' River Murray Scenes paintings that can be seen in the main foyer of the Festival Theatre. I have been curious to spend time examining this group of works and let them influence my own interest in landscape representation. An important part of the project has been travelling to the Murray to get a better understanding of it, as Fred Williams did, 45 years ago.

One of the more salient discoveries has been the examination of a suite of etchings that Fred Williams produced as part of his process, and later gifted the AFC. These will be displayed alongside new paintings as part of an exhibition at the Artspace Gallery.

JAMES DODD  
'A CHAT WITH FRED'  
PAINTINGS



*AC/DC Landscape*, 2016, Acrylic on linen with Victorian Ash tray frame, 560 x 1500mm



*Mildura Boys*, 2016, Acrylic on linen with Victorian Ash tray frame, 560 x 1500mm

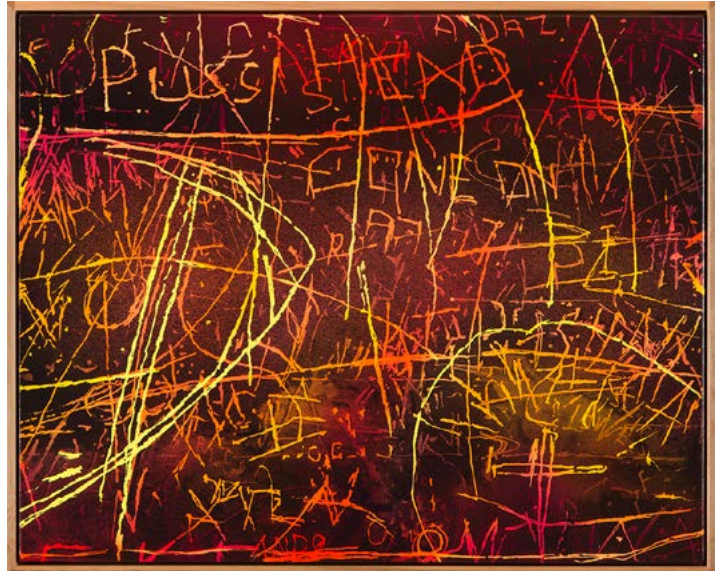


*Kingston on Murray*, 2016, Acrylic on linen with Victorian Ash tray frame, 560 x 1500mm





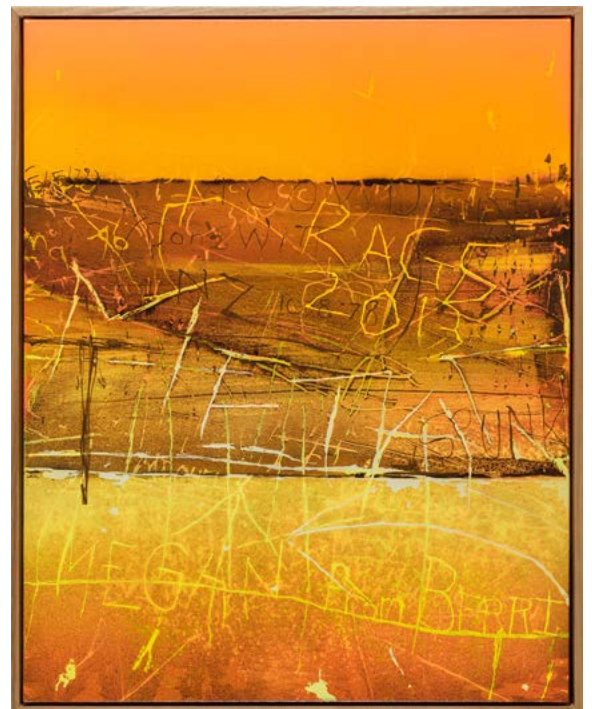
*Brian Johnson, 2016, Acrylic on canvas with Victorian Ash tray frame, 765 x 610mm*



*Puss Head, 2016, Acrylic on canvas with Victorian Ash tray frame, 610 x 765mm*



*Renmark, 2016, Acrylic on canvas with Victorian Ash tray frame, 610 x 765mm*



*Berri, 2016, Acrylic on canvas with Victorian Ash tray frame, 765 x 610mm*





*Nowhere*, 2016, Acrylic on linen with Victorian Ash tray frame, 1372 x 965mm

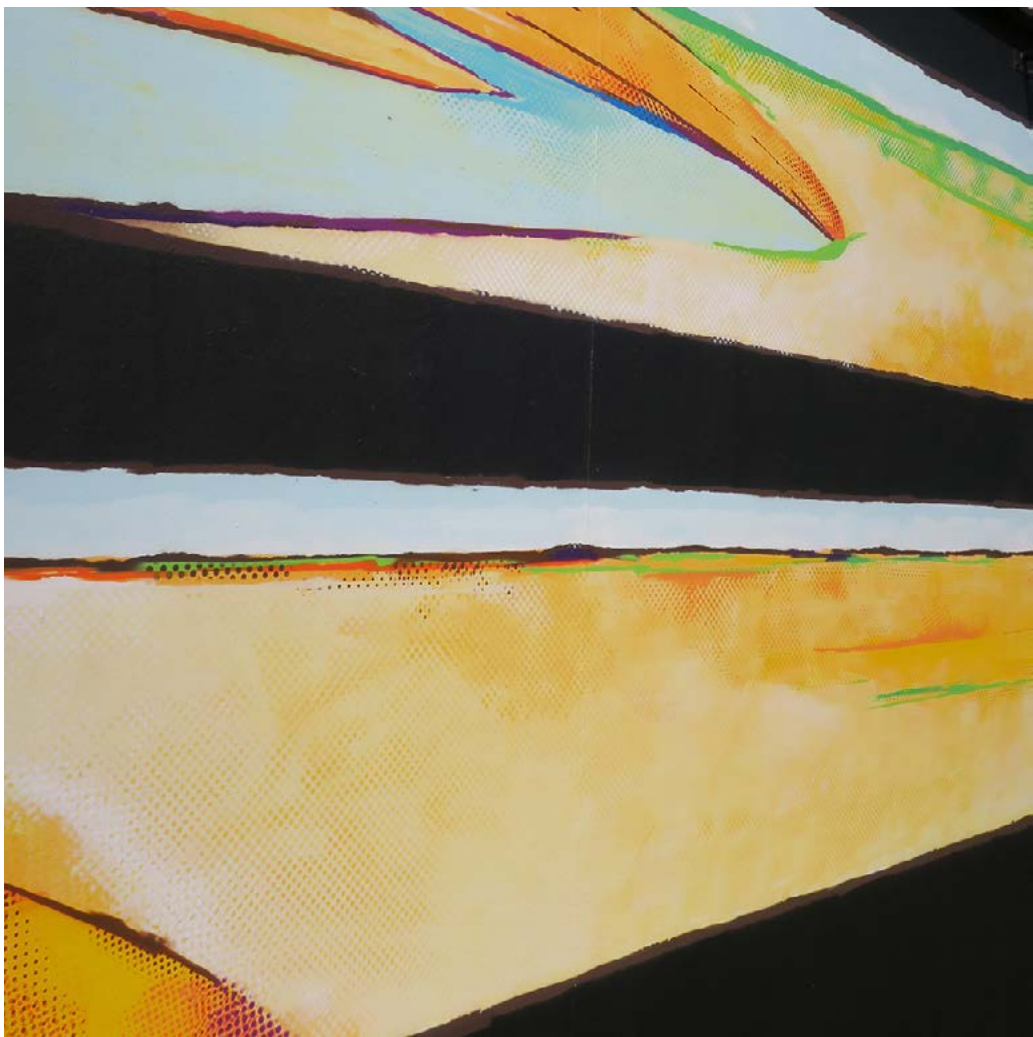


*Gary*, 2016, Acrylic on line with Victorian Ash tray frame, 2 parts, 610 x 765 mm and 765 x 610 mm

JAMES DODD  
'A CHAT WITH FRED'  
MURAL  
ADELAIDE FESTIVAL CENTRE CARPARK









James Dodd, Mildura Boys.

# HOUSEBOAT ADVENTURES

► James Dodd's artworks, showing this month at the Artspace Gallery at the Adelaide Festival Centre, are the culmination of the 2016 SALA Festival's Artist in Residence program that Dodd began earlier this year.

By Jane Llewellyn

**F**or the program, Dodd responded to the iconic Murray River murals of Fred Williams, which were commissioned by the Adelaide Festival Centre for its original opening.

"Throughout the residency, I have been thinking about Fred's paintings and the motifs and tropes he uses in ways of formatting and whether they may lead into ways I like to work," Dodd says.

Along with the inlay paintings by Williams, which still hang in the foyer, are a number of etchings the iconic landscape painter created that are not often on display. Dodd connected with both the paintings and the etchings, finding links to his own practice and the representation of landscape.

Like Williams, who travelled along the Murray River on a houseboat, Dodd took a similar journey in a tinny to get a feel for the landscape. While Williams worked 'en plein air', he often returned to the studio to emulate what he saw when he was in the field. Dodd works in a similar way. His paintings are not necessarily a faithful reproduction of a landscape but, rather, capture the textures and the way the place feels. "It was more that Fred had a sense of a place and he was developing a response to that, which resonates with me," Dodd says.

In the case of the Murray River works, Dodd presents a contemporary view of the environment incorporating elements of graffiti discovered on his journey along the Murray. "I connect with the translation of low cultural outcomes such as graffiti into high culture like what we put in galleries now."

While using scrawled texts is something Dodd has experimented with in the past, by thinking about how Williams worked, Dodd is now approaching the material in new ways.

"I am using a lot of the scratched marks to define or create the landscape," he says. "I'm letting these found marks build an abstract landscape."

The process of incising – used to create this graffiti – is similar to the process of making an etching plate; another link Dodd discovered.

"I am using the long scratch marks to delineate horizon lines or forms in the landscape and I'm also thinking about those kinds of textures and how they might imitate textures in the landscape like the surface in the water," Dodd says.

Along with the paintings, Dodd is also exhibiting a boat – a hybrid between a tinny, a bicycle, and a paddle steamer.

Through delving into Williams's work methods, this project has allowed Dodd to extend his practice and provide audiences with a unique interpretation of the Murray River as Williams did all those years ago.

**James Dodd**  
Artspace Gallery, Adelaide Festival Centre  
August 19–September 3  
Dodd will also be painting the carpark wall  
(to the right of the Festival Centre carpark entrance  
along Festival Drive) from August 1–5.



proposes to impregnate with seeds that will sprout and grow. In other words, a living exhibit.

Sperou likes the idea of rewilding the body in the same way scientists support biodiversity of flora in our natural world. The strong and unique visuals of her art ensure that the viewer can gain an instant understanding of the science. In this way, the average person can be part of a conversation from which they might ordinarily be excluded. "I like the idea of exposing the hidden. I suppose that's what scientists do all the time, they are delving into what is hidden and making it visible."

"That's what I like to do."

See Niki Sperou's work with fellow SALA artist-in-residence, Joy Levins. *The Colonised Body*, SAHMRI foyer August 12-September 9

#### JAMES DODD SALA ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE AT ADELAIDE FESTIVAL CENTRE

Growing up on a farm in the south-east of the state, Adelaide artist James Dodd enjoyed boyhood adventures on his bicycle.

This sense of adventure and immersion in the Australian landscape was what attracted Dodd to the story behind the murals that hang in the foyer of the Adelaide Festival Centre.

The murals were painted by renowned Australian landscape painter Fred Williams commissioned by the AFC at the time of its construction in the 1970s.

Williams took a journey on a houseboat down the River Murray to develop his work. Dodd successfully applied to be this year's SALA artist-in-residence at the AFC in his

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JULY 30-31, 2016



## SALA RESIDENCIES

SAWEEKEND JULY 30-31, 2016



desire to respond to the murals and the journey Williams took to make them. As part of his response, Dodd has taken his own journey down the river, not quite as glamorous but certainly, endearingly Australian, in a tinnie.

He says of the experience: "It was the first time I've spent on the river doing river things. It is a fantastic landscape and it's easy to get excited about the work."

"It did really make it clear to me the scale of the river."

Consistent with his enduring love of bicycles, the idea of a pedal-powered boat that could travel the length of the River Murray appeals to Dodd.

Now fully appreciating the size of the river, turning this fantasy into reality may take longer than he thought. This won't stop Dodd from trying though.

Williams' murals caused controversy in the '70s. They are not realistic renderings but pushed the boundaries of abstract art at the time.

Dodd is creating paintings in response to

this work that plays with some of these more challenging elements, such as elongated landscapes and loose horizon marks. Urban scrawl, a prominent element of Dodd's work, will also feature.

"I like the human mark," he says. "I'm into this idea of psycho-geography which is that a place can contain the spirit of people."

"These marks made in a very immediate fashion are little traces of people that accumulate on objects in our environment."

Dodd also plans to create a mural for an outside wall of the AFC.

Having been involved in facilitating community projects for murals in the past, doing this one alone will be a new and interesting challenge for Dodd.

**See the mural at the Festival centre carpark wall during August. Dodd's work will be exhibited from August 19 for the duration of SALA in the Artspace Gallery at the AFC. The outcome for his artist-in-residency for the Adelaide City Library this year will be on display in Francis St Laneway off Rundle Mall**



#### JESSICA LUMB SALA ARTIST-IN- MEDICAL CENTRE

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The Japanese practice of m objects with gol this way embrace their history. P

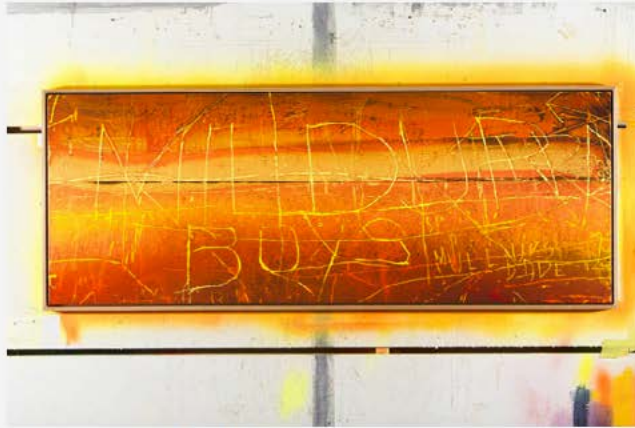
Continuing a long held tradition, ACH Group is excited to again be participating in SALA - South Australian Living Artists Festival - promoting and celebrating older people's contribution to the cultural life of our community.

This year's theme is 'LOVE: give, share, celebrate'.

Visit o unique

ADELAIDE  
The Sp  
Level 1

## Exhibitions



### James Dodd

#### 2016 Artist in Residence

In response to the works of Fred Williams that form part of the Festival Centre's Works of Art Collection, James has created a series of new works including a large-scale mural and an exhibition.

James' interests revolve around representations of landscape, with a focus on urban landscapes and the ways in which people engage creatively with these public spaces.

#### Mural

From Monday 1 August  
Carpark Wall | Adelaide Festival Centre  
#achatwithfred

#### Exhibition: A Chat With Fred

19 Aug – 3 Sep, Wed – Sat, 11am – 4pm  
Artspace Gallery | Adelaide Festival Centre

#### Artist Talk

3pm, Saturday 20 August  
Artspace Gallery | Adelaide Festival Centre

#### Aerosol Stencil Workshop

1pm, Saturday 13 August  
Adelaide Festival Centre  
A free workshop exclusive to GreenRoom members

Image: James Dodd, *Mildura Boys*, 2016, Acrylic on linen with Victorian Ash tray frame, 56 x 150 cm  
Image credit: Sam Roberts Photography

SALA