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## Neil Haddon | Painting Place, Memory and Migration

THIS IS NO FANTASY

Statement

Works

For more than three decades, Neil Haddon has developed a distinctive painting practice that moves between abstraction and figuration, weaving together personal memory, migration, art history, and place. Drawing on experiences of relocation from England to Spain and eventually lutruwita/Tasmania, his paintings explore how identity and belonging are formed through images, histories, and acts of cultural translation.



Neil Haddon  
Analgesia, 2014  
US\$5,000



Neil Haddon  
From Mills Plains, 2026  
€5,500

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“His paintings contain traces of multiple landscapes, merged images and histories, exploring

# the emotional complexities of place, displacement, and belonging.”

Neil Haddon is one of Australia's most significant contemporary painters, with a career spanning more than thirty years and over one hundred exhibitions across Australia, Europe, and the United States. His work has been exhibited at institutions including the Museum of Old and New Art (MONA), the National Gallery of Victoria, the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, and La Maison Rouge in Paris. His paintings are held in major public collections including the NGV, Artbank, and the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery.

Born in England and now based in Hobart, Haddon's practice is shaped by migration and the experience of inhabiting multiple cultural and geographical contexts. His paintings often explore what he describes as a form of “migratory aesthetics,” examining how movement, displacement, memory, and belonging shape our understanding of place.

Working fluidly between geometric abstraction and figuration, Haddon creates paintings that combine diverse visual sources. References to colonial landscape painting, modernist abstraction, popular culture, literature, newspaper imagery, and personal biography coexist within layered compositions. Images are cut apart, recombined, obscured, and reimagined, producing works that resist singular narratives and invite continual reinterpretation.

Central to Haddon's practice is an ongoing engagement with landscape. Rather than depicting place directly, his paintings explore how landscapes are constructed through memory, history, and representation. His work frequently examines the complexities of settler culture in lutruwita/Tasmania, considering the tensions between belonging, displacement, colonial inheritance, and the search for meaningful connection to place.

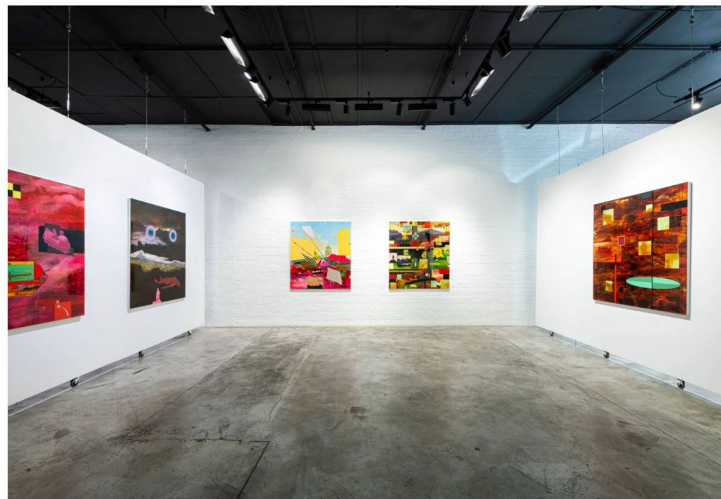
Across his practice, painting becomes both a critical and imaginative space where images from different times, locations, and histories collide. Through this process, Haddon reveals landscape not as a fixed reality, but as a continually shifting field of stories, memories, and cultural encounters.

## About the Artist: Neil Haddon

Neil Haddon is a British-Australian painter based in Hobart, lutruwita/Tasmania.

Over more than three decades, he has developed a distinctive practice that moves between abstraction and figuration, exploring migration, memory, landscape, and cultural identity.

His paintings bring together diverse visual histories, creating complex images that reflect on how we understand place and belonging.



Neil Haddon, THIS IS NO FANTASY, 2025. Photography: Simon Strong

## Migration as Method

Having lived in England, Spain, and Australia, Haddon's experience of migration is central to his practice. Rather than treating identity as fixed, his paintings explore how it is continually shaped through movement, displacement, and cultural exchange.

Images, memories, and histories travel across his works, creating visual spaces where multiple places and perspectives coexist.



Neil Haddon, *The View of Water*, 2025, oil, screen print, lacquer on aluminium, 140 x 130 cm

## Between Abstraction and Figuration

Haddon's paintings occupy a dynamic space between abstraction and representation.

Geometric structures, expressive gestures, landscapes, and fragments of imagery coexist within the same composition.

This fluid approach allows the work to shift between recognition and ambiguity, encouraging viewers to move between different ways of seeing and interpreting the image.



Neil Haddon, *Under the Cover of Smoke*, 2022, acrylic, oil, and lacquer on aluminium, 140 x 130 cm

## Painting Through Images

Drawing from sources including historical paintings, literature, photography, newspapers, and personal archives, Haddon constructs works through a process of layering and transformation.

Images are cut apart, reassembled, obscured, and reimagined.

Through painting, familiar visual narratives become unstable, opening new ways of thinking about history, memory, and representation.



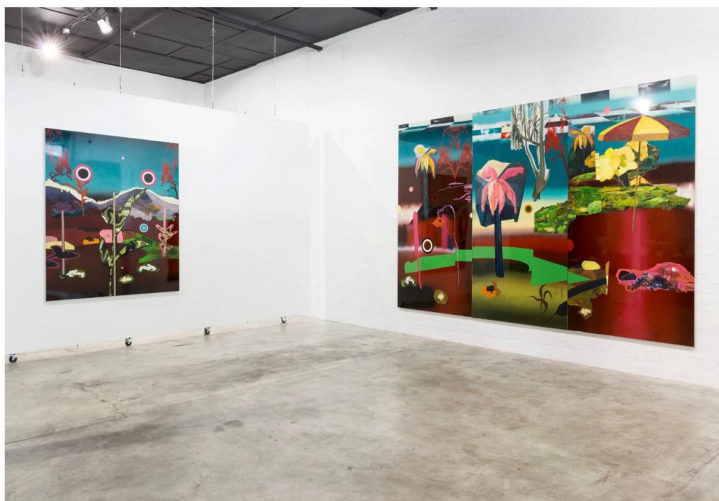


The Wreckage (I remain), 2021 oil, acrylic & lacquer, digital print, aluminium panel, 176 x 232 cm

## Landscape Reconsidered

Landscape is a recurring concern throughout Haddon's practice, though rarely as straightforward depiction.

His paintings examine how places are shaped through memory, history, culture, and imagination. Rather than presenting landscape as fixed or objective, the works reveal it as something continually constructed through personal and collective experience.



Neil Haddon, Installation View, THIS IS NO FANTASY. Photography: Janelle Low

## Histories of Place

Many of Haddon's works engage with the layered histories of lutruwita/Tasmania and the complexities of settler experience.

His paintings consider how colonial narratives continue to influence contemporary understandings of place, belonging, and cultural identity.

These histories remain present within the landscape, shaping both what is remembered and what is overlooked.





It's Difficult (the wanderer), 2024 oil, acrylic and lacquer on aluminium panel, 140 x 130cm

## Painting as Translation

Across Haddon's practice, painting operates as a process of translation. Historical references, personal memories, literary influences, and contemporary observations are brought together and transformed through paint.

The resulting works hold multiple temporalities simultaneously, creating images that remain open, fluid, and resistant to singular interpretation.



Neil Haddon, Installation View, 2025, Photography: Simon Strong

## Exhibitions and Recognition

Haddon has exhibited extensively throughout Australia, Europe, and the United States. His work has been shown at major institutions including MONA, the National Gallery of Victoria, the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, and La Maison Rouge in Paris.

His paintings are represented in significant public, corporate, and private collections both nationally and internationally.



Neil Haddon, Winner, Hadley's Art Prize, 2018

## A Career in Painting

Widely recognised as one of Australia's leading contemporary painters, Haddon has received numerous awards and accolades, including the Hadley's Art Prize and the Glover Prize.

Through a sustained commitment to painting, he has built a practice that continues to expand conversations around landscape, migration, memory, and cultural identity.



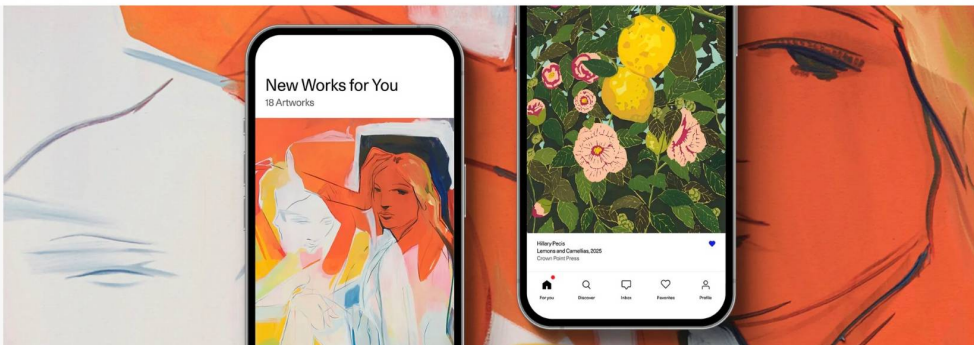


Neil Haddon, Cité Internationale des Arts, Residency 2026, Paris France

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