

## City of Townsville Art Collection: Recent Acquisitions

2 December 2022 - 5 March 2023

### Australian Government's Cultural Gift Program

**Noel McKenna** is known as one of Australia's most successful contemporary artists. Creating artworks depicting comical moments portraying the uncomfortable and the normal, his images are layered with meaning.

The artist deliberately creates artwork that portrays more than just an image. For most of his oil paintings, McKenna makes the frames they rest in, and the frame itself becomes a part of the work. In doing so, McKenna ensures the viewer will observe the artwork the way he intends the work to be seen, including the choice of frame.

Noel McKenna was born in 1956 in Brisbane. In 1974-75 McKenna studied architecture at the University of Queensland. McKenna studied fine art at the Brisbane College of Art and later at the Alexander Mackie College in Sydney.

McKenna has been a regular finalist in the Wynne and Sulman Prizes exhibited at the Art Gallery of New South Wales in Sydney, winning the Sulman in 1994. The Trustees of the Art Gallery of New South Wales have also awarded McKenna the Trustees Watercolour Prize in 1997, 1999, 2001 and 2002. Source: 69 John St Fine Art Specialists-Sydney Art Dealer.

The City of Townsville Art Collection prides itself on the sub-collection of works on paper. The gift is in line with collection priority area 6.2 Australian Art; Australian Modern and Contemporary Art. This collection area focuses on modern and contemporary art of Australia of all disciplines and media, including the Art of North Queensland and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art.

The donor, Margaret McKenna was gifted the suite of prints at the time of printing by her husband Noel McKenna.

You can see a variety of Noel McKenna's artworks in the City of Townsville Art Collection: *Recent Acquisitions* exhibition on display at Perc Tucker Regional Gallery 2 December 2022 – 5 March 2021.

Image Credit: Noel MCKENNA, *Cat in window* 2013, softground etching, line etching, and aquatint printed in black ink from one plate on Arches paper, 25 x 19.8 cm

Donated through the Australian Government's Cultural Gifts Program by Margaret McKenna, 2021

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