

Frantic Bloom:

Anthony Breslin By Anthony Breslin

Frantic Bloom showcases the stylistically varied and compelling work of Anthony Breslin, a painter, poet, performer, stage designer and director from Melbourne.

For Breslin, art is a happening, a transformation of the material used, with artist and artwork engaging in a trance-dance of creation. As Breslin explains: "This manic search in coloured paint is an attempt to encapsulate the memory of an imaginary kaleidoscope I yearned for as a child, but never did it manifest itself in any birthday box I ever knew."

Described as a lovechild of modern primitivism's denouncement of the ultra-technological urban landscape, surrealism's revolt against the tyranny of Reason, and expressionism's desire to externalise the inner turmoil of the individual, Breslin's work is composed of circuitous outlines, undulating curves and Pollock-esque paint splatters, as well as deformed human faces and bold, festive colours. These embody Breslin's attempt to depict the plight of the modern-day human forever entrenched in the process of self-formation and self-assertion.

"In much of Breslin's work, his ability to celebrate the 'otherworld' of imagination is associated with both delight and a slight dread of all that life offers. While he generally revels in the sense of play and joy, some primitive dark force inevitably glimmers beneath the surface, to animate the anxious bugs trapped on canvas and to chill the startled stares of his subjects as they contemplate the void."

– Dr Lisa Dethridge, 'The artist as urban shaman'

Includes a foreword by The Hon. Paul M. Guest QC and an introductory essay by Dr Lisa Dethridge of RMIT University, along with a list of Breslin's exhibitions and a personal timeline.

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Anthony Breslin is a prominent Australian visual and performance artist. He graduated with a Fine Art degree from RMIT University in 1999; completed a residency at New York's exclusive and prestigious Point B Studios in 2007; and was the recipient of the International Award for Emerging Artists at the 2008 Shanghai Art Fair. Breslin's work has been showcased in solo and group shows in Australia, the US, the UK, Switzerland, the Czech Republic and China, and his most famous works include *Trybe: An Opera in Paint* and a window-display installation commissioned by Myer on Bourke Street, Melbourne. Breslin has also worked as a designer/art director for music videos, of which one was awarded an Aria and another nominated for Best Design at the AFI Awards, and he has been featured in a number of art magazines and newspapers. Recently he has been working on large-scale performance and installation projects at schools in Victoria and NSW..