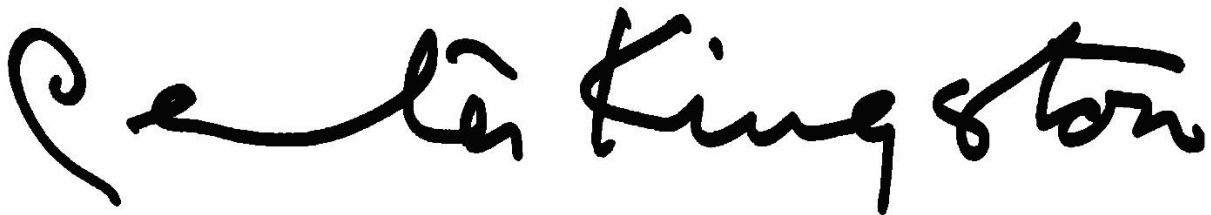


FIRST LIGHT: THE ART OF

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peter Kingston". The signature is fluid and expressive, with a prominent flourish at the beginning of the word "Peter".

December 5th 2020 – February 14th 2021

As Peter Kingston approached his fiftieth birthday in 1993 he was on the cusp of a radical change to his vision as an artist. He had already by now become fully recognized as a draughtsman and illustrator, adept at pen-and-ink with a satirical wit in the shadow of his Cranbrook School contemporary Martin Sharp. Kingston had been drawn into Sharp's eccentric culture built on the famous Yellow House, Luna Park, and the infamous Oz Magazine.

The central factor that carried Kingston beyond Sharp's influence over the next three decades however was simply a conquest of the difficult alchemy of oil painting. He may have made this conquest earlier had he attended art school rather than study architecture under pressure from his parents. But the prospect of full-time painting beckoned regardless of the challenge it would inevitably present.

There was another shadow that hung over him, turning out to be a greater blessing. After living in Japan for a couple years during the 1970s, Kingston returned to Sydney and acquired the house next door to the Whiteley family at Lavender Bay. He befriended Brett, whose extrovert talent, eloquence with charcoal, and ability to push spaces to the very edges of the picture plane on large scale, enthralled the younger artist.

Then in 1992 Whiteley died, and a paradigm of painterly draughtsmanship suddenly fell into Kingston's lap, leaving him to develop his own particular visual poetry for celebrating the Harbour he had adored since growing up as a child at Parsley Bay. Herein lies the basic story of this exhibition; one of love, inspiration and perseverance.

Barry Pearce FUnISA

Emeritus Curator

Art Gallery of New South Wales

LIST OF WORKS

Bomb-A-Tank 1915

Handmade penny arcade machine, Luna Park, Melbourne
Collection of the artist

Carmel 1964

pen, brush and black ink, wash on paper
38 x 48cm
Collection: Art Gallery of New South Wales –
Thea Proctor Memorial Fund 1993

Fertile Farm, Auroville, Tamil Nadu, South East India 1970

oil on masonite 15.5 x 20cm
Collection of the artist

Rumah Kontin, Bali 1973

coloured drawing
Collection of the artist

Brett etching Arthur 1975'

etching
Collection of the Bundanon Trust, gift of
Peter Kingston

Ilford House 1978

pen and black ink, coloured pencil and
opaque white 25 x 27 cm
Collection: Art Gallery of New South Wales
– Thea Proctor Memorial Fund 1993

Barrington Tops guest house 1978

ink and coloured pencil
Collection of the artist

Clary at 'Doo-me' and Isabel and Vic's, Camp Cove 1979

ink and coloured pencil
Collection of the artist

Luna Park 2000 1984

etching, hand coloured 45 x 37cm
Collection: Art Gallery of New South Wales –
Purchased 1984

Coney Island 1988-2005

etching, black ink, hand coloured in
watercolour on white wove BFK Rives paper
69.4 x 56.4 cm
Collection: Art Gallery of New South Wales -
Gift of the artist 2006

Jumping not biting, Wallaby Rock 1991

oil on canvas 92 x 120cm
collection of the artist

Coney Island, 'Memory of things past' 1992

oil on canvas 51 x 61cm
Collection of the artist

The last circus 1992

oil on canvas 61 x 76cm
Private collection

Drain 1992

oil on canvas 37 x 50cm
Private collection

Three ferries leaving 1993

oil on canvas 40 x 50cm
Private collection

Domestic scene 1993

pen, ink and watercolour on mount board 57
x 76cm
Collection: Art Gallery of New South Wales -
Gift of Hendrik Kolenberg 2013. Donated
through the Australian Government's Cultural
Gifts Program

Study for Big Saturday 1993

oil on canvas 65 x 86cm
Private collection

Study for Boxing day 1993

oil on canvas
Collection of the artist

Warry's Cottage, Hill End 1994

oil on canvas 40 x 50cm
Private collection

Big Saturday 1995

oil on canvas 183 x 157cm
Collection: Art Gallery of New South Wales
Gift of Margaret Olley 1997

Bastille nights 1995

etching
Collection of the artist

Sydney Queen changes course 1995

oil on canvas 184 x 240cm
Private collection

Wynstay cottage 1996

charcoal on paper 57 x 76cm
Collection of the artist

Jean's fig tree 1997

charcoal on paper
Private collection

Clovelly in Devon, UK 1998

oil on canvas 91 x 120cm
Private collection

Rope thrower Luke 1998

oil on canvas 64 x 86cm
Private collection

Fruity's Water Taxi 1998

oil on canvas 180 x 240cm
Private collection

Christine's grandfather went broke selling champagne on the Hunter's Hill ferry 1998

oil on canvas
Private collection

In the gatehouse at 'Wynstay' 1998

charcoal on paper
Collection of the artist

Passing ferries 1999

oil on canvas 180 x 350cm
Collection of Stuart Purves

MV Jørn Utzon 1999

oil on canvas 150 x 180cm
Private collection

Kurraba Road Wharf 1999

oil on canvas 114 x 140cm
Private collection

Shagshed resumption, Walsh Bay 1999

charcoal on two sheets of white wove paper
56 x 130cm
Collection: Art Gallery of New South Wales
– Thea Proctor Memorial Fund 1999

More fools than wise, Walsh Bay 2000

charcoal and watercolour on paper, mounted
on canvas 194 x 407cm
Museum of Sydney collection, Sydney Living
Museums

Caretakers cottage - Wylie's Pool 2000

oil on canvas 64 x 65 cm
Private collection

Marko's Home – Wylie's pool 2000

oil on canvas 64 x 86cm
Private collection

Girt by Sea 2000

oil on canvas 49 x 50 cm
Private collection

Coogee sea 2000

oil on canvas 40 x 50cm
Collection of the artist

Sunday Afternoon 2000

oil on canvas 63.5x 86 cm
Private collection

Southerly buster 2000

charcoal on paper
Collection of the artist

Deadline 2001

charcoal on paper
Private collection

Sunshower, Walsh Bay 2002

oil on canvas 114 x 140cm
Private collection

Snow gums Perisher 2003

charcoal on paper
Collection of the artist

Friday night at Kookaburra's 2003

colour linocut printed in blue and black inks,
hand-coloured in yellow and white gouache
on cream laid tissue 30.4 x 30.3 cm
Collection: Art Gallery of New South Wales –
Gift of the artist 2004

Dent at sea 2006

linocut, black and coloured inks on thin
cream Japanese tissue 30.1 x 30.4 cm
Collection: Art Gallery of New South Wales
– Gift of the artist 2006

On the way to the fish markets 2006

charcoal and oil on canvas 110 x 140 cm
Private collection

Two ferries Cremorne Point 2006

oil and charcoal on canvas, 110 x 140 cm
Private collection

Bridge to Glentunnel NZ 2006

charcoal on paper 57 x 76cm
Private collection

MV Lithgow 2006-17

oil, charcoal & wash on canvas 110 x 140 cm
Collection of Philomena and Andrew
Spearritt

MV Emerald Star 2008

charcoal and wash on canvas
110 x 139cm
Private collection

Chowder Bay 2010

Pen and ink and wash on paper 58 x 75cm
Collection of the artist

The fig trees of Laman Street, Newcastle 2010

charcoal on paper 58 x 75cm
Collection of the artist

Dr Pattinger's cottage, 31 Rue Romain Rolland, Pondicherry 2010
charcoal on paper 58 x 75cm
Collection of the artist

Sooty Oyster Catcher, Coledale Beach 2010
charcoal on paper
Collection of the artist

Darwin outdoor cinema, one day before Monsoon 2011
charcoal on paper
Collection of the artist

Mt Murchison 2011
charcoal on paper 57 x 76cm
Collection of the artist

Swimming to Wedding Cake Island 2011
charcoal on paper
Collection of the artist

'Boysie' Luke Sciberras spread, Hill End 2012
charcoal on paper
Collection of the artist

Utzon's Dream 2013-15
charcoal and gouache on canvas 178 x 297cm
Private collection

Lady Herron II 2014
oil on canvas 111 x 141cm
Private collection

Watt Park Steps 2017
charcoal and wash on paper 57 x 76cm
Collection of the artist

Brigalow at the Beach 2017
charcoal on paper 56x75 cm
Private collection

Damienne's dream 2017
charcoal on paper
Collection of the artist

Versailles lookout 2018
charcoal on paper 58 x 75cm
Private collection

Sacred House 2018-2019
oil on canvas 200 x 300cm
Private Collection

Sacred House #16 2019
oil on canvas 112 x 137cm
Private collection

The Boo-book owls came back a year later, 2019
charcoal and wash on paper 58 x 76cm
Courtesy of Australian Galleries

First light 2019-20
oil on canvas 130 x 278cm
Private collection

The slap 2019
oil on canvas 110 x 140cm
Private collection, courtesy of Australian Galleries

Talisman 2019
oil on canvas 112 x 137cm
Private collection

Sacred House #2 2019
oil stick on canvas
Private Collection

Seaplane 2020
oil on canvas 135 x 115cm
Private Collection

Selection of artist books
An Indian train Journey, Rain, Blokes, Sheilas: A companion to Gents, Gents, Sydney Deckie, Mackerel Beach: a winters tale, Shark-Net Sea Horses of Balmoral (with Robert Adamson), A-Z.



Watson Road, Observatory Hill, The Rocks, Sydney
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Admission: \$12 adults, \$10 Concessions, \$4 National Trust members, children under 12 free