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NIGEL SENSE is an Australian artist based in Sydney who draws inspiration from the American abstract expressionists and pop artists of the 1960s to make work that is neo social expressionist.

Sense has exhibited his work in numerous solo and group exhibitions throughout Australia and in Sri Lanka. In 2009 Sense was exhibited as part of the inaugural Colombo Art Biennale, and invited again in 2012. His award winning first Sydney solo exhibition titled *I Work With Tools* was held at Sheffer Gallery in September 2012.

Nigel Sense's latest work represents the unsung hero, the everyday worker doing a nine to five job. From society's general perspective, the average worker is traditionally overlooked, uninteresting. Often called a 'factory worker', this label can be directed as an insult, but the artist subverts this definition and flips it on its head, producing pieces that focus on and unabashedly celebrate the worker.

"I feel connected to this subject and draw upon experiences from my upbringing. Growing up, my father was my hero and my role model. He worked hard and got paid little, but still did his job with pride. My recent work has its roots here but has grown to incorporate all the unsung heroes. This is a continuation of previous subject exploration. I tend to paint everyday iconography and the strength of a working class and its history." (Nigel Sense, 2017)

Sense paints energetically in acrylic on canvas with bold, direct marks, describing his process as primal and instinctive. His overlaid imagery mimics his state of mind at the end of the working day. Instead of trying to clear his thoughts from the day's experiences, he paints them—conversations, emails, phone calls, what his colleagues discuss over morning tea—everything goes down on the canvas.

As Sharne Wolff wrote in *Art Guide* (March 2017), "Employing various pop art techniques and the tactic of painting the things he knows, Sense considers his role as an artist and his work reflects an inclusive suburban upbringing and experience. If much 20th century pop art had a mocking or critical tone designed to shock the audience, Sense's work operates differently. He engages the viewer in an intimate way with his everyday world. Communicating through fun and humour, his paintings seek understanding and empathy. Who didn't like Muriel's Wedding? Who doesn't like beer? The painting *Art is Lettuce* even incorporates its own thumbs up."

Nigel Sense is a graduate of the University of Wollongong. His work is frequently selected for major awards, most recently the Black Swan Art Prize (Finalist, 2017), Mosman Art Prize (Finalist, 2017) and the Kilgour Art Prize (Finalist, 2017).

EDUCATION

- 2005-2006 Bachelor of Creative Arts, University of Wollongong, Wollongong, NSW
- 2000-2002 Diploma Graphic Design and Printing, Ultimo TAFE, Sydney
- 1992-1994 Associate Diploma Fine Art West Wollongong Technical College, Wollongong, NSW

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2018 *Workers & Wankers*, Fox Galleries, Melbourne
- 2017 *Art Is Lettuce*, Finders Street Gallery, Sydney
- 2016 *Hi how are you?*, Penny Contemporary, Hobart
- 2016 *Nigel Sense, Blokes and Sheilas*, Harvison Gallery, Perth
- 2015 *Boat Shoes and Blazers*, Brisbane Modern Art Gallery, Brisbane
- 2015 *Modern Day Moments*, Angela Tandori, Melbourne
- 2015 *Nigel Sense, Flowers From a Servo*, Flinders Street Gallery, Sydney
- 2015 *Nigel Sense, Bricks and Mortar*, Harvison Gallery, Perth
- 2014 *Nigel Sense, New Work*, Flinders Street Gallery, Sydney
- 2014 *Nigel Sense, Newtown Art Seat*, Marrcikville Council, Sydney
- 2013 *Get Wasted*, Newtown Social Club, Sydney
- 2013 *Heroes and Zeros*, Charles Hewitt Gallery, Sydney
- 2013 *Get A Hair Cut*, EMI Art Projects, Sydney
- 2013 *Get Wasted*, Gallery 2010, Sydney
- 2012 *I Work With Tools*, Sheffer Gallery, Curator Johnny Romeo, Sydney
- 2010 *Nigel Sense*, Serendipity Arts Cafe, Galle Fort, Sri Lanka
- 2010 *Nigel Sense*, Paradise Road Gallery Cafe, Colombo, Sri Lanka
- 2009 *Blank Space*, 2 Creative House Gallery, Galle, Sri Lanka

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2017 Summer Show, Wagner Contemporary, Sydney, NSW
- 2017 Black Swan Art Prize, Western Australia Art Gallery, Perth
- 2017 Mosman Art Prize, Mosman Regional Gallery, Sydney, NSW

2017 Kilgour Prize, Newcastle Regional Gallery, Newcastle, NSW

2017 Fisher Ghost Art Prize, Campbelltown Art Centre, Sydney

2017 *Sense & Chavez*, Fox Galleries, Melbourne

2017 *Untitled*, Traffic Jam Gallery, Sydney

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2015 *Salon des Refusés*, Mornington Peninsula Regional Gallery, Mornington, VIC

2015 Hurford Hardwood Portrait Prize, Lismore Regional Gallery, Lismore, NSW

2015 *Salon des Refusés*, S.H. Ervin Gallery, Sydney

2015 Group Show, Art Images Gallery, Adelaide, South Australia

2015 *Editions # 1*, Penny Contemporary, Hobart

2014 *Christmas show*, Flinders Street Gallery, Sydney

2014 *Christmas show*, Harvison Gallery, Perth

2014 *Stock room show*, Brisbane Modern Art Gallery, Brisbane

2014 *Surry Hills Festival*, Windmill Art Project, Sydney

2014 Affordable Art Fair Singapore, Retrospect Gallery, Singapore

2013 Masterstroke, Harvison Gallery, Perth

2013 Fisher Ghost Art Prize, Campbelltown Art Centre, Sydney

2013 *Keep Youth*, Retrospect Galleries, Byron Bay, NSW

2013 *Let It Be Done*, Archive Space, Newtown, NSW

2013 *New New New*, Charles Hewitt Gallery, Marrickville, NSW

2012 *Petit Travaux*, Retrospect Galleries, Byron Bay, NSW

2012 *Fringe at the Forum*, The Forum Leichardt, NSW

2012 *Google Show*, Seymour Centre, Sydney

2012 *Stock Room Show*, Harrison Gallery, Paddington, NSW

2012 Colombo Art Biennale, Colombo, Sri Lanka

2011 Australian Stencil Art Prize, Outpost Cockatoo Island, Sydney

2011 *Connect*, Sydney Fringe Festival, Seymour Centre, Sydney

2011 *Uncanny Valley*, Sydney Fringe Festival Hardware Gallery, Enmore, NSW

2011 *Medium Vinyl*, Hardware Gallery, Enmore, NSW

2010 *Creature Feature*, Monstrosity Art Gallery, Woolloomooloo, NSW

MEDIA

2018 *Interview: Nigel Sense's 'Workers and Wankers'*, The Art Life, Andrew Frost

2018 *Nigel Sense: Workers and Wankers*, Art Almanac

2017 *Art Is Lettuce*, Art Guide, Sharne Wolff

2013 *Heroes and Zeros*, The Sydney Morning Herald, Metro

2013 *Heroes and Zeros*, The Art Life, Andrew Frost

2013 *Heroes and Zeros*, Art Almanac
