

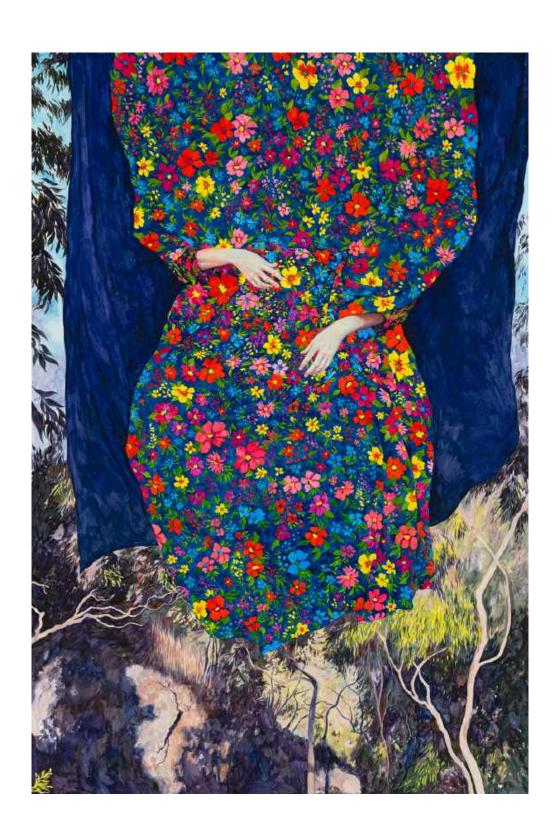
The dream-like universe which Monica Rohan builds in her exhibition *Backdrops* is set against blue skies and Australian gum-trees. Brightly patterned fabrics billow poetically in the wind, but among them hands and feet often reveal themselves to be floating or untethered.

Evoking a more familiar reality, a few paintings in the exhibition depict moments like curling up in the loungeroom under a blanket, hanging out wet sheets to dry, jumping on a bed in new blue shoes. It's precisely this feeling of the intimate and domestic that renders the uncanny moments more jolting. You are lulled into a sense of security by the Missoni-esque blanket on the turquoise couch in *Guarded*, 2022, before realising that the obstructed body hanging up the washing in *Way forward*, 2022, has hands but not feet, defying gravity. In *If I can help it*, 2022, the draped fabric pulled back by a concealed figure bizarrely meets the leafy Australian bush as though the two have been collaged onto one another, signalling a portal or a glitch. The collision of separate interfaces creates slippage between the real and surreal.

Rohan's title concept of *Backdrops* conjures the staged and theatrical, moving these playful paintings further towards the imaginary. The pattern on pattern of tablecloths, picnic rugs, op-shop dresses and doona covers clash in colourful crescendos. Hovering between the genres of landscape, portraiture, and abstraction, the series holds a kinetic energy, stirred by rising wind, the jostling of colours, a gesturing hand or dancing foot. In *Drag it out*, 2022, the autumn leaves on the ground and the vibrant yellow swathes falling from above bleed together, becoming a seamless study of difference and repetition. An orange sleeved arm curls through the centre of the fabric, as if to break the fourth wall.

The overwhelming nature of the fabric, so engulfing and excessive is reminiscent of tangled sheets during a fever dream or a head stuck in worry. Sometimes bodiless, always faceless, the figure in the series seems to coax or invite the viewer into the painting's ambiguous atmosphere, which hints at our collective anxieties. The complexity of the human presence which is revealed and concealed in the stark landscape triggers ideas of the climate crisis and uncertainty around our shared futures, questioning our place within nature. Across the exhibition, the figures' arms continuously try to grasp something that appears just out of reach, mirroring the unsettling emptiness of something you can't quite catch.

—Emma Nixon

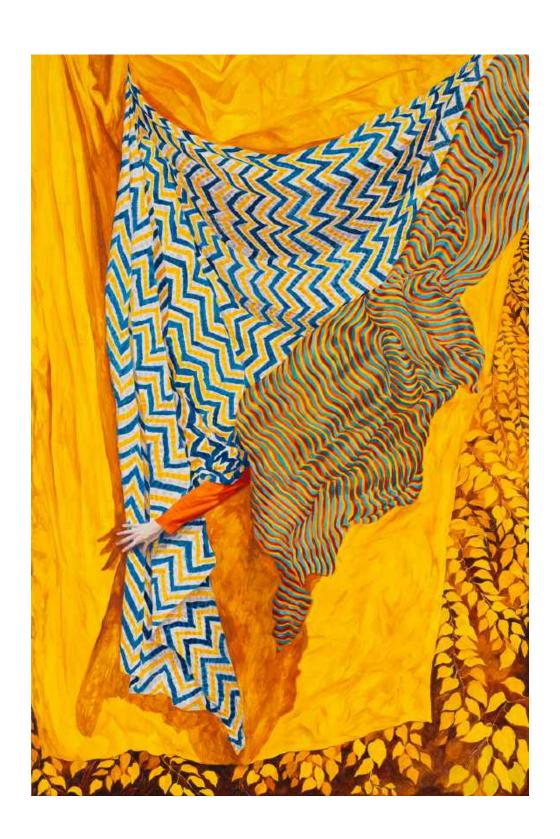


Monica Rohan Backdrops 2021 oil on board 90 x 60 cm \$8,800 incl. GST



Monica Rohan Divider 2021 oil on board 90 x 60 cm

\$8,800 incl. GST

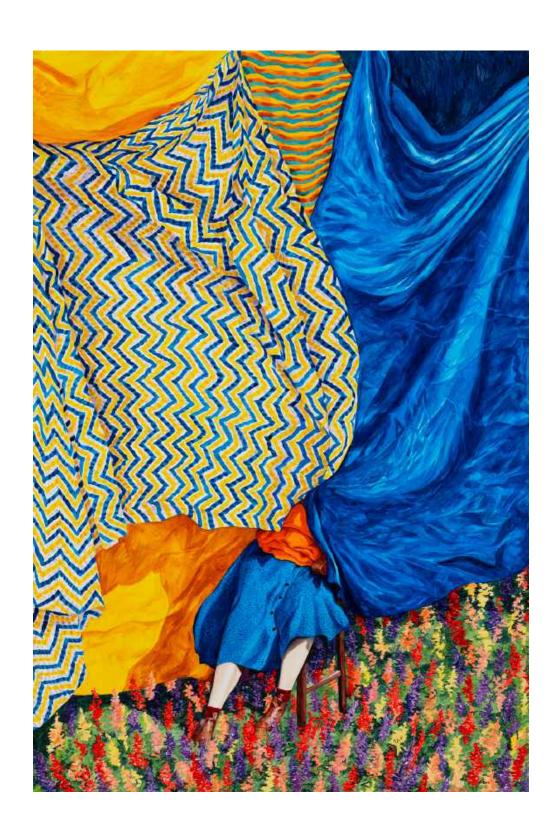


Monica Rohan

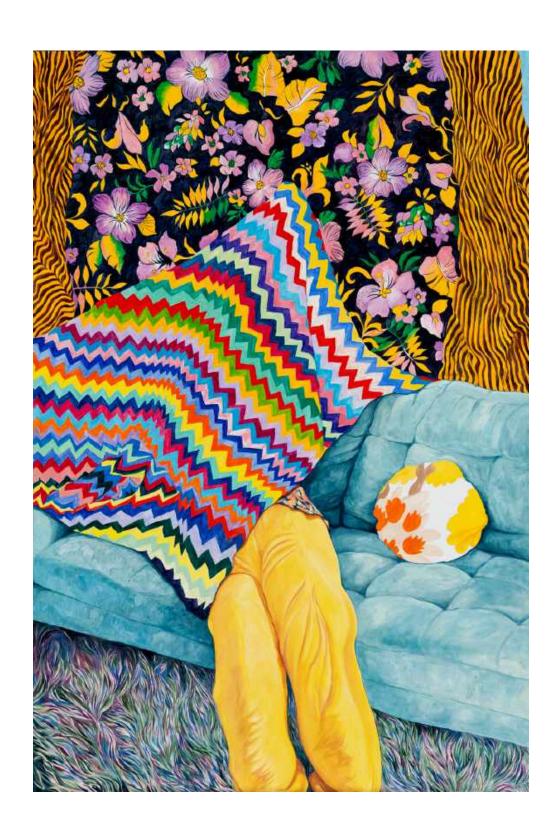
Drag it out 2021 oil on board 90 x 60 cm \$8,800 incl. GST



Monica Rohan Everything changes 2021 oil on board 90 x 60 cm \$8,800 incl. GST



Monica Rohan Fallback 2022 oil on board 90 x 60 cm \$8,800 incl. GST



Monica Rohan Guarded 2022 oil on board

90 x 60 cm

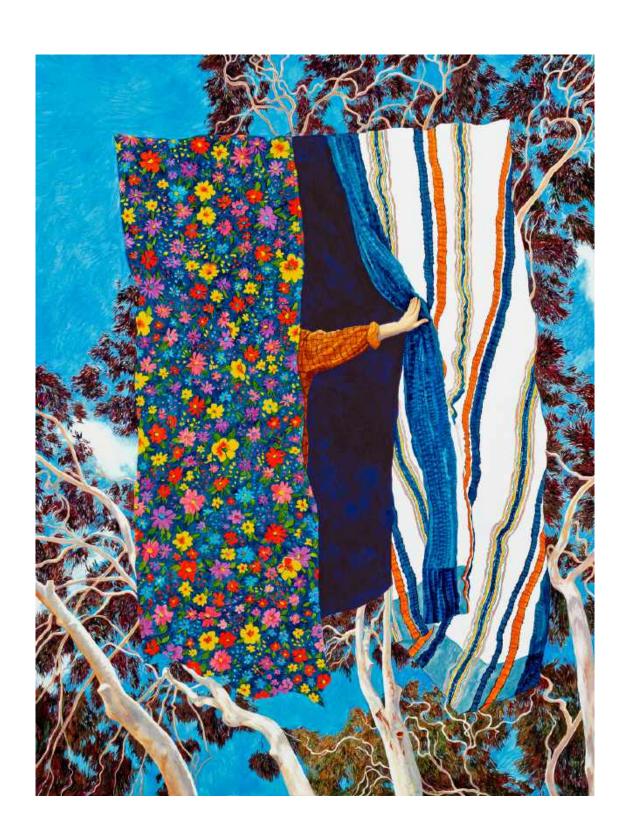
\$8,800 incl. GST



Monica Rohan Standing still 2021 oil on board

oil on board 90 x 60 cm

\$8,800 incl. GST



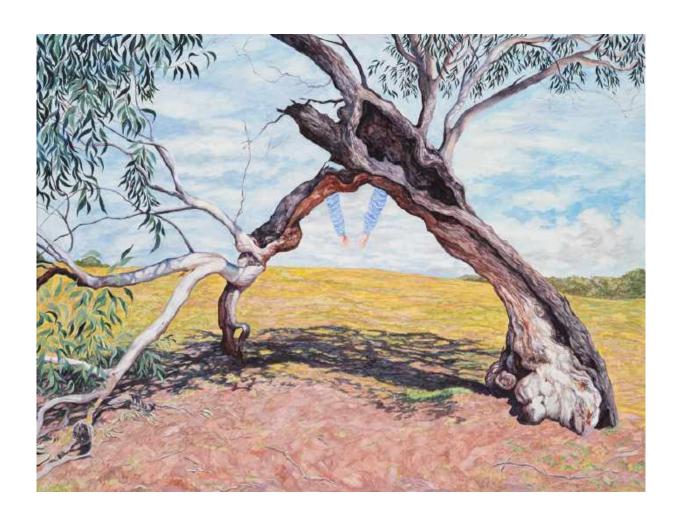
Monica Rohan If I can help it 2022 oil on board 122 x 92 cm \$13,500 incl. GST



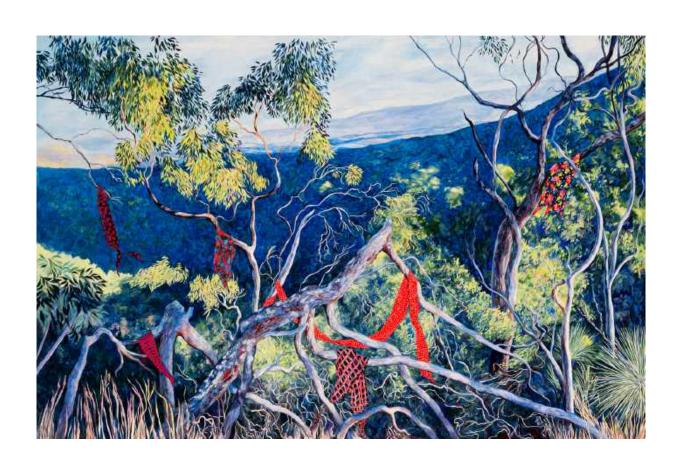
Monica Rohan Pinned down 2022 oil on board 122 x 92 cm \$13,500 incl. GST



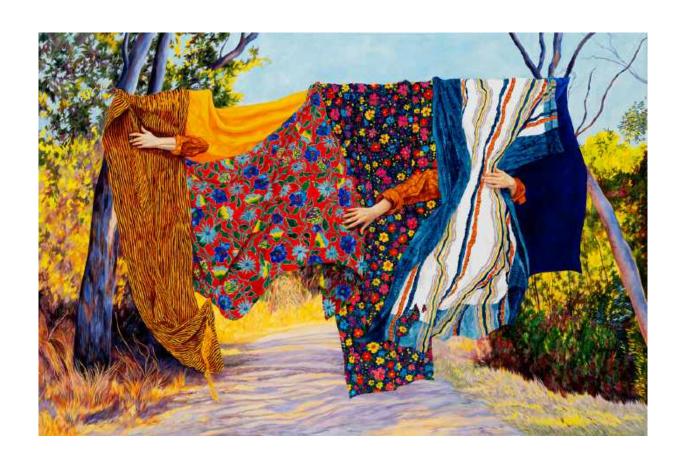
Monica Rohan Pre-empt 2022 oil on board 122 x 92 cm \$13,500 incl. GST



Monica Rohan Hold this for now 2021 oil on board 92 x 122 cm \$13,500 incl. GST



Monica Rohan Left a part of me there 2022 oil on board 120 x 183 cm \$24,000 incl. GST



Monica Rohan
Way forward 2022
oil on board
120 x 183 cm
\$24,000 incl. GST

MONICA ROHAN

EDUCATION

2011 Bachelor of Fine Arts with Honours (First Class), Queensland College of Art, Griffith University, Brisbane

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2022	Backdrops, Sophie Gannon Gallery, Melbourne
2021	Mind How You Go, Jan Murphy Gallery, Brisbane
2020	Hesitate, Sophie Gannon Gallery, Melbourne
2019	Wobble, Jan Murphy Gallery, Brisbane
2018	Nowhere Near, Sophie Gannon Gallery, Melbourne
2017	Look Down at the World, Jan Murphy Gallery
2016	Funny Peculiar, Sophie Gannon Gallery, Melbourne
2015	Topsy-Turvy, Jan Murphy Gallery, Brisbane
	<i>In the Detail</i> , Tweed Regional Gallery, Murwillumbah, NSW
2014	Predicament, Jan Murphy Gallery, Brisbane
2012	Inside Out, Spiro Grace Art Rooms, Brisbane
2011	Get a Grip, Diagram ARI, Ryan Renshaw Window Space, Brisbane

Addition 1, Addition Gallery, Brisbane

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

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2021	Jan Murphy Gallery, Brisbane	
	Brisbane Portrait Prize, Powerhouse Museum, Brisbane	
	Sunshine Coast Art Prize, Caloundra Regional Gallery, QLD	
2020	Sunny Side Up, Brisbane City Outdoor Gallery, Brisbane	
	Archibald Prize, Art Gallery of New South Wales, sydney	
	Inspired: Margaret Olley in the Margaret Olley Art Centre, Tweed Regional Gallery, NSW	
	Elaine Bermingham National Watercolour Prize, Grey Street Gallery Queensland College of Art, Brisbane	
	Redland Art Awards: Works Acquired 2006–2018, Redland Art Gallery, QLD	
2019	Sydney Contemporary Art Fair, Jan Murphy Gallery, Sydney	
	New Woman, Museum of Brisbane, Brisbane	
	Dobell Drawing Prize 2019, National Art School, Sydney	
	The Gold Award, Rockhampton Art Gallery, QLD	
	Three Decades, Tweed Regional Gallery, NSW	
2018	A Painter's House, Tweed Regional Gallery, QLD	
2017	Sydney Contemporary Art Fair, Sophie Gannon Gallery, Sydney	
	Dog Days, Jan Murphy Gallery	
	Imagine, Gippsland Regional Art Gallery, Sale, VIC	
	Go Figure: Works from the Collection, Tweed Regional Gallery, Murwillumbah, NSW	
2016	Archibald Prize, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney	
	Gold Award, Rockhampton Art Gallery, Rockhampton, QLD	
0015	Spring 1883, Jan Murphy Gallery, Melbourne	
2015	GOMA Q: Contemporary Queensland Art, Queensland Art Gallery Gallery of Modern Art (QAGOMA), Brisbane	
2014	Sydney Contemporary Art Fair, Sophie Gannon Gallery, Sydney	
2014	Melbourne Art Fair, Sophie Gannon Gallery, Melbourne	
2013	15 Artists, Redcliffe City Art Gallery, Redcliffe, QLD Field, The Hold Artspace, Brisbane	
2013	Figuration, Jan Murphy Gallery, Brisbane	
2012	Rift, White Canvas Gallery, Brisbane	
2012	Churchie National Emerging Art Exhibition, Griffith University Art Gallery, Brisbane	
	rgbcmyk, Bleeding Heart Gallery, Brisbane	
	James Kiwi Watercolour Prize, Wollongong City Gallery, Wollongong, NSW	
	Addition 1 Addition College Designation	

2011 GAS Graduate Art Show, Griffith University Art Gallery, Brisbane

With Bated Breath, Griffith University Art Gallery, Brisbane (Queensland College of Art Honours Graduate Exhibition)

Pinkification, The Tidy Gallery, Brisbane *On Short Notice*, White Box, Brisbane

Rotary Art Spectacular, Riverside Centre, Brisbane Honours Work in Progress, Project Gallery, Brisbane

Colour and Form, SGAR, Brisbane

2010 Wake up with Your Head, Griffith University Art Gallery, Brisbane (Queensland College of Art Graduate Exhibition)

2008 Minister of Education Awards for Excellence in Art, Queensland Art Gallery | Gallery of Modern Art (QAGOMA), Brisbane

AWARDS AND RESIDENCIES

2021	Sunshine Coast Art Prize (finalist)
	Brisbane Portrait Prize (finalist)
2020	Archibald Prize (finalist)
	Elaine Bermingham National Watercolour Prize (finalist)
2019	Dobell Drawing Prize (finalist)
2018	Glover Prize (finalist)
	Sunshine Coast Art Prize (finalist)
	Brett Whiteley Travelling Art Scholarship (highly commended)
2017	Sulman Prize (finalist)
2016	Archibald Prize (finalist)
	Gold Award (finalist)
	Elaine Bermingham National Watercolour Prize (finalist)
2014	Nancy Fairfax Artist in Residence Studio, Tweed Regional Gallery

Redland Art Prize (finalist)

Moreton Bay Art Prize (finalist)

2012 Churchie National Emerging Art Prize (finalist)

James Kiwi Watercolour Prize (finalist)

COLLECTIONS

Griffith University Art Collection, Brisbane Mater Children's Hospital, Brisbane Queensland Art Gallery | Gallery of Modern Art (QAGOMA), Brisbane University of Queensland Art Museum, Brisbane Private collections in Australia