AMBER BOARDMAN

Institute of Play

04 – 21 NOVEMBER 2026

SOPHIE GANNON GALLERY

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At its essence, Boardman's practice over the past decade has been an exploration of the relationship between humans and digital technology. This year she has embarked on a trilogy of sorts, collectively entitled Understudies Trilogy: Embodied Joy in the Age of AI. A three-act structure of exhibitions that explore this human/tech relationship from different perspectives. Act One, The Puppet Show (Manly Art Gallery & Museum) considered how our shared cultures and understandings—transmitted through storytelling—might be changed by a non-human intelligence running in the background. The subsequent exhibitions investigate the human/tech relationship through its absence. Act Two, The Summer Before Everything Changed (Brigitte Mulholland Gallery, Paris), describes the adventures of the last generation to come of age before the internet was everywhere. And finally, this exhibition (Act Three), Institute of Play, presents a re-education program where adults learn how to return to their bodies after the digital world took them over for a while.

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AMBER BOARDMAN
Summer School, 2026
oil on canvas
183 × 276 cm
AUD 21,000

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AMBER BOARDMAN
Choir Practice, 2026
oil on polyester
183 × 274 cm
AUD 18,000

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AMBER BOARDMAN
Paint Class Art Show, 2026
oil on canvas
152.5 × 244 cm
AUD 16,000

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AMBER BOARDMAN
Recess, 2026
oil on canvas
122 × 152.5 cm
AUD 10,000

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AMBER BOARDMAN
Concert, 2026
oil on canvas
98 × 122 cm
AUD 8,000

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AMBER BOARDMAN
Dance Class, 2026
oil on canvas
98 × 122 cm
AUD 8,000

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AMBER BOARDMAN
Parade, 2026
oil on canvas
122 × 98 cm
AUD 8,000

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AMBER BOARDMAN
Field Trip, 2026
oil on canvas
91.5 × 71 cm
AUD 6,000

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AMBER BOARDMAN
Sculpture Class, 2026
oil on canvas
71 × 91.5 cm
AUD 6,000

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AMBER BOARDMAN
Paint Class, 2026
oil on canvas
71 × 91.5 cm
AUD 6,000

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AMBER BOARDMAN
Storytelling, 2026
oil on canvas
71 × 91.5 cm
AUD 6,000

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AMBER BOARDMAN
Playing with Fire, 2026
oil on canvas
60 × 60 cm
AUD 4,500

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AMBER BOARDMAN
The Gloves are Off, 2026
oil on panel
50 × 60 cm
AUD 4,500

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AMBER BOARDMAN
Ephemeral Sculpture, 2026
oil on panel
50 × 60 cm
AUD 4,500

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AMBER BOARDMAN
Collaborative Circuit, 2026
oil on panel
40 × 40 cm
AUD 3,600

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AMBER BOARDMAN
Break Dance Sculpture, 2026
oil on panel
40 × 40 cm
AUD 3,600

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AMBER BOARDMAN

BIOGRAPHY

Amber Boardman is an American-born, Sydney-based artist who creates densely layered, large scale paintings that examine crowd behaviour, and the role of the internet in shaping ever-changing social norms. Boardman combines her background in painting and animation to create narrative works that draw from the visual language of cartoons, influenced in part by her work as an animator for Cartoon Network's [adult swim], Comedy Central and Google.

Amber Boardman's 20-year history of exhibiting her work internationally includes shows in arts institutions in New York, London, Paris, Rome, Amsterdam, Miami, Atlanta, Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane. Notable exhibitions include BAM's Next Wave Festival in New York, Postmasters Gallery in Rome, and the Archibald and Geelong Prizes in Australia,

Over the last two decades, she has been committed to fostering the creative talent of artists. Boardman holds a PhD in Fine Art and has been an invited speaker at major universities, art galleries and museums since 2011. She has lectured in art and animation at leading universities in the US and Australia. Boardman has founded shared studio/exhibition spaces in both Brooklyn NY and Sydney Australia and continues to facilitate the exchange of ideas between artists internationally with her Virtual Studio Visit events.

Her works are held in private and public collections including Artbank and The City of Sydney in Australia, and the High Museum of Art, The Museum of Contemporary Art of Georgia, the University of Kentucky Art Museum in America. Her work has appeared in publications including Hyperallergic, Juxtapoz, Artist Profile, Art Collector, and ArtMaze Magazine.

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