

## **Membrane Art: *an evolving expression***

In 2004, I began experimenting with the idea that I could open up surfaces and spaces to countless more perceptual possibilities by painting on a curve rather than on a flat 2D plane. The effects created on the curved surface would re-enact the ‘completeness’ of our natural world (containing multidimensional values) and when the results are unraveled and revealed on the 2D picture plane, the compression of depth would generate the human visual experience, thus being a metaphor for how we observe.

I’ve since experimented with numerous ways of curving the surfaces I work on. I’ve also discovered that besides paint pourings and the effects of gravity, I can apply alternative methods to create results that aren’t otherwise possible. Thus the actual membrane itself underpins the aesthetics of each piece, and the degree of simplicity or complexity can be regulated and enhanced by it.

Painting this way stems directly from our current understandings of nature and how we (might) observe it, particularly in quantum physics — where we are to believe that nature is probabilistic and far more complex and stranger than the Newtonian one we intuitively know. Liberating the canvas allows me to engage with the ‘completeness’ of space and surface. Similar to the way that things may appear in nature at the atomic level — we may not fully comprehend the methods and sequences that allow it to be the way it is but it seems to form part of our inherited reality.

This approach has enabled me to evolve and develop a body of work that I refer to as Membrane Art. Whatever its ultimate value, it is without doubt the key influence and structural basis of my art practice.

# Curriculum Vitae: *Malcolm Koch*

## Background

Born to deaf parents, Malcolm grew up and was educated in South Australia. He had five years of formal art training prior to entering University. He graduated from UniSA in 1989, and began work in 1990 as a sole trader in the graphic design industry. Malcolm's views of painting have led him to coining the phrase, 'Membrane Art'.

## Solo exhibitions

2017 *Quantum brushstrokes: Ed Castle Hotel*  
2016 *RiAus: FutureSpace Gallery*  
2015 *Energy Travels (Angas Travel)*  
2015 *Brick + Mortar Creative*  
2014 *Adelaide Convention Centre*  
2013 *Tidswell Wines*  
2012 *Barossa Living Gallery*  
2012 *Dare Hair (Hyde Park)*  
2011 *Clarion Hotel SOHO*  
2011 *Red Opus Art Space*

## Group exhibitions

2016 / 2014 *South Australian Museum*  
2016 / 2014 *National Archives of Australia*  
2014 *RiAus: FutureSpace Gallery*  
2013 *ERA We Live In: South Australian Councils' initiative*  
2011 *Botanic Gardens Restaurant*  
2009 *Stephen Sinclair Gallery*  
2007 *Aptos Cruz Galleries*

## Bibliography

*Barossa Living Magazine*  
Spring 2012, Free Run Press, p72-73, p84-85  
*Biological Membranes – Surface, Undulation And Interface, 2014*  
[www.ow.ly/zLZlb](http://www.ow.ly/zLZlb)  
*RiAus – Under the Surface, 2014*  
[www.ow.ly/AI7oo](http://www.ow.ly/AI7oo)  
*RiAus TV, 2016*  
[www.riaus.tv/videos/visual-entanglement](http://www.riaus.tv/videos/visual-entanglement)  
*Art The Science, 2016*  
[www.ow.ly/NeU3306Xz2r](http://www.ow.ly/NeU3306Xz2r)

## Collections

*City Square Rei, Hong Kong*  
*Private residence, Hong Kong*  
*Numerous private and corporate collections in Australia.*

## Awards/commendation

Waterhouse Natural Science Art Prize, 2016  
Finalist and Highly Commended  
Waterhouse Natural Science Art Prize, 2014  
Finalist and Highly Commended  
SALA Finalist - Emerging Artist Award, 2011

## Academic achievement

1986-89: Bachelor of Design (Visual Communication), University of South Australia.  
1981-85: The Heights School, South Australia.

## Personal data

Born: Adelaide, South Australia, 1968  
Languages: English, Sign language (Auslan)

## Skills, interest and activities

Malcolm enjoys problem solving, oil painting, designing type characters, gardening, cycling and playing team sports. He has played football (aka soccer) for over 40 years, including several years in the South Australian State league. He's an active supporter of Trees For Life and enjoys spending time with his young family.

## Referees

- *Jacqueline Mitchell*  
Art Logic  
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+61 432 924 305
- *Tony Bond*  
AP Bond Art Gallery  
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