





Sid Pattni

The Act Of Putting It Back Together

July 31 – August 30, 2025

Among the sea of faces that loomed large in this year's Archibald Prize, Sid Pattni's self-portrait stood out for what it withheld. "I leaned into the tropes of historical portraiture but stripped away my face, retaining only the eyes and garments," says the Melbourne-based Indian-Australian artist, whose void-like absence – wrapped in colonial regalia and framed by an ornate floral border with hand-beaded appliqué – makes us look instead for markers of identity in these other, culturally loaded embellishments.

Remixing elements drawn from Mughal miniature paintings, Indian textiles, British botanical drawings and Company paintings – the latter created during British rule by Indian artists for European patrons – Sid's self-portrait, his eyes without a face, asks how selfhood might be pieced together from external projections and inherited histories, weaving a complex tapestry of styles and aesthetics cut from the colonial cloth.

The Archibald painting's subtitle, *The act of putting it back together*, speaks to the larger project of Sid's art practice, which looks at how he has come to understand himself through visual languages shaped by orientalist and colonial histories.

"I'm interested in how aesthetics shaped under empire can be reclaimed and reconfigured to tell new stories about migration, memory, and identity," says the artist, who was born in London and raised in Kenya before moving to Melbourne via Perth.



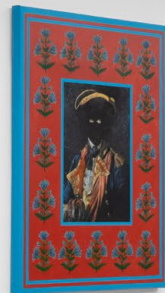
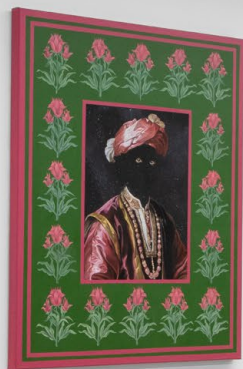


This hybrid approach is evident in Sid's 2024 work *George's Big Day Out*, which similarly invokes the compositional logic of Mughal miniatures. *George's Big Day Out* was shortlisted for the 2024 National Emerging Art Prize (NEAP), where it captured the attention of Michael Reid OAM.

"His paintings made me go wow," says Michael Reid, whose flagship Sydney gallery recently announced Sid Pattni's representation. "Yes, he can paint, but what truly elevated Pattni for me was his compelling exploration of Indian-Anglo colonisation and immigration to Australia, then and now."

"*The Act Of Putting It Back Together* at Michael Reid continues my engagement with colonial visual traditions," says Sid. "The floral borders, inspired by British botanical illustrations, are no longer literal – they're invented, composite, dreamlike. They symbolise how cultural artefacts were appropriated and recontextualised during empire, and how these reinterpretations continue to influence diasporic self-perception."

Together with his star turns in NEAP, the 2025 Archibald Prize and his first solo exhibition at Michael Reid Sydney + Berlin, Sid Pattni's new series, showing July 31 to August 30, completes a trifecta of career triumphs that have put his face squarely on the contemporary art map.





Sid Pattni

Not The Roots, But Their Shadows I, 2025

oil and acrylic on canvas

91 x 76 cm

\$6,000



Sid Pattni
A Borrowed Myth II, 2025
oil and acrylic on canvas
91 x 76 cm
\$6,000



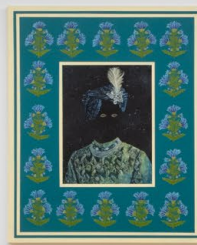
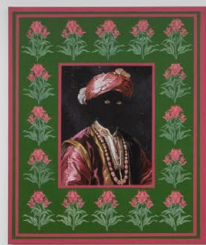
Sid Pattni

Not The Roots, But Their Shadows II, 2025

oil and acrylic on canvas

91 x 76 cm

\$6,000





Sid Pattni
A Borrowed Myth III, 2025
oil and acrylic on canvas
91 x 76 cm
\$6,000



Sid Pattni

Not The Roots, But Their Shadows III, 2025

oil and acrylic on canvas

91 x 76 cm

\$6,000



Sid Pattni
A Borrowed Myth I, 2025
oil and acrylic on canvas
91 x 76 cm
\$6,000

Sid Pattni

Exhibition History

In 2016 Sid Pattni earned a graduate Diploma in Education (Visual Arts) from the University of Western Australia. Pattni also graduated with an Advanced Diploma of Music (Contemporary) from Edith Cowen University (West Australian Academy of Performing Arts) in 2011. Sid Pattni also holds a Bachelor of Arts (Art) from Curtin University, which he earned in 2007.

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2025

The Act of Putting It Back Together, Michael Reid Sydney, NSW

A Knot in the Thread, Flinders Lane Gallery, Melbourne VIC

2023

The Story of Us, Clever Street & Co Gallery, Perth WA

2020

Urban, Raine Square, Perth WA

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2025

Archibald Prize, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney NSW

Look, Rajiv Menon Contemporary, Los Angeles, USA

India Art Fair, Mathod Gallery, New Delhi India

2025 Lester Prize, WA Museum Boola Bardip, Perth WA

2024

Emerging Exploration Exhibition, Flinders Lane Gallery, Melbourne VIC

National Emerging Art Prize, Sydney NSW

2024 Lester Prize, WA Museum Boola Bardip, Perth WA

Len Fox Painting Award, Castlemaine Art Museum, Castlemaine VIC

2023

Nadiya, Friday's Gallery, Perth WA

Facsimile, Old Habits Gallery, Perth WA

All The Rage, The Naval Store, Perth WA

Rockingham Regional Art Gallery, Rockingham WA

Arthur Guy Memorial Art Prize, Bendigo Art Gallery, Bendigo VIC

Kennedy Art Prize, RSASA Gallery, Adelaide SA

Kennedy Art Prize, RSASA Gallery, Adelaide SA

2022

Perc Tucker Regional Art Gallery, Townsville QLD

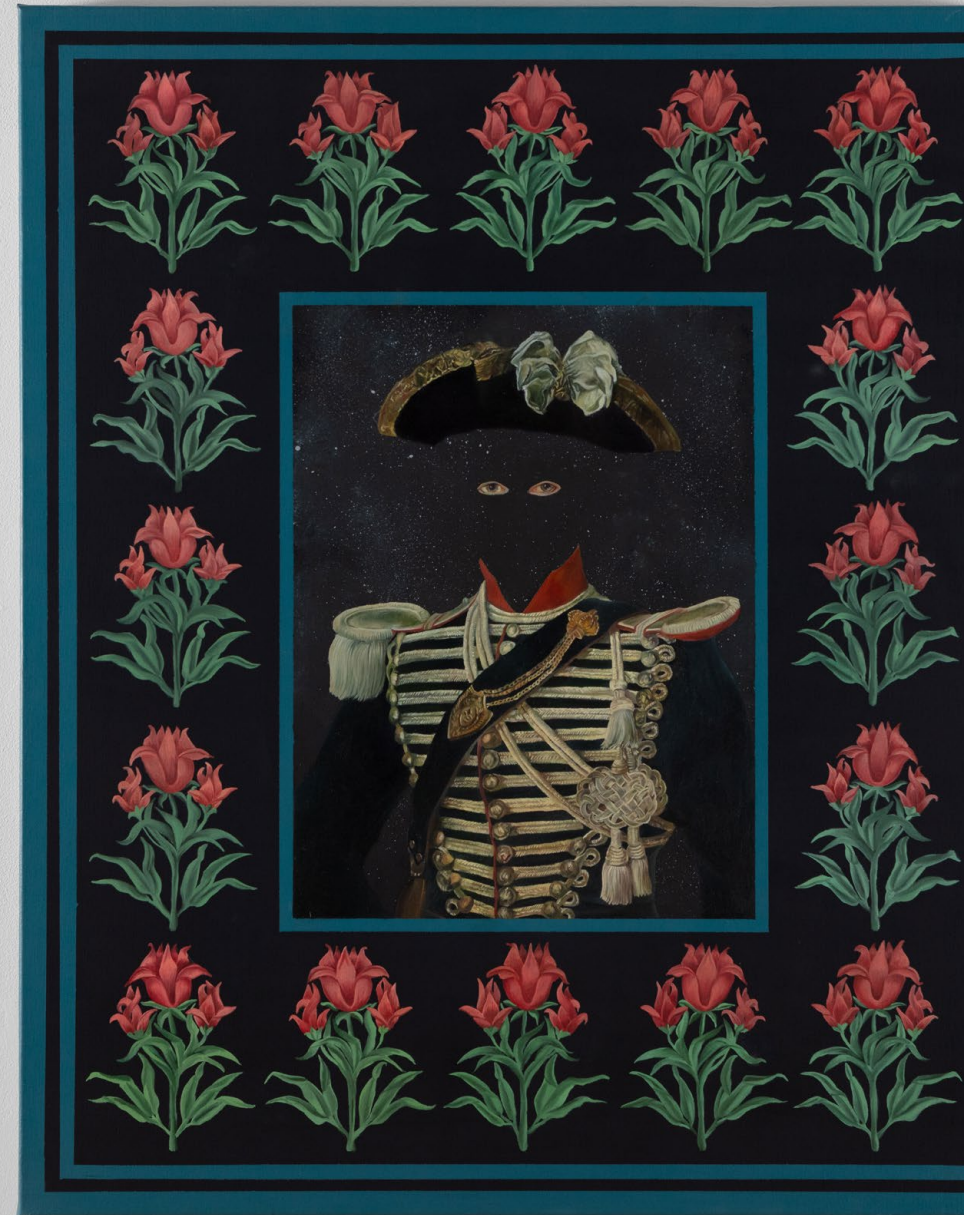
PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

Ormond College Brack Collection, VIC

Santa Maria College, WA

Royal South Australian College of Arts, SA

Keegan Joyce, NSW





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Monday - Friday 11am - 5pm
Saturday 11am - 3 pm

Michael Reid Sydney + Berlin acknowledge the Gadigal people as the traditional owners of the land on which our Eora / Sydney gallery stands. We pay our respects to Indigenous Elders past, present & emerging.