

Media Release

Date: 20 September 2013

Jason Benjamin EVERYONE IS HERE

Wagga Wagga Art Gallery is proud to present an extraordinary survey of recent works by one of Australia's most acclaimed contemporary artists, Jason Benjamin, in *Everyone is Here*. The paintings and drawings on display in this stunning touring exhibition are among the most accomplished of Jason Benjamin's career, and brought together they present the artist's re-affirmation of a landscape tradition that lies at the heart of the Australian experience.

Curated by Gavin Wilson, the 35 paintings and drawings assembled for *Everyone is Here* are a distillation of deep-felt encounters around particular landscape sites, where the artist has concentrated his energies and talent on shaping a pared-back vision of light and space.

As Edmund Capon notes in the catalogue of *Everyone is Here*, 'For all the attention and detail in these paintings the one outstanding condition they evoke is scale; those horizons seem to herald an infinity of time and space. This is nature revealed to us with a daunting authority and an almost nostalgic timelessness'.

The series had its origins on the austere expanse of the Hay Plain and the Monaro regions of New South Wales. Lengthy field trips to these sites, beginning in 2008, toughened Jason Benjamin both physically and mentally. He may not have known it at the time, but the artist was about to embark on some of the most difficult and rewarding work of his career.

The intense sense of being alone with the earth and the heavens in that austere environment sparked a sustained poetic reverie, producing a sequence of drawings and paintings that embody the scope and urgency of Benjamin's vision: a vision that exists in the reality that surrounded him. As the artist himself puts it, 'the poetry and beauty are there if you choose to see it'.

Jason Benjamin: Everyone is Here is open to the public at Wagga Wagga Art Gallery from Saturday 21 September until Sunday 24 November, 2013. The exhibition will be officially launched on Friday 27 September, from 6pm until 8pm.

Jason Benjamin is represented by Michael Reid at Elizabeth Bay, Sydney.

Exhibition Dates

When: Saturday 21 September – Sunday 24 November, 2013

Where: Wagga Wagga Art Gallery

Exhibition Launch

When: Friday 27 September, 2013, 6:00pm – 8:00pm

Where: Wagga Wagga Art Gallery

Cost: Free

Lunchtime Lecture by Jason Benjamin

When: Friday 27 September, 2013, 12noon – 1:00pm

Where: Wagga Wagga Art Gallery

Cost: Free