

NOEL McKENNA
Memory

29 August - 26 September 2026

**DARREN
KNIGHT
GALLERY**



Noel McKenna, Cooper Park, Sydney 2026



Memory 2026, oil on canvas, 20 x 29.5 cm, \$8,500.00



I was used to seeing her

Some paintings grow out of putting the first thing on the canvas. When I was a child I dreamed of having a rocking horse. Here I painted the rocking horse, then constructed a room around it, window, doorway, light, until the composition felt right. The white cat with the frightened look was added last and is possibly the white cat I had as a pet when very young.

I was used to seeing her 2026, oil on canvas, 23.6 x 32.6 cm, \$9,500.00



Blind luck 2026, oil on canvas, 29.5 x 29.5 cm, \$10,000.00



A prayer

The owl is an animal I have painted numerous times, in flight or just perched in a tree. I have not seen too many in the wild and the times that I have remain in my memory as they have a presence about them that is hard to forget.

I was at a talk about the role of mythology in the social life of Aboriginal Australians, where Rover Thomas mentioned that in his clan, if an owl was seen, then a member of the clan would die soon, if not the next day.

A prayer 2026, oil on canvas, 25.8 x 36.5 cm, \$9,500.00

SOLD



That winter 2026, oil on canvas, 24 x 32.6 cm, \$9,500.00



Mid morning 2025, oil on canvas, 30 x 40 cm, \$11,000.00
SOLD



Ludwig 2026, oil on canvas, 20 x 30 cm, \$8,500.00

SOLD



Known and Unknown 2026, oil on plywood, 40 x 40 cm, \$12,500.00
SOLD



Ice Cold

This painting began with an instagram post by Tim Gerrard who puts up interesting photos, mostly of his day-to-day life, quiet observations.

The post was of a house in Dunedin, in profile with buildings and trees on the right. The house is much the same as in his post with a little editing of some features. I tidied a few things to the right, animals and a tree, but finished by putting in a figure glancing to the left which worked well.

Ice cold 2026, oil on canvas, 40.5 x 40.5 cm, \$12,500.00



I do not want to leave you

I came across a 1960s photo of Françoise Sagan seated in a chair smoking, dressed in a skirt with her legs crossed. Her pose I found very interesting.

In this painting I added sunglasses and put different objects on the table. There are large and small versions of this painting. One has a baby on floor behind the seated figure while the larger one has a black cat. The baby and cat were first put there to give some depth to image, though each prompt quite different interpretations.

When I was staying with my granddaughter Molly in Melbourne, she was often sitting on the floor observing her surroundings. I took many photographs of her in that position. The world looks different from closer to the ground. Both paintings have an interesting right to left, front to behind movement in the composition which I enjoy. Different shapes and negative space between figures are things I try to make interesting in my work.



I do not want to leave you (3) 2026, oil on canvas, 100 x 100 cm, \$25,000.00



A Secret Unknown

I paint horses and cats a lot. I am drawn to them as animals although they are quite different, the cat known for its independence and mystery, and horses for their strength, energy and speed. Both are highly alert to their surroundings and respond to people who are calm and confident. In the stable environment they mix well together, their size difference meaning neither is fighting for dominance. I have seen cats meander gracefully between a horse's hooves with no threat of being harmed.

A Secret Unknown 2026, oil on canvas, 30.5 x 40.5 cm, \$11,000.00
SOLD



Cosmeticoresia

The title is the name medical professionals have given to the development of an unhealthy obsession with skin care routines in preadolescents and teens. Face masks, serums, even anti-ageing creams are marketed with the help of very young micro-influencers. Some young people have become unable to accept even very small flaws or defects in their image, not wanting to go out with friends because their skin is not perfect.

Cosmeticoresia 2026, oil on canvas, 40 x 40 cm, \$12,500.00



Taxi driver Hong Kong

Taxi Drivers are prohibited from smoking in their taxis but I see quite a few with a hand outside the car window holding a cigarette. I have been going to Hong Kong for many years, often when Art Basel is on, but prior to that I had friends living there so I used to visit a bit. It is a great city to be in. The energy on the street is hectic in some areas but overall it is just an enjoyable place to be with people going about their lives. I always feel safe there. Hong Kong is consistently ranked one of the safest cities in the world to walk around at night.

Taxi Driver, Hong Kong 2026, oil on plywood 40 x 40 cm, \$12,500.00
SOLD



First Date

For a lot of people the smart phone is as important as oxygen, they are online or waiting for notifications twenty-four hours a day. The brain associates the ping of a cell phone with the threat of a predator.

Seeing very young children holding and looking intently at iPads it is not difficult to imagine addiction to the screen developing.

The couple in my two paintings are looking at screen images of each other rather than themselves.

First Date (b) 2026, oil on canvas, 30.5 x 40.5 cm, \$11,000.00

SOLD



First Date (a) 2026, oil on canvas, 100 x 100 cm, \$25,000.00



Leaving the Valley 2026, oil on canvas, 30.5 x 40.5 cm, \$11,000.00



I trust you 2026, oil on plywood, 23.5 x 23 cm, \$5,000.00

SOLD



edge of the world

A routine and familiar thing to do, a tea bag moved up and down in a cup of hot water. I still prefer a pot of tea with tea leaves, but the tea bag with its shape and the delicate string attached makes for quite an elegant action.

edge of the world 2026, oil on plywood, 11.1 x 8.4 cm, \$2,000.00

SOLD



Dreams to catch

This painting echoes de Chirico, the vanishing perspective on a chartreuse ground with a mouse that may have come from the moon.

I added the initials J C after looking at the image for a few days. It made me think of Joseph Cornell, a New York artist (1903-1972) who juxtaposed ordinary objects to become other worldly, magical things. His art has a mystical and disquieting presence. He was haunted by dreams and visions. He made his constructions in the basement of a humble white frame house in Utopia Parkway, Queens, New York.

dreams to catch 2026, oil on plywood, 40 x 40 cm, \$12,500.00



Anna Wintour

Conte Nast, the publisher of *Vogue*, *The New Yorker* and many other magazines, dominated the pre-internet era with culture-defining material that turned editor, Anna Wintour, into a celebrity. This painting is from the period when money was flowing and expenses were left unchecked by the owners, the billionaire Newhouse family. Anna would arrive at work where seven assistants were waiting for her with coffees of varying degrees of temperature.

Anna Wintour 2026, oil on canvas, 70 x 90 cm, \$22,000.00



I hold the sun 2026, oil on plywood, 11 x 13.7 cm, \$2,000.00



Ice cold 2026, glazed ceramic, 12 x 14.6 cm, \$1,300.00
RESERVED



Hong Kong taxi 2026, glazed ceramic, 10 x 13.5 cm, \$1,300.00

SOLD



Farm 2026, glazed ceramic, 8.9 x 11.3 cm, \$1,200.00

SOLD



Renovated 2026, glazed ceramic, 10 x 12.3 cm, \$1,200.00
SOLD



Ludwig 2026, glazed ceramic, 12 x 13.5 cm, \$1,300.00 -
SOLD



He looks 2026, glazed ceramic, 10.3 x 12.9 cm, \$1,300.00

SOLD



Have observed 2026, glazed ceramic, 9.2 x 12.8 cm, \$1,200.00

SOLD



Fall 2026, glazed ceramic, 9.2 x 11.5 cm, \$1,200.00



Forest 2026, glazed ceramic, 12.5 x 16 cm, \$1,300.00

SOLD



Untitled 2026, glazed ceramic, 13 x 12.8 cm, \$1,300.00



I was used to seeing her 2026, glazed ceramic, 12.2 x 14.3 cm, \$1,300.00 -
SOLD



Hand written note 2026, glazed ceramic, 12.6 x 13.3 cm, \$1,300.00
SOLD



Dreams to catch 2026, glazed ceramic with kintsugi, 11.5 x 14.5 cm, \$1,300.00



He cannot pay attention (mouse on moon) 2023, glazed
ceramic vase, 14 cm high, \$1,600.00



Icy cold decision 2026, glazed ceramic with kintsugi, 12 x 14.7 cm, \$1,300.00

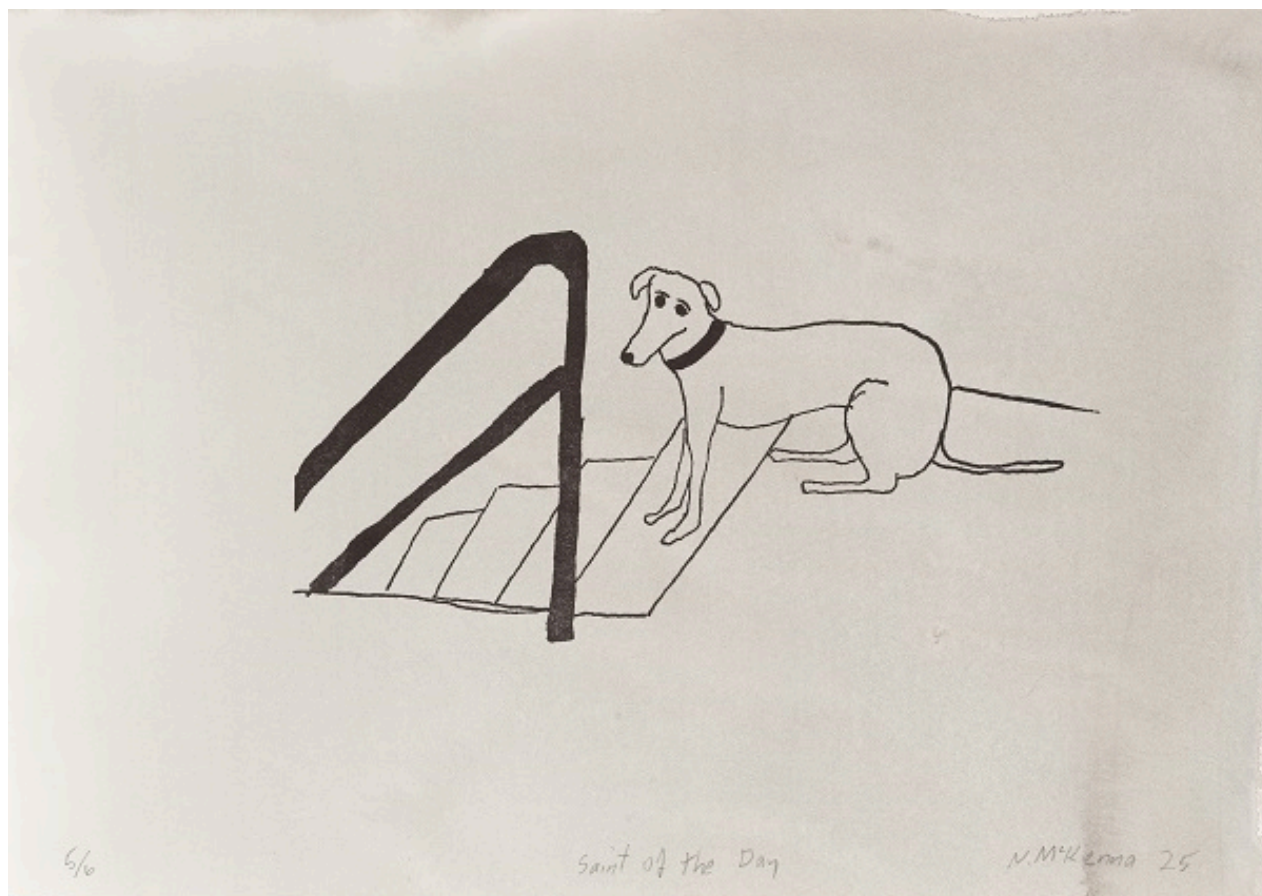
SOLD



2 chairs 2020 and 2018, glazed ceramic, 12 cm and 7 cm high, \$1,800.00



Vessel with lid 2007, glazed ceramic
21 cm high, \$2,200.00



Saint of the day 2025, polymer print, Ed.6, 21 x 29.6 cm, \$990.00 (framed)



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