

TONEE MESSIAH A NEW FAMINE



30 AUG – 23 SEPT 2017

GALLERY 9

TONEE MESSIAH A NEW FAMINE

A New Famine is an exploration into the ways individualised knowledge is acquired and developed in the digital age. The culmination of a Masters research project into intuition and its function in the creative process, this body of work extends the exploration into the role intuition plays in the contemporary lived experience.

‘The processes we utilise to attain intellectual currency have been dragged into the pursuit of self-discovery. In order to know oneself, a large net is cast to gather fragments of identifying data from our digital existence. An externalised digital search for information about what we like, who our friends are and accordingly, what our beliefs should be. These facts are combined to loosely formulate a concept of self. Knowledge is now a currency that is earned not from personal experience or reflection but from an ability to grasp technological interfaces and collect substantiated data.’

‘As technology pervades the everyday workings of our lives, self-reliance and autonomous thought are becoming corrupted and mistrusted. We outsource our decisions on what to eat, when to sleep, who to love, what to like and what to think. *A New Famine* visualises a reality in limbo between who we are and how we have come to resolve this. It reflects on the state of a society that has been trained to favour connectedness over autonomy and mistrust intuitive knowing for obtained information.’
– Tonee Messiah

TONEE MESSIAH (b. 1983) graduated from Sydney College of the Arts with Honours in 2004. Messiah is represented in the collections of Artbank, Monash University Museum of Art, Allens Linklaters, Barker College and Campbelltown Hospital. *A New Famine* is her ninth solo exhibition at Gallery 9.

30 AUG – 23 SEPT 2017
GALLERY 9

TONEE MESSIAH A NEW FAMINE

Terrarium Ecology 2017
mixed media on cotton rag paper
76 × 56 cm
\$2,500 (framed)





Terrarium Ecology (detail) 2017
mixed media on cotton rag paper
76 × 56 cm
\$2,500 (framed)

TONEE MESSIAH
A NEW FAMINE

Slow Steady 2017
mixed media on cotton rag paper
76 × 56 cm
\$2,500 (framed)
SOLD



TONEE MESSIAH
A NEW FAMINE

Wrath Of The Excluded 2017
mixed media on cotton rag paper
76 x 56 cm
\$2,500 (framed)
SOLD



TONEE MESSIAH
A NEW FAMINE

Hieronymus For The Modern 2017
mixed media on cotton rag paper
76 × 56 cm
\$2,500 (framed)



TONEE MESSIAH
A NEW FAMINE

Retreat 2017
oil on linen
106 x 122 cm
\$3,800
SOLD



TONEE MESSIAH
A NEW FAMINE

Data Compatibility 2017
oil on canvas
122 x 101 cm
\$3,800
SOLD





Data Compatibility (detail) 2017
oil on canvas
122 x 101 cm
\$3,800
SOLD

TONEE MESSIAH
A NEW FAMINE

Fascist Transparency 2017
oil on linen
122 x 106 cm
\$3,800



TONEE MESSIAH
A NEW FAMINE

Misunderstanding of A Dangerous Liaison 2017
oil on linen
112 x 122 cm
\$4,000
SOLD





Misunderstanding of A Dangerous Liaison (detail) 2017

oil on linen

112 x 122 cm

\$4,000

SOLD

TONEE MESSIAH
A NEW FAMINE

Shifting Posts of Satisfaction 2017
oil on linen
112 x 122 cm
\$4,000





Shifting Posts of Satisfaction (detail) 2017
oil on linen
112 x 122 cm
\$4,000

TONEE MESSIAH
A NEW FAMINE

Self Fulfilling Feedback 2017
oil on canvas
76 x 71 cm
\$3,000
SOLD



TONEE MESSIAH
A NEW FAMINE

Beyond Ease and Accessibility 2017
oil on linen
76 × 71 cm
\$3,000



TONEE MESSIAH
A NEW FAMINE

Uninvested Record of Experience 2017
oil on linen
92 × 76 cm
\$3,400



TONEE MESSIAH
A NEW FAMINE

Digital Pool 2017
oil on canvas
76 × 71 cm
\$3,000
SOLD



TONEE MESSIAH
A NEW FAMINE

Capacity For Solitude 2017
oil on canvas
76 × 71 cm
\$3,000



TONEE MESSIAH
A NEW FAMINE

Evading Hardship 2017
oil on canvas
76 x 71 cm
\$3,000

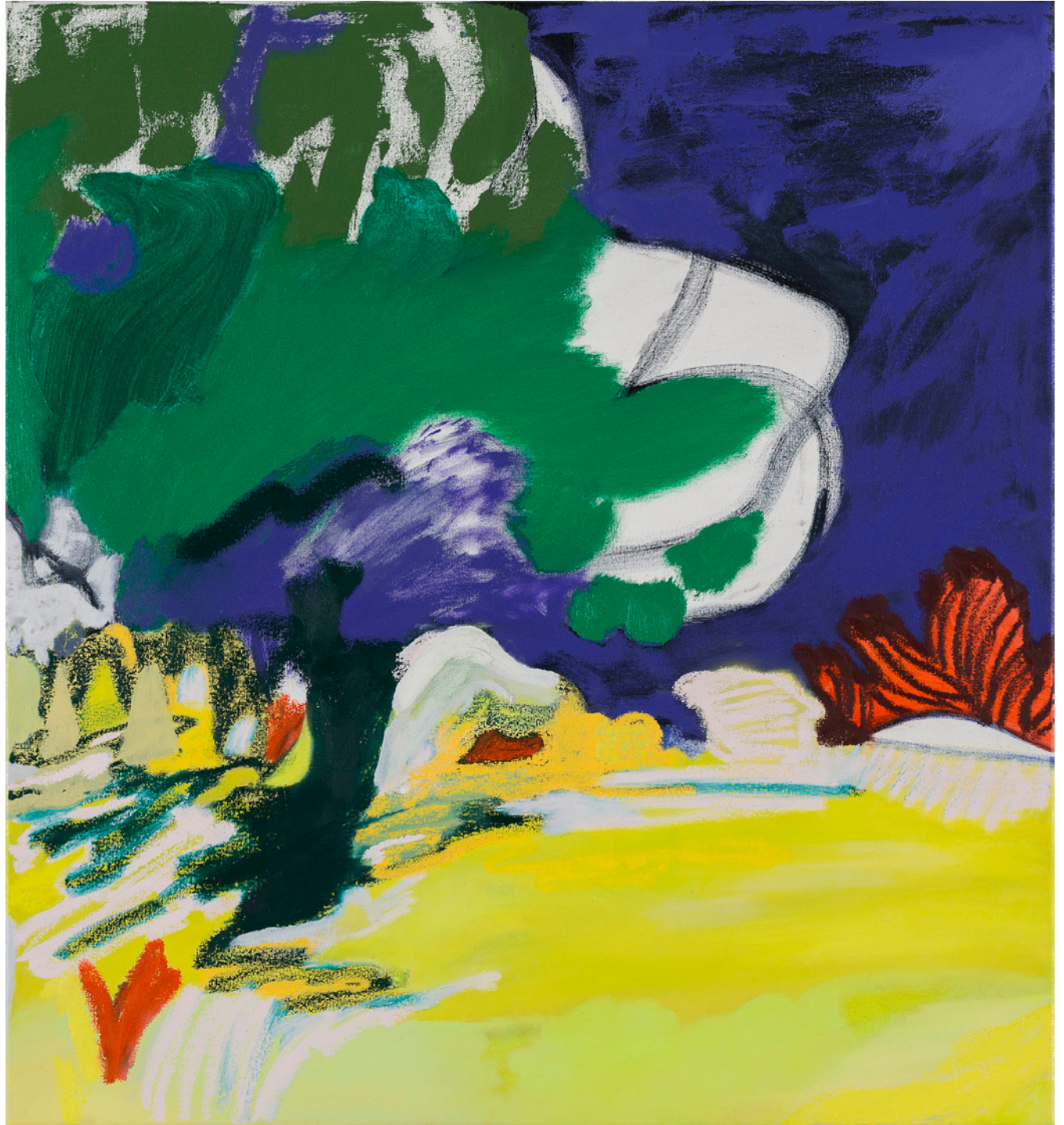




Evading Hardship (detail) 2017
oil on canvas
76 × 71 cm
\$3,000

TONEE MESSIAH
A NEW FAMINE

Outsourcing A Way to See 2017
oil on canvas
76 x 71 cm
\$3,000



**TONEE MESSIAH
A NEW FAMINE**



**TONEE MESSIAH
A NEW FAMINE**



**TONEE MESSIAH
A NEW FAMINE**



ARTISTS
WHAT NOW

WHAT NOW?

Our writers talk to three artists who collectors should know about.

TONEE MESSIAH

Putting aside the fact that **Tonee Messiah** has arguably the best name in the art world, it is her work that warrants the real attention. Messiah is a painter who reminds me why I like painting: lyrical, personal and universal all at once it is most importantly imbued with authenticity. I am quite sure that with Messiah's work what you see is what you get. But it's the tension in her work between figuration and abstraction, in paintings on paper and canvas, that gives her work its extra frisson. The paintings, either on paper or canvas, virtually hum with an energy that embodies perhaps the spirit of her peripatetic childhood split between Australia and Israel, where she was born and lived on a kibbutz. Hers may be the quintessential Australian story yet the work has an unfettered spirit. It describes less a concept of place, or lack of but rather a psychology, the artist's own. She makes work about things, emotions, a feeling, as opposed to painting about painting, saying, "I am fascinated by the intricacies of human behaviour and often find myself observing situations that are first-hand in a removed observational way. This is how I incorporate autobiographical content into my work, it is used as analogy for broader topics. I have always felt that the relationship between me and a viewer needs to be generous."

That generosity is indeed palpable, and what makes the work so appealing. In terms of her chosen medium, Messiah says "I am not wed to painting as a medium but we have a really good time together. I used to paint exclusively in acrylics which was clean and quick but colour

always seemed to fall short, the change in colour between wet and dry paint was heart-breaking. I eventually started using oils which took quite some time to adapt to, but the luminosity and power that came through in the surface texture and colour was intoxicating." She adds poetically, "I rely on intuitive responses in my work a lot and paint offers the shortest distance from thought to action, gesture is imaged immediately but is never fixed. A painting can be perfect one day and the next it's all wrong, addressing this is part of painting's frustration, but also what pushes me to not settle for what's merely acceptable."

A graduate of the Sydney College of the Arts, University of Sydney with Honours in 2004 Messiah is currently completing a Masters in Fine Arts. She has been exhibiting with Gallery 9, where her August solo exhibition is scheduled for, since 2006, where she caught the eye of now expatriate art critic **Sebastian Smea**, who named her "one of Sydney's most interesting young artists," in 2012. Messiah says, "The exhibition will be the manifestation of my research for the MFA. I am researching intuitive perceptions in abstract painting, which has been a method in my practice since day dot. The work swings from quite formalist abstraction into figurative abstraction as it explores the variations of intuitive response between the immediacy of drawing and the staged nature of painting."

Alison Kubler

A SOLO EXHIBITION OF TONEE MESSIAH'S WORK WILL BE PRESENTED GALLERY 9, SYDNEY FROM 30 AUGUST - 23 SEPTEMBER, 2017.

1. // Tonee Messiah, *Terrarium Ecology*, 2017. Mixed media on cotton rag, 76 x 56cm.
2. // Tonee Messiah, *Hieronymus For the Modern*, 2017. Mixed media on cotton rag, 76 x 56cm.
3. // Tonee Messiah, *Wrath Of The Excluded*, 2017. Mixed media on cotton rag, 76 x 56cm.



TONEE MESSIAH

CV

Born in Israel, 1983
Lives and works in Sydney

2004 Bachelor of Visual Arts (Hons.), Sydney College of the Arts, University of Sydney

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2017 *A New Famine*, Gallery 9, Sydney
2016 *Over Considered*, Gallery 9, Sydney
2015 *Bad Seed*, Gallery 9, Sydney
2014 *Sorrow's Breakfast*, Gallery 9, Sydney
2012 *All The Things I Now Only Just Understand*, Gallery 9
2010 *Simply Couldn't, Absolutely Must*, Gallery 9, Sydney
2009 *Society of Island Universes*, Gallery 9, Sydney
2008 *You and Yours*, Gallery 9, Sydney
2007 *Matey, Fitzroy & Alfred*, Gallery 9, Sydney
2006 *Chronicles Of Nelson*, Helen Gory Gallery, Melbourne
2004 *I Picked Cotton*, First Draft Gallery, Sydney

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2016 Gallery 9 at Spring 1883, Windsor Hotel, Melbourne
9 almost 10, Gallery 9, Sydney
2015 *Gallery 9 Group Show*, Gallery 9, Sydney
2014 Gallery 9 at the Melbourne Art Fair
2013 *Contemporary Painting*, Gallery 9 at fortyfive downstairs, Melbourne
2012 *Gallery 9 Group Show*, Gallery 9, Sydney
2010 RBS Emerging Artist Award, RBS Tower, Aurora Place, Sydney
2010 Gallery 9 at the Melbourne Art Fair
2006 *Creative Madness*, Orson & Blake, Sydney
2006 *Oz – Six Pack*, Curated by Peter Fay, Stark White Gallery, Auckland
2006 *Overt Compensation Reloaded*, The Depot Gallery, Danks Street Depot, Sydney
2005 AMP Capital Investors Art and Sculpture Expo, AMP Centre, Sydney
2005 Open Gallery, Art & About Festival, banners exhibited along streets of Sydney
2005 *A Short Survey On Making Pictures*, Phatspace Gallery, Sydney
2005 *The Thin Lead Line*, Phatspace Gallery, Sydney
2005 *Overt Compensation*, The Depot Gallery, Danks Street Depot, Sydney
2004 *Degree Show*, Sydney College of the Arts, Sydney
2004 *What The World Needs Now III*, Anniversary Show, Phatspace Gallery, Sydney
2004 *Counter Art*, Affordable Art Show, Sydney
2004 *Fingerprints*, Sydney Writers Festival, Bangarra Dance Theatre

2003 *Degree Show*, Sydney College of the Arts, Sydney
2003 *Knot: An Exhibition*, Australian Council for the Arts, Sydney
2003 *Girls Night Out*, Newspace Gallery, Sydney
2002 *In-Habit-Ants*, Knot Gallery, Sydney
2001 *Sophomore*, Newspace Gallery, Sydney

PRIZES & RESIDENCIES

2017 Finalist, Hazelhurst Art on Paper Award, Hazelhurst Regional Gallery, Sydney
2016 Finalist, Paddington Art Prize, Sydney
2015 Finalist, Paddington Art Prize, Sydney
Finalist, Hazelhurst Art on Paper Award, Hazelhurst Regional Gallery, Sydney
2013 A.R.P Artist Residency, Darlinghurst, Sydney
2006 ABN Amro Emerging Artist Award, ABN Amro building, Sydney
2005 Zelda Stedman Young Artist Scholarship
William Fletcher Trust Artist Grant
2004 NAVA Visual and Craft Artist Grant
2003 Sir William Dobell Arts Foundation Scholarship

PUBLICATIONS

2017 'What Now', *Art Collector*, Issue 81
2013 'Platform', *Art And*, Issue 51.1
2013 'Editor's Choice', *Australian Art Review*, Issue 36
2012 Interview, NAVA artscareer.com.au
2012 'Open Gallery', *Sydney Morning Herald*, 29 Sept 2012
2012 'Where to Buy', *The Week*, 28 Sept 2012, p 23
2012 Exhibition review in *The Art Life*, 21 Sept 2012
2007 Artist profile in *The Weekend Australian*, 15 Dec 2007
2006 Artist profile in *Art and Australia*, Winter Issue
2005 Artist profile in *Sydney Central Courier*, Vol.1, Issue 34
Exhibition review, Spectrum, *The Sydney Morning Herald*, 1 Oct 2005
2004 Artist profile and interview, *Empty Magazine*, Issue 2
2003 Artist profile in *Lilacmenace Magazine*, Issue 4
2001 Exhibition review, *The Sun Herald*, 26 May 2001

COLLECTIONS

Artbank
Monash University Museum of Art, Melbourne
Barker College, Sydney
Campbelltown Hospital, Sydney
Allens Linklaters
Private collections in Australia and New Zealand

GALLERY 9
9 Darley Street
Darlinghurst NSW 2010
Sydney +61 2 9380 9909
info@gallery9.com.au
gallery9.com.au