

## Media release

Kate Smith  
*Deep Privacy II*

## Date

22 January – 25 February, 2025

Sutton Gallery is pleased to present *Deep Privacy II*, Kate Smith's eighth solo exhibition with Sutton Gallery. For the exhibition, the Wagga Wagga-based artist has produced two new painting suites informed by fifteen years of idiomatic visual practice. Ornate flourishes intermingle with brusque abstract gestures as Smith uses a range of pictorial framing and compositional devices to complicate the singularity of a given painting. Gestures, symbols, marks and erasures attenuate the supremacy of one another in Smith's playful orbit; impulsive renderings of plinths, sunglasses, bananas and flowers underscore a whimsical vernacular that undermines the sincerity, gravitas and anodyne commercialism of Modernist painting.

Foregrounding Smith's new work is a salon presentation of sixteen historical paintings, assemblages and collages, each relating to the defining currents and through-lines from throughout the artist's career. Collectively, these artworks explore the modes of production and techniques which characterise aspects of Smith's painting, such as paint application, subject matter, and colour palette. *Deep Privacy II* bridges the earlier *Deep Privacy/Convex* (Sutton Gallery, 2012) to denote Smith's thoroughness and intention, all the while embracing the inexorable web of her distinctly iconoclastic approach.

Trevelyan Clay is represented by Neon Parc, Melbourne.

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## Biography

Kate Smith's paintings lay bare the conventions of the medium and attend to its limitations. Wry, witty yet critically perceptive, her works are active sites of negotiation in which opposing elements defiantly co-exist. Confident brushstrokes collide with hesitant gestures to fluidly recall references from popular culture, art history, and personal anecdotes, each with latent resonance in both artwork and title. Liberally punctuated with an idiosyncratic array of motifs stretching from the banal to the absurd, Smith's practice liberates subjects from their established meaning and embraces the freedom of plenitude.

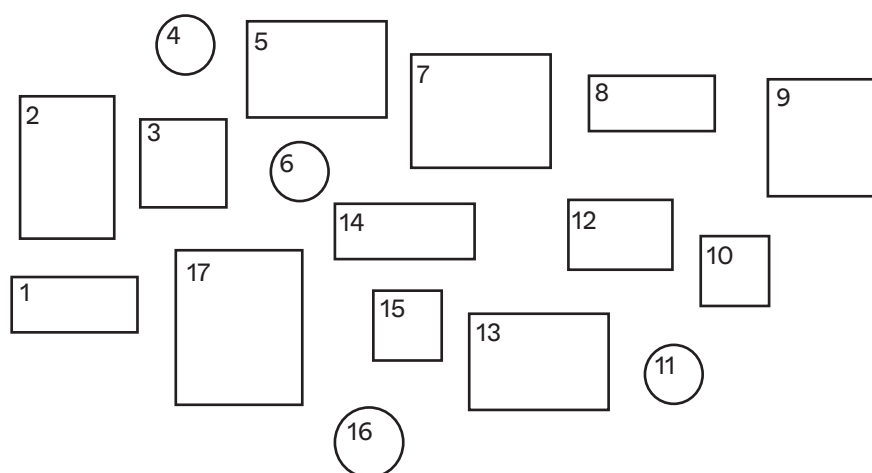
Kate Smith (b. 1980, Cootamundra, NSW) lives and works in Wagga Wagga, NSW. Since her graduation from the Australian National University School of Art, Canberra in 2005, Smith's work has been exhibited frequently across galleries, institutions and artist-run spaces throughout Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand.

Smith has participated in several important surveys of contemporary art in Australia within institutions such as the National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne; Australian Centre for Contemporary Art, Melbourne; Heide Museum of Modern Art, Melbourne and Murray Art Museum Albury, Albury. She has been the recipient of awarded residencies within institutions including Artspace, Sydney; Gertrude Contemporary, Melbourne and Canberra Contemporary. Examples of her work are included in significant public and private collections across Australia.

Exhibition checklist

Kate Smith  
*Deep Privacy II*  
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Small gallery (salon hang, clockwise)



1. *Smeary*, 2012  
Oil and acrylic on canvas board  
20 x 40cm

2. *Little Christmas*, 2022  
Oil on canvas  
41.5 x 29cm

3. *Tissue Box*, 2011  
Oil and acrylic on linen board  
30 x 30cm

4. *Untitled III*, 2009  
Oil, acrylic and permanent marker on linen  
20cm Ø

5. *Form is temporary, class is permanent 9*, 2020  
Oil and acrylic on canvas  
29 x 41.5cm

6. *Untitled I*, 2009  
Oil, permanent marker and synthetic pom-pom on plywood  
20cm Ø

7. *Untitled*, 2010  
Acrylic and sponge on canvas  
40 x 45cm

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Small gallery (continued)

8. *Stinky Demons* (with Trevelyan Clay), 2013  
Oil and acrylic on canvas board  
20 x 40cm

9. *Yokes and Yokes*, 2013  
Acrylic on canvas board (two panels)  
40 x 40cm (total)

10. *Sheep Yards*, 2011  
Acrylic and paper on canvas  
23 x 25cm

11. *Untitled II*, 2009  
Oil, acrylic and permanent marker on linen  
20cm diameter

12. *Burnt Pizza*, 2022  
Acrylic file tray, burnt pizza, oyster shell, wood, marker,  
Styrofoam star, waffle cones, glue, acrylic paint  
25.5 x 32 x 8cm

13. *Form is temporary, class is permanent 11*, 2020  
Oil and acrylic on canvas  
29 x 41.5cm

14. *Deep Privacy*, 2012  
Oil and acrylic on canvas board  
20 x 40cm

15. *Don't ride your horse*, 2009  
Oil and acrylic on canvas board  
20 x 20cm

16. *Stoopid boogie futcha II*, 2009  
Oil, acrylic, marker and plywood on canvas  
25cm diameter

17. *Tom Roberts Tambourine*, 2020  
Oil and acrylic on canvas wedge  
55 x 35cm

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Large Gallery

*Deep Privacy II (Plinth), 2025*  
Oil, acrylic and permanent marker on canvas  
29 x 41.5cm

*Deep Privacy II (Mermaid), 2025*  
Oil and acrylic on canvas  
29 x 41.5cm

*Deep Privacy II (Interior), 2025*  
Oil, acrylic and permanent marker on canvas  
29 x 41.5cm

*Deep Privacy II (Flower Foot), 2025*  
Oil, acrylic and permanent marker on canvas  
29 x 41.5cm

*Deep Privacy II (Fountain), 2025*  
Oil, acrylic and permanent marker on canvas  
29 x 41.5cm

*Deep Privacy II (Daisy Chain), 2025*  
Oil, acrylic and permanent marker on canvas  
29 x 41.5cm

*Deep Privacy II (Summer), 2025*  
Oil, acrylic and permanent marker on canvas  
29 x 41.5cm

*Looky Look 4, 2025*  
Oil, acrylic and ballpoint pen on canvas board  
35.6 x 45.7cm

*Looky Look 2, 2025*  
Oil, acrylic and ballpoint pen on canvas board  
35.6 x 45.7cm

*Looky Look 1, 2025*  
Oil, acrylic and ballpoint pen on canvas board  
35.6 x 45.7cm

*Looky Look 5, 2025*  
Oil, acrylic and ballpoint pen on canvas board  
35.6 x 45.7cm

*Looky Look 3, 2025*  
Oil, acrylic and ballpoint pen on canvas board  
35.6 x 45.7cm