

Keys to the collection— Faces

Juan Ford

“...the work does not merely use the photograph: it travels beyond it, and back to a painting...”

—Juan Ford, 2004.

1973 Juan Ford born in Melbourne.

1998 He completed a Bachelor of Fine Art (Painting) RMIT University, Melbourne.

2001 Master of Arts (Fine Art) by research, RMIT.

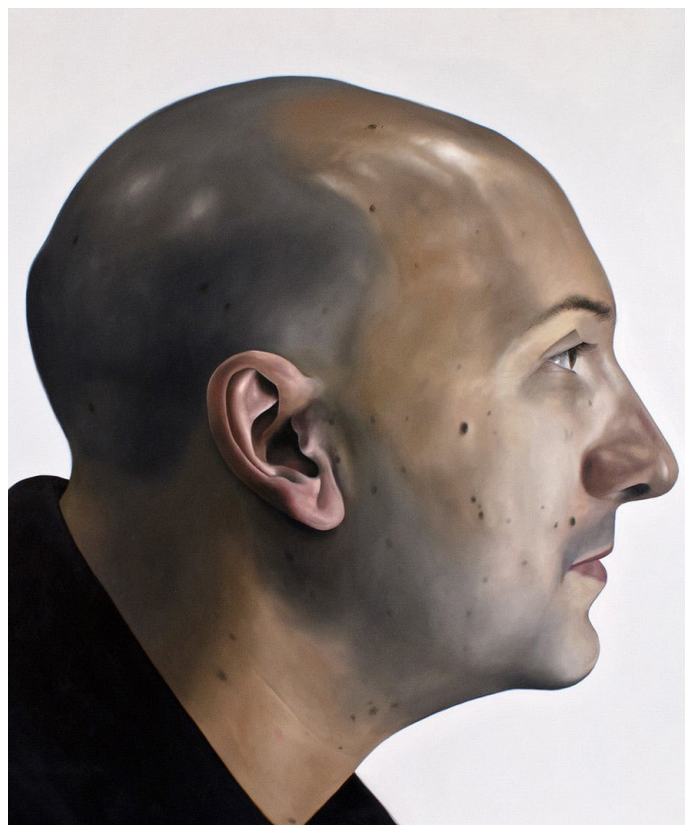
2006–2007 He was a lecturer at the Victorian College of the Arts, University of Melbourne.

1996–2013 He received numerous awards and prizes, held solo and group exhibitions, received portrait commissions, and represented in numerous public collections.

2004 Winner of the Fletcher Jones contemporary art prize, Geelong Gallery.

2014 Finalist in the Archibald Portrait Prize, Art Gallery of New South Wales.

2015 Juan continues to exhibit both in Australia and internationally, exhibiting at the National Portrait Gallery (Canberra), and Galerie du Monde at Art Stage (Singapore).



Painting, phrenology (Abstraction)—

This painting tells us very little about the sitter, Lane Cormick, who is a fellow artist. The expression is deliberately disengaging, as when we are talking to someone and they turn away from us, it is hard for us to work out if they are closely attending to what we are saying. This is a clever way to visually represent the title of the artwork: *Painting, phrenology (abstraction)*. Phrenology is a pseudo-science: a belief, popular in the 19th century but now discredited. This painting is about lost meaning. The original photograph of Lane Cormick is lost by transferring it to a canvas and then it is remade in the painting. The realistic painting style is almost like a photograph. This painting is also about our heads being the vessels that carry our stories.

What do these words mean:

Phrenology—

is the study of the structure of the head to determine a person's character and mental capacity.

Pseudo-science—

includes beliefs, theories, or practices that have been or are considered scientific, but have no basis in scientific fact to support the information.

**Geelong
Gallery**

Victorian Curriculum level 2 to 6
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Juan Ford
Painting, phrenology
(Abstraction) (detail) 2004
oil on canvas
Collection: Geelong Gallery
Fletcher Jones Contemporary
Art Prize, 2004

G E E L O N G
E E L O N G
E E L O N G
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N G A L L E R Y
G A L L E R Y



Juan Ford

Australian, born 1973

*Painting, phrenology
(Abstraction) 2004*

oil on canvas

183.0 x 198.0 cm

Collection: Geelong Gallery
Fletcher Jones Contemporary
Art Prize, 2004

Questions

What does the word 'abstraction' mean?
Does this painting look real or abstract?
Why do you think the artist used this word
in the title?

Research

Access the internet to research this painting. Find out the process Ford has used to create this work and write it down, to enable you to develop knowledge and understanding of artistic process.

Activity

Use your 'thinking eyes' to decide what emotions are beyond the face that you first see. Look for the symbols that tell you more, for example the colours, highlights, shadows, background and Cormick's expression. Draw a picture of yourself adding elements like these to tell a story of what is beyond the face that people see and how you are feeling. Think about whether to use a profile or full frontal portrait. If you complete this task to the format of 42 x 42cm, you can enter it into the Gallery's *Who's who portrait prize*. For further details about this significant annual student exhibition, visit:

geelonggallery.org.au