

KINGS Artist Run acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people of the Kulin Nation as the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we operate. We offer our respect to Elders both past and present and extend this offer to all First Nations people.

KINGS

*Amy May Stuart
Mari Matsumoto*

MATSUMOTO

SEPTEMBER

14.09.23–7.10.23

Artist Run

Established in 2003, KINGS Artist-Run provides a location for contemporary art practice, supporting distinctive experimental projects by artists at all stages of their careers.

Open 12-5pm Thursday,
Friday, Saturday
69 Capel Street,
West Melbourne VIC 3003

GALLERY TWO

Amy May Stuart and Mari Matsumoto

MATSUMOTO

MATSUMOTO is an exhibition of recently uncovered paintings by the art forger Mari Matsumoto, organised by artist Amy Stuart as a continuation of her research into Matsumoto's activities and history.

Matsumoto emigrated from Fukuoka, Japan to Melbourne in the mid-1980s, where she began working at an art restoration and framing business in Collingwood. Until her disappearance in 1999, she is known to have produced dozens of forged oil paintings, focussing particularly on the Australian Impressionist Frederick McCubbin. While not all of these were successful – including those exhibited in *MATSUMOTO* – a significant number are known to have been certified as authentic and entered into circulation on the art market, as well as the collections of various major institutions such as the National Gallery of Australia and the National Gallery of Victoria.

While some of Matsumoto's forgeries have been uncovered, an unknown number remain at large. As long as these paintings are considered genuine, they continue to slowly cement their "legitimacy" as they are written into scholarship, archives and public discourse. In recent years, however, a growing understanding of the scope of Matsumoto's activities has destabilised the foundations of McCubbin's entire oeuvre – leaving collectors and institutions uncertain about the authenticity of their works.

Stuart began her research into Matsumoto in 2019. In 2022 Stuart and Doreen Landis-Lee presented *Making a Name for Herself: The Forgeries of Mari Matsumoto* at Monash University, and Props at Seventh Gallery. In 2023, Stuart co-wrote *A History of the Lang Family* – an examination of a primary source detailing an encounter with Matsumoto – with art historian and PhD candidate Emily Morel published by un Magazine in Issue 17.1: RESIST.

Exhibition details- Clockwise from right:

Mari Matsumoto, *Untitled*, materials unknown, 71x90cm c. 1987.

Mari Matsumoto, *Untitled*, materials unknown, 70x59cm c. 1987.

Mari Matsumoto, *Untitled*, materials unknown, 70x59cm c. 1987.

RN Lang, *Untitled*, photograph, 10.2 x 15.2cm, 1987.

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Amy Stuart is an artist in Naarm (Melbourne). Amongst other things, she teaches at Monash University (MADA) and is an editorial assistant for the publisher Discipline and Parrhesia journal. Since 2019, Stuart has been researching art forger Mari Matsumoto and has presented exhibitions (Monash University, Seventh Gallery, KINGS Artist Run) and publications (un Magazine Issue 17.1: RESIST) on Matsumoto's history and activities.

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