

Richard Lewer

Richard's Disasters: A true story volume 2

17 September – 05 October 2024

'Richard's Disasters: A true story volume 2' is a continuation of the autobiographical series of paintings that spotlight memorable stories from Richard's life – some serious and significant, others light-hearted and sincere. Each artwork is comprised of two paintings, a large depiction of the event and a smaller, diary-style text painting of the corresponding story. Working directly onto linen, and building up layers in watery stains, Richard harnesses the unpredictable nature of the medium. The images take on an evocative, diffuse quality and reinforce the artist's interest in reworking life's messier moments.

"For me, health issues, accidents, irrational fears and failures are as certain as death, and taxes. My life is made up of these awkward, messy and tender moments. I am compelled to tell stories – mine and others – often vulnerable, always honest, sometimes retrospectively funny. By pairing the paintings with the stories they depict, I offer a glimpse into moments that have shaped my own imperfect life. I hope the struggles, life experiences and relationships in these narratives are recognisable, and others can see themselves in my stories. We are all a story."

– Richard Lewer, 2024

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Based in Melbourne, Richard Lewer exhibits regularly in Australia and New Zealand. He is known for his multifaceted practice which includes paintings, drawings, animation and site-specific works. Lewer studied at the Elam School of Fine Arts, Auckland, before completing his Masters at the Victorian College of the Arts, Melbourne. He has been awarded significant prizes including the Paul Guest Prize for Drawing (2020), Basil Sellers Art Prize (2016), Blake Prize (2014), National Works on Paper Drawing Award (2010), and the Wallace Art Award (2008). Most recently his work has been shown in major exhibitions at the NGV Triennial (Adam and Eve, 2022 and Confessions, 2024), Art Gallery of NSW (Onsite, construction of Sydney Modern which resides on the lands of the Gadigal of the Eora Nation, 2022) and the New Zealand Portrait Gallery (What they didn't teach me at school: The Waikato Wars, 2023). His work is represented in major public collections including the National Gallery of Australia, Art Gallery of New South Wales, National Gallery of Victoria, Art Gallery of South Australia and Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa.