

MARK TWEEDIE

Born: 1982

Price range: \$1,000–\$6,000

Website: marktweedieart.com



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Perth-based **Mark Tweedie** is gaining growing national acclaim for his exquisite figurative canvasses that explore family, ageing, memory and mortality, primarily through the medium of portraiture. Raised in a single-parent family since age five, Tweedie is fascinated by the formative impact of early childhood, and the fragility and complexities of the family unit. Occupying a brittle space between sentiment and melancholy, his recent works depict various anonymous characters who seem

to have stepped out of suburban Australia's collective childhood.

Tweedie's career trajectory is almost as intriguing as his paintings. Born in Perth and raised in regional Western Australia, he never contemplated a career in the arts, instead relocating to Sydney for the majority of his 20s to work in the media industry. It was only upon returning to Perth in late 2012 that he was inspired to seriously pursue his growing interest in painting, at age

1. // Mark Tweedie, *A cautionary tale (Bride #2)*, 2018. Oil on canvas, 31 x 41cm. COURTESY OF THE ARTIST

MARK TWEEDIE (CONTINUED)

2. // Mark Tweedie, *Sindy, the doll you love to dress*, 2018. Oil on canvas, 30 x 23 cm.

3. // Mark Tweedie, *Handle with care #1*, 2018. Oil on canvas, 41 x 31cm.

4. // Mark Tweedie, *Birthday boy (Rose coloured glasses #2)*, 2018. Oil on canvas, 41 x 31cm.

5. // Mark Tweedie, *Kingdom*, 2018. Oil on canvas, 41 x 31cm.

6. // Mark Tweedie, *Now I lay me down*, 2018. Oil on canvas, 41 x 31cm.

COURTESY OF THE ARTIST.

30. Remarkably he managed to achieve what few artists can, shifting immediately into life as full-time, self-supporting studio artist; it is testament to his commitment to his practice, and the quality of his work.

In the ensuing five years Tweedie has won a slew of awards, including the inaugural Tony Fini Foundation Artist Prize at the Art Gallery of Western Australia's Black Swan Art Prize in 2016, for a powerfully moving portrait of a terminally ill family friend. He was shortlisted for the Kilgour Prize in 2014 and 2017, and recently undertook his first, very successful, interstate solo exhibition, *Births, Deaths & Marriages* at Sydney's Saint Cloche. The exhibition works reinterpreted family photographs, (his own, and others'), to create hauntingly beautiful images of anonymous family milestones, and subtly comical suburban banality. Following from this superb series of works, in mid-2018 Tweedie will undertake a residency in Tasmania during which he plans to explore a growing interest in landscape painting.

Andrew Nicholls



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