



Daryl AUSTIN

*Self-portrait (Studying a Painting)*

(oil on linen 77 x 61.5 cm)

Daryl was born in 1964 and lives and maintains a studio in Adelaide. He has been painting professionally for 13 years. During this time Daryl has exhibited in Sydney and Melbourne and has had works touring Australia. In 1996, as the inaugural winner of the Emerging Visual Artists award (EVA), he embarked upon a study tour of Europe.

*artist's statement*

In my studio I'd hung a stretched canvas measuring 30 x 24 inches face against the wall to which I'd attached a mirror. On my easel, set at the same height and to the right of this construction, stood another canvas of the same dimensions. Upon this canvas, and to the best of my ability, I painted or mimicked this construction. Rather than depicting – reflected in the mirror – a self-portrait in the act of painting, I specifically painted a self-portrait in the act of looking closely at an imagined painting. These acts seem in themselves to reflect the subject of my painting. Hopefully viewers find themselves aware that they are looking at an object upon a wall, made to be looked at.

This does not account for the sheer enjoyment of painting a self-portrait – the way the smudge, blur and wavering line become a mouth – or that sense of 'just rightness' which keeps surprising me anew. All I can suggest is that viewers look closely and find themselves mimicking the painted portrait. There seems a quiet poetry to that.