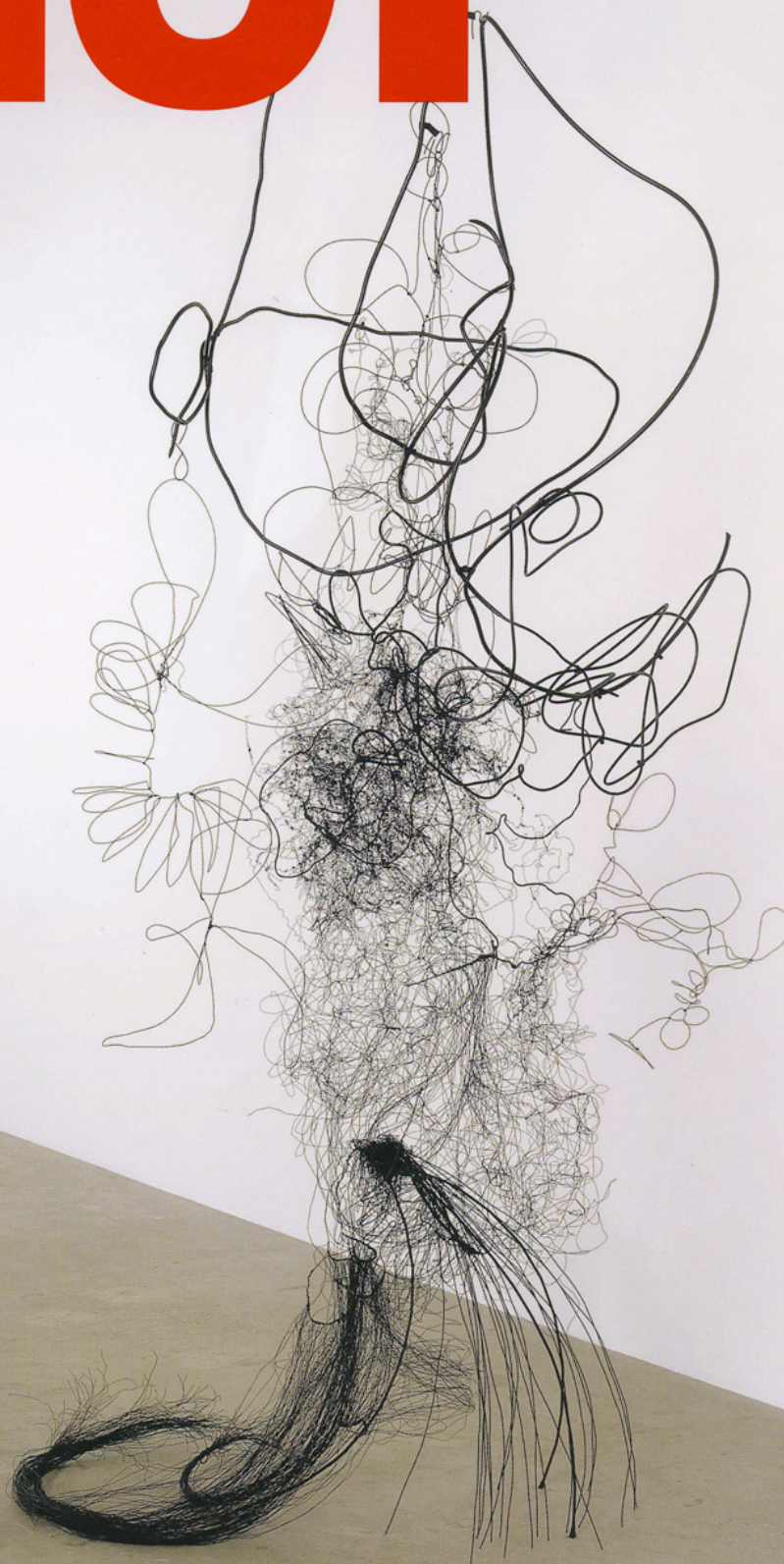


# 101

*Contemporary  
Australian  
Artists*





For the past ten years, Peter Atkins has pursued a unique practice that he labels 'readymade abstraction', referencing the appropriation of utilitarian objects within the context of art as exemplified by Marcel Duchamp's readymades. Atkins takes imagery from a range of sources, including the ubiquitous signage and symbols of modern outdoor advertising, condenses its graphic qualities by deleting any text, then transforms the results into large-scale paintings on tarpaulin. The tarpaulins themselves are readymades, encoded with their own functional histories, prominent stitched seams, faded material and imperfections. Before undertaking the larger paintings, Atkins often creates smaller scale studies, with collected reference material, which operate as adjunct visual journals documenting the creative process. Atkins's personal interactions and encounters with the built environment and urban landscapes in cities such as Los Angeles and Melbourne continue to provide him with inspiration as he collects discarded and incidental materials and visual imagery for his paintings, developing a distinctive language of form which is characteristic of each locale. As Atkins articulates:

I see this source material as markers or mapping points of my navigation through, and interaction with, the urban landscape ... This unwanted and discarded material becomes a record of personal

and shared experience. My interest lies in recording the human connectedness of the material and revealing the commonality of shared histories.<sup>1</sup>

Removed from their original context, the forms become prominent representations of the often-overlooked visual stimuli that are all around us.

*Grubb and Ellis*, 2008, consists of a large yellow, white and black circular emblem appropriated from a real estate advertising logo that the artist encountered on a building for sale on Sunset Boulevard, Los Angeles (the real estate company's name is Grubb and Ellis, hence the title of the work). The image reminded Atkins of Australian painter Sydney Ball's *Canto* series from the 1960s. Atkins spent several months in Los Angeles in 2008 on a studio residency through the Australia Council, and his exploration and random interactions with the visual culture of this city informed the body of work from which *Grubb and Ellis* emerged. There is an intriguing tension between the precise graphic quality of the painted image on the textured, raw canvas that provides a surprising juxtaposition between the image and the support. There is also a clear formal logic to the composition that further highlights the compelling and determined nature of Atkins's continuing practice.

Emma Mayall







*Vernon* **Ah Kee Ah Xian** *Rick* **Amor** *Brook* **Andrew** *Hany*  
**Armanious** *Peter* **Atkins** *Robert* **Baines** *Paddy* **Bedford**  
*Richard* **Bell** *Vivienne* **Binns** *Peter* **Booth** *Pat* **Brassington**  
*Lyndell* **Brown** *and Charles* **Green** *Andrew* **Browne** *Ian*  
**Burns** *Stephen* **Bush** *Eugene* **Carchesio** *Jon* **Cattapan** *Susan*  
**Cohn** *Nici* **Cumpston** *Aleks* **Danko** *Juan* **Davila** *Penelope*  
**Davis** *Domenico* **de Clario** *Julie* **Dowling** *Janenne* **Eaton**  
*Bonita* **Ely** *Neil* **Emmerson** *Anne* **Ferran** *Emily* **Floyd**  
*Murray* **Fredericks** *Honor* **Freeman** *Mari* **Funaki** *Marco*  
**Fusinato** *Tony* **Garifalakis** *Diena* **Georgetti** *Mira* **Gojak**  
*Peter* **Graham** *Treahna* **Hamm** *Gwyn* **Hanssen** **Pigott**  
*Brent* **Harris** *Siri* **Hayes** *Bill* **Henson** *Samantha* **Hobson**  
*Akira* **Isogawa** *Linda* **Jackson** *Helen* **Johnson** *Tim*  
**Johnson** *David* **Jolly** *Jonathan* **Jones** *Peter* **Kennedy** *Inge*  
**King** *Rosemary* **Laing** *Janet* **Laurence** *Richard* **Lewer** *Laith*  
**McGregor** *Moya* **McKenna** *Hilarie* **Mais** *Carlier* **Makigawa**  
*Nick* **Mangan** *Sally* **Marsland** **MaterialByProduct** *Toni*  
**Maticevski** *Graham* **Miller** *Callum* **Morton** *Ron* **Mueck**  
*Clinton* **Nain** *Walangkura* **Napanangka** *Tom* **Nicholson** *John*  
**Nixon** *David* **Noonan** *Susan* **Norrie** *Lena* **Nyadbi** *Bronwyn*  
**Oliver** *Jill* **Orr** *Mike* **Parr** *Maryann* *Talia* **Pau** *Stieg* **Persson**  
*Patricia* **Piccinini** *Rosslynd* **Piggott** *Nusra* *Latif* **Qureshi**  
*Scott* **Redford** **Romance Was Born** *David* **Rosetzky** *Julie*  
**Rrap** *Gareth* **Sansom** *Matthew* **Sleeth** *Sally* **Smart** *Ricky*  
**Swallow** *Simon* **Terrill** *Christian* *Bumbarra* **Thompson** *Imants*  
**Tillers** *Catherine* **Truman** *Hossein* **Valamanesh** *Savanhdary*  
**Vongpoothorn** *Daniel* **von Sturmer** *Guan* **Wei** *Philip*  
**Wolfhagen** *John* **Wolseley** *Judith* **Wright** *Constanze* **Zikos**