



KEN DONE

Media release: Ken Done releases iconic Reef series work from his private collection at Gallery One

Gallery One is set to open Ken Done's latest exhibition ***For the Love of Colour*** on Friday 6 September 2019. The twenty-one strong exhibition features new work from his electric and highly collectible Reef series, and some iconic work from Ken's personal museum collection.

"I've been intrigued by what lies beneath the water ever since I was given a snorkelling mask as a kid. Since then, snorkelling and diving has been a passion I've shared with my family, from the Great Barrier Reef, Fiji and far-flung Tahitian atoll Rangiroa.

"The world is my aquarium, and I've been expressing my deep love of the reef through painting for 60 years off and on," says Done, much-lauded veteran of the Australian art scene.

"Over the last decade or so I've made a series of very large reef paintings. Coral Gardens V is a personal favourite from my private collection. It's brought me joy since I painted it in 1998, and at 168 x 183 cm, one of the biggest in my reef series.

For the Love of Colour is an exhibition of twenty-one gorgeously coloured and pretty works which firmly place Ken Done as one of Australia's leading colourist painters. His previous exhibition ***Paintings You Probably Haven't Seen*** in 2017 was a sell-out show. It opens at Gallery One on Friday 6 September and runs until the end of the month.

This exhibition celebrates the potent impact of colour on our visual senses by an artist with his own mark and style. Ken uses colour to 'envelope' the viewer and engender an emotional reaction. It is the key element to define the moment and feeling of his beloved subjects — coral reefs, the Gold Coast, Sydney Harbour, his garden, the surrounding still life, and figurative muses.

Ken carefully casts colour as the protagonist of his story and through this character the viewer comes to understand and appreciate how this key element is so transformative. The artist generously portrays colour in bold sparkles of light that hit the ocean and bright blocks, loose lines and morphing shapes immersed in underwater coral reefs and jewel seas. Colour acts surreptitiously in and around the subject to reveal beauty, innocence and delight of meeting for the first time.

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Born 29 June 1940 in Sydney, Ken left school at 14 to enter the National Art School in East Sydney. After five years of study, he commenced a highly successful career as an art director and designer in New York, London and Sydney. At the age of 40 he gave up his advertising career to become a painter full-time. Since then, he has held over 50 one-man shows, including major exhibitions in Australia, Europe, Japan and the USA. This year Ken was a finalist in both the Wynne and Sulman prizes at the Art Gallery of NSW. He has been a finalist in the Archibald Prize as well as the Dobell prize for drawing. Working with underprivileged children has always been an important part of Ken's vocation and commitment to his community. In 1988 Ken Done was appointed as an Australian Goodwill Ambassador for UNICEF and in 1992 Ken received the Order of Australia (AM), for services to Art, Design and Tourism.



Figure 1: Coral garden V 168 x 183cm

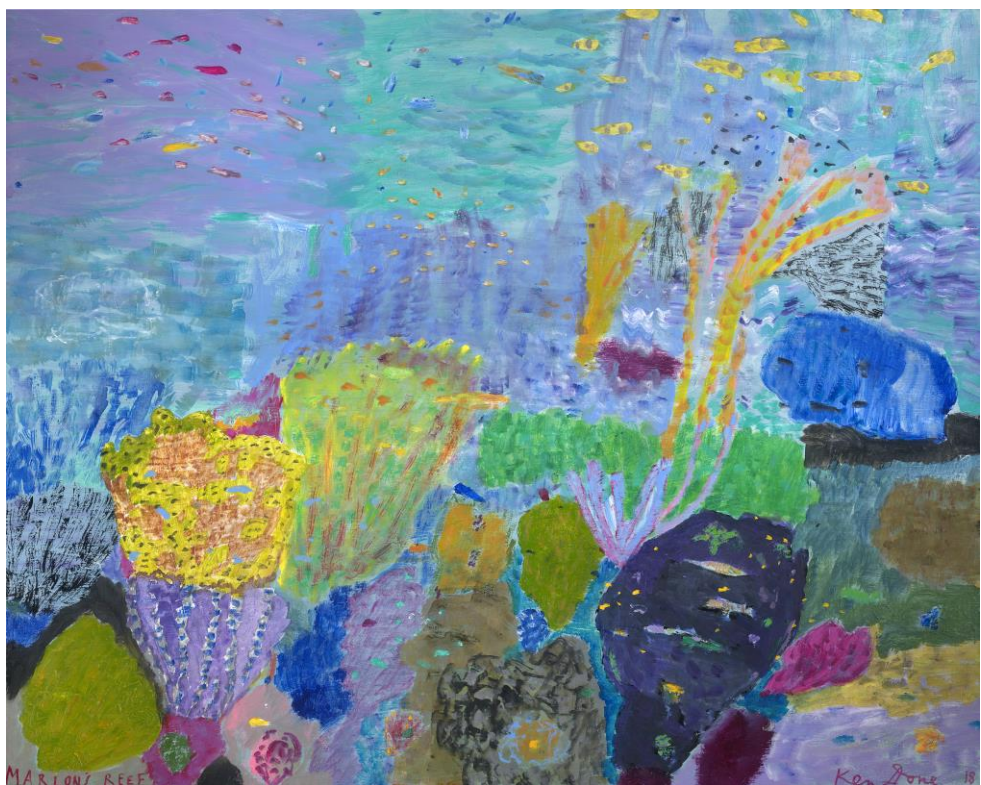


Figure 2: Marlon's reef 122 x 153cm



Figure 3: Artist Ken Done at Gallery One