About the Cover

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Cover Art

“Brian Castro” by Tom Carment

2020 oil on linen 30 × 23 cm

In keeping with the theme of this special issue of Antipodes on the work of Brian Castro, the cover image is a portrait of this author. It is one of two portraits of Castro painted in 2020 by the Australian artist Tom Carment—one with a beard, grown during the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown, and this one, which portrays Castro with his trademark mustache. Tom Carment was born in Sydney in 1954. He studied for one year at Julian Ashton Art School during 1973. Tom is a painter of landscapes, portraits, and still lifes, as well as a writer. His pictures have been exhibited in numerous solo and group exhibitions since the 1970s, and his stories and essays have been published nationally. During the 1980s, he lived overseas for four years, in Africa (Zimbabwe and Zambia) and in France, returning to Sydney in 1988. Since 1993, Tom has been represented by King Street Gallery, with which his latest exhibition, “New Paintings—Old Habits” (2017), was shown. Tom’s portraits have been selected for the Archibald Prize eleven times, and his landscapes have been selected for the Wynne Prize seven times. His works are held by the Art Gallery of NSW, City of Melbourne Art & Heritage Collection, NSW State Parliament, State Library of NSW, Kedumba Drawing Collection, Macquarie Group Collection, and many others. Tom was the winner of the 2014 NSW Parliament Plein Air Painting Prize, the 2008 Gallipoli Art Prize, and the 2005 Mosman Art Prize. Over one hundred of Tom’s works were shown at the 2014 Dobell Australian Drawing Biennial at the Art Gallery of NSW. In 2008, the Hawkesbury Regional Gallery held a survey of his work titled “People, Paddocks, Coastlines.” Tom’s work is a reportage on his life—the external environment through his landscapes, the internal environment and friendships through his still lifes and portraits. Tom’s pictures are usually small in scale and notable for their sensitive interpretation of light. Nearly all of his works are painted and drawn from life.

Photo credit:
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