

# Over and over: Gallery patrons are delivered to empty train stations and bridges in John Hutton's latest solo exhibition



Newcastle, oil on canvas, 40 × 30 cm

*Crossing Lines*, an exhibition of paintings by artist John Hutton, runs from 20 June to 1 July 2023 at Woolloongabba Art Gallery in Brisbane.

The collection features meticulously detailed oil paintings of railway stations and bridges, exploring notions of travel and history.

Hutton explains that his work in recent years has concerned personal responses to public spaces. He draws and paints from his own photographs of sites that he has visited locally and abroad. Similarly, his 2017 exhibition, *The Forgotten Theatre*, was based on old photographs he'd taken of an abandoned art deco movie theatre in Toowoomba.

The atmospheric qualities of vacated zones are a continuing source of inspiration for the artist. "My preoccupation is with the emotional potential of physical spaces," he says. "Abandoned places, emptied landscapes and detailed architectural structures bear traces of human presence and are suggestive of what went before, or what might still occur."

Unusual cropping, unexpected viewpoints and strong contrasts of colour, tone and texture in the *Crossing Lines* paintings invite spectators to enter each setting empathetically. In the rendering of familiar scenes of transit, the works become reminders of the passage of time and our experience of distance.

Hutton's own history of repeatedly moving between countries is entwined in the metal fretwork, long shadows and rusted signage of his *Crossing Lines* paintings. "The works document a personal history of departures and returns," he says.

John Hutton lives and works on Queensland's Sunshine Coast. His artworks are held in private collections in Australia, South Africa, New Zealand and the United Kingdom. *Crossing Lines* follows on from solo shows in 2017 (*The Forgotten Theatre*) and 2016 (*27 Degrees S – 151 Degrees E*) at Feather & Lawry Gallery in Toowoomba.

Crossing Lines: Paintings by John Hutton  
20 June – 1 July 2023  
Opening event Saturday 24 June, 5.30 PM

Woolloongabba Art Gallery (Upstairs)  
613 Stanley St, Woolloongabba, Qld

For further enquiries, images and interview requests, contact Woolloongabba Art Gallery or email [johnhuttonart@gmail.com](mailto:johnhuttonart@gmail.com)



Dickabram Bridge, oil on canvas, 40 × 50 cm



Edinburgh Station with Red Light, oil on canvas, 40 × 50 cm



Yandina Bridge, oil on canvas, 35 × 46 cm