

# alex wanders —

*modern times*



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*Modern Times* is an exploration in paint of some of Hobart's mid-century modernist architectural landmarks. These unique places embody many of the ideals and aspirations of the modernist project while at the same time reflecting the constraints and limitations of regionalism. Part nostalgia, part observation and part invention, the paintings in this exhibition are an invitation to re-visit and reconsider these singular structures which have helped shape our local urban and cultural landscape over the past 60 or so years.

Each of these locations has something of the comfortable familiarity of an old friend. Some project a delightful sense of whimsy and playfulness, while others are more restrained and thoughtful. Some have been altered and re-shaped, some have suffered from neglect and disrepair, and some have remained much as they were when they were first constructed. Together they are a continuing reminder of how the creative impulse can help define and enhance our experience of place.

The imagery in this exhibition has been pared back and presented in such a way as to acknowledge that there has been a shift in how we might understand and interact with each of these modernist structures. While we can still enjoy the breezy optimism and inventiveness which fuelled their design and construction, our experience of them is now tainted by a sense of nostalgia - times have changed and contemporary life seems perhaps a little more complex, uncertain and introspective than it did back then.

I've included colonial architecture in this exhibition as an acknowledgement that the ideas and values of the Enlightenment which were the foundation of Modernism also helped shape some of the nobler ambitions of the early colony.

new  
paintings

02.06.23 —  
26.06.23