

ASH KEATING

In late December 2025, while in residence at @cloudstone_artist_residency, I spent five days at Russell Falls, Mount Field National Park, Lutruwita, photographing the environment with a long lens and seeking macro compositions. From these references, I developed Russell Falls Response. Grounded in observation, the paintings sit between abstraction and realism—an ambiguity central to the series. The studio process involved repeatedly building and removing texture, pressure washing, and sanding back layers to create a flattened yet seemingly three-dimensional surface. The final layers are formed through the application of water, binders, and pigments - a decade-long process that allows gravity, flow, and surface tension to shape the composition, mirroring the forces of falling water.

- Ash Keating, 2026

Visual artist Ash Keating (b.1980) has exhibited extensively in galleries and created numerous large-scale, site-responsive art projects in Australia and internationally since 2004.

Keating has undertaken numerous large-scale painting commissions in public spaces for institutions such as the National Gallery of Victoria (2013), RMIT University (2014), the Adelaide Festival Centre (2015), TarraWarra Museum of Art (2019) and Museum Langmatt, Switzerland (2023).

In recent years Keating has created several multi panel polyptych paintings as part of his ongoing Gravity System Response series, with number #28 being exhibited at the Art Gallery of South Australia in 2017 and #82 being commissioned by BVN Architecture in early 2018 for the redevelopment of the Freshwater Place foyer in Melbourne.

His practice has attracted significant attention in Australia, winning the Incinerator Art Prize (2015), Guirguis New Art Prize (2013), Substation Contemporary Art Prize (2012) and his works are held in many public and private collections including the NGV, NGA, MCA, AGNSW, MUMA and Artbank.

Recent solo exhibitions include: Pressure, Bunjil Place, Narre Warren, VIC (2023); Gravity System Response, Museum Langmatt, Baden, Switzerland (2023); Elevation, Shepparton Art Museum, Shepparton (2023); Gravity System Response, A.M. BJIERE, New York (2021); Duality, Linden New Art, St Kilda (2020); Hume Response Paintings, Ash Keating Studio, Melbourne (2019); Gravity System Response, Meat Market, Melbourne (2017); Response Paintings, Latrobe VAC, Bendigo (2016); Remote Nature Response, MONA's Dark Mofo, Tasmania, (2015); Selected Works 2005-2015, Benalla Art Gallery, Benalla, (2015). Remote Nature Response (2015) was a direct translation of the artists engagement with Cradle Mountain and was commissioned by the Museum of Old and New Art (MONA) and DARK MOFO for Cradle Mountain Hotel, Tasmania.

Ash Keating lives and works in Naarm/Melbourne, Australia.