Euan Macleod was born in Christchurch, New Zealand, in 1956.

He attained a Diploma of Fine Arts (Painting) in 1979, and moved to Sydney in 1981.

Macleod has had over 50 solo shows in Australia and New Zealand and had taken part in numerous group exhibitions in Australia and internationally.

His work is represented in many private and public collections, including Te Papa Museum, New Zealand, the National Gallery of Australia and the Metropolitan Museum, New York.

He has won a number of prizes including the Archibald Prize in 1999, the 2000 Tattersall's Landscape Prize, the Sulman Prize in 2001, the Blake Prize for Religious Painting in 2006, the inaugural NSW Parliament Plein Air Painting Prize in 2008, the Gallipoli Art Prize and the Tattersall's Landscape Prize in 2009, and the King's School Art Prize in 2011.

In 2010 a monograph, Euan Macleod: the Painter in the Painting, written by Gregory O'Brien and published by Piper Press, was released.

Macleod lives and works in Sydney.