

NICOLA DICKSON

Nicola Dickson's work explores perceptions of the natural world of Australia. As she says of her work; "I create paintings and drawings that explore Australian identity. The work focuses on the sense of 'otherness' felt by many people in response to the flora, fauna and indigenous people of this land. Within the unstable relationship between the self and 'other' a meld of the beautiful and bizarre, the uncanny and exotic is perceived. By quoting and transforming historical imagery I engage with the foundations, evolution and experience of these perceptions that strongly influence our sense of who we are." Her most recent work is inspired by the D'Entrecasteaux expedition to Australia and the Pacific in 1792-3, with her previous work inspired by the drawings of the Austrian draughtsman, Ferdinand Bauer who joined the HMS Investigator in its circumnavigation of Australia in 1802-3. Nicola's highly detailed and intricate paintings evoke not only a sense of beauty but also offer an opportunity to find historical resonances in the present.

Nicola Dickson graduated with a Bachelor of Arts from the School of Art at the Australian National University in 2003 before undertaking a PhD which she completed in 2010. She has exhibited widely since graduating and, in 2013, was a finalist in the Sulman Prize and, in 2013 and 2014, received a Highly Commended in the Waterhouse Natural Science Art Prize. Her work is represented in the collections of the Canberra Museum and Gallery and Parliament House Art Collection.

BIOGRAPHY

- 1959 Born, Southport, Qld
- 2000-03 Bachelor of Visual Art, Honours, School of Art, Australian National University
- 2004-5 Alumni in Residence, Edition and Arts Book Studio, Australian National University
- 2006-10 Doctor of Philosophy, School of Art, Australian National University
- 2017 Residency, Institut francais, Paris

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2017 "Voyagers' Tales: Labillardière", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
- 2016 "Close Encounters", Alliance Française, Melbourne
- 2015 "Close Encounters", Canberra Museum and Gallery
"Voyager's tales: Ferdinand Bauer", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
- 2014 "Embodied encounters", Australian National University, Canberra
- 2013 "Frames of reference", M16 Artspace, Canberra
"Birds from a New World, Bega Regional Gallery, Western Plains Cultural Centre, NSW
- 2011 "Indigene Imagining", Beatty Gallery, Paddington, NSW
- 2010 "Empire eyes", Beatty Gallery, Paddington, NSW
"Wonderlust", School of Art, Australian National University, Canberra
- 2009 "An 'other' visions", Canberra Contemporary Art Space, Canberra
- 2008 "Other visions", foyer gallery, School of Art, Australian National University
- 2006 "Exotica", Beatty Gallery, Sydney
- 2005 "Mementos", Impressions on Paper Gallery, Canberra
"Garden games", Canberra Grammar School
- 2004 "By any other Name", Canberra Contemporary Art Space

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2017 "Avian", Canberra Museum and Gallery
"Naturally yours", ANU School of Art and Design Gallery, Canberra
"How does your garden grow?", Goulburn Regional Art Gallery, NSW
- 2016 "Small works 2016", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
Stanthorpe Art Festival, Stanthorpe, QLD
"Bush Capital", Canberra Museum and Gallery
"Art not Apart, New Acton, Canberra
- 2015 "Art and Environment Exhibition in a Suitcase", ANU Regional Partnership Program
"VCCAFAFS 2014", School of Art, Australian National University, Canberra
- 2014 "Art in Embassies Exhibition", US Embassy, Canberra
M16 artists' exhibition, M16 Gallery, Canberra
Waterhouse Natural Science Prize, South Australian Museum
- 2013 "Small Works", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
Waterhouse Natural Science Prize, South Australian Museum
Sulman Prize, Art Gallery of New South Wales

- 2012 "Groundworks", Form Gallery, Queanbeyan, NSW
"Climarte", Form Gallery, Queanbeyan, NSW
- 2011 "Natural Instincts", M16 Artspace, Canberra
"Blending Boundaries", Goulburn Regional Gallery, NSW
"A Gleam of Light", Helen Maxwell Gallery, Canberra
"Atonement", Bega Regional Gallery
"Imitation of Life", Canberra Museum and Gallery
- 2010 "The St George Art Award", Hurtsville City Museum and Gallery
"The Kilgour Prize", Newcastle Regional Gallery, NSW
The Paper Show", Brenda May Gallery, Sydney
- 2009 "The Flower Show", Brenda May Gallery, Sydney
"M16 Drawing Prize", M16 Gallery, Canberra
"Prometheus Visual Art Award", Merrimac, Qld
- 2008 "The Gathering", M16 Gallery, Canberra
- 2007 "Great Southern Land", Beatty Gallery, Sydney
"Hazlehurst Art Award", Hazlehurst Regional Gallery, NSW
"Waterhouse Natural History Prize", South Australian Museum
"Caring for Land", Australian Botanical Gardens, Canberra
"Prometheus Visual Arts Award", Merrimac, Qld
- 2006 "Picture this: painting alumni 2000-6", School of Art, Australian National University, Canberra
- 2005 "Canberra Contemporary Art Space Award", Canberra Contemporary Art Space
"Flock, group show about birds", Helen Maxwell Gallery, Canberra
"Willoughby Art Prize", Chatswood, NSW
"Artists Book Exhibition", Piece Gallery, Mullumbimby, NSW
"Vision Exchange", Ewha Woman's University, Seoul, Korea
"Prometheus Visual Arts Award", Merrimac, Qld
- 2005 "How I entered there I cannot truly say", touring exhibition, Artspace, McKay, Bathurst Regional Gallery, NSW, State Library of Victoria
"Cowra Festival Art Award", Cowra, NSW
- 2004 "Cowra Festival Art Award", Cowra, NSW
- 2003 "130 Degrees", School of Art, Australian National University, Canberra
"The Lachlan: Blue-Gold", Grenfell, NSW

AWARDS / COMMISSIONS

- 2014 Vice-Chancellor's College Visiting Artist Fellowship, ANU College of Asia and the Pacific
Highly Commended, Waterhouse Natural Science Art Prize, South Australian Museum
Finalist, Waterhouse Natural Science Art Prize, South Australian Museum
- 2013 Highly Commended, Waterhouse Natural Science Art Prize, South Australian Museum
Finalist, Waterhouse Natural Science Art Prize, South Australian Museum
Finalist, Sulman Prize, Art Gallery of New South Wales
- 2012 "Enlighten Canberra 2012", design of architectural projections
Highly Commended, Goulburn Art Award, NSW
CAPO Singapore Airlines Travel Grant
- 2010 Highly Commended, St George Art Award
- 2009 Graduate materials award, School of Art, Australian National University
- 2008 Istituto Italiano di Cultura Premio Italia Award
Cliftons Art Prize
- 2006 Australian Post-Graduate Award
- 2003 EASS Australian National University Art Collection Acquisitive Award
Australian National University HC Coombs Scholarship

PUBLICATIONS

- 2015 "Close Encounters at Canberra Museum and Gallery", Kerry-Anne Cousins, *The Canberra Times*
- 2011 "Natural Instincts", Chloe Mandryk, *BMA Magazine*, Issue 383
"Natural talent laid bare", Jacqui Cheney, *The Canberra Times*, 5 November, p. 24
"Flattery of imitation pervades exhibition", Jacqui Cheney, *The Canberra Times*, 3 September, p. 28
- 2007 "Rewriting the Exotic: in discussion with Nicola Dickson", J. Trevethick & N. Dickson, *Graduate Journal of Asian and*

Pacific Studies 5(1)

2004 "Exhibition shows the beast behind the Beauty", Ian Warden, *The Canberra Times*, 23 November, p. 7

COLLECTIONS

ACT Legislative Assembly, Canberra; Canberra Museum and Gallery, Canberra; Parliament House Art Collection, Canberra; Australian National University, Canberra; Canberra Hospital, Embassy of the USA 'Art in Embassies' Collection, Network Economics Consulting Group, Sydney