

DENESE OATES

Denese Oates is a sculptor who uses various materials and compositions to explore the delicate equilibrium between stability and fragility, permanence and transience within our natural world. Her sculptures range in scale from delicate wall sculptures to robust pieces of corten steel, richly rusted to give the appearance that they are part of the landscape in which they sit. Having worked with the malleable potential of paper in her earlier career, Denese now uses metal, in particular copper and corten steel to mould her abstract creations. Recently she has been using gypsum cement to fabricate imagined boulder shapes inspired by treks through the Goldfields Track in Victoria and the Kimberley region of north-west Australia. These boulders are then adorned with powdered metal, typically copper or iron, and treated with patinas to achieve an oxidised effect. Denese's choice of materials creates a dichotomy between the durability of her pieces and the transient and fragile subject matter that she depicts; "These complex narratives resonate with contemporary concerns over the dynamic between order and chaos, offering my unique perspective on the ambiguities, subtleties and dichotomies inherent in visual language."

Based in Sydney, Denese Oates studied at the Alexander Mackie College of Advanced Education in Sydney (now College of Fine Art, UNSW) and has been exhibiting for over four decades. She is a regular finalist in awards including the North Sydney Art Prize and one of her large scale sculptures, 'Spiral Knot' was included in Sculpture by the Sea, Bondi in 2022. Denese regularly travels throughout Australia and around the world, exploring remote geographical locations which further inform her practice. Her work is represented in many collections including Parliament House, Artbank, University of New South Wales, Christchurch City Collection (NZ) and many Australian regional galleries.

BIOGRAPHY

1955 Born in Orange, NSW

1974-77 Dip Art (Ed), Alexander Mackie College of Advanced Education (now College of Fine Art, University of NSW)

1983-1994 Travels to Japan, Papua New Guinea, New Zealand, South America, Easter Island, Europe, North America

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2024 "Balance", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
- 2022 "Aboreal", Stella Downer Fine Art, Sydney
- 2021 "Landscape in sculpture", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
- 2018 "Tree line", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
- 2016 "Out of the cracks crawls green", Stella Downer Fine Art, Sydney
- 2014 "Ratoon", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
"New Sculpture", Stella Downer Fine Art, Sydney
- 2012 "Hybrids", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
- 2011 Maitland Regional Art Gallery, NSW
"A walk in the woods", Stella Downer Fine Art, Sydney
- 2010 Coffs Harbour Regional Gallery, NSW
- 2009 Stella Downer Fine Art, Sydney
Beaver Galleries, Canberra
- 2007 Beaver Galleries, Canberra
BMG Art, Adelaide
"Vascular", Stella Downer Fine Art, Sydney
- 2005 Stella Downer Fine Art, Sydney
- 2004 "Cu Flotilla", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
- 2003 Stella Downer Fine Art, Sydney
- 2001 Beaver Galleries, Canberra
- 1999 "Embodiment", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
- 1998 "Cargo Cult", Cargo Cult Wines Gallery, Orange
- 1996 "Metal Delusions", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
- 1994 "Masks", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
Blaxland Gallery, Sydney
- 1993 "Masks", Macquarie Galleries, Sydney
- 1989 "Warshirts and Wings", Macquarie Galleries, Sydney
- 1987 "Body Decoration", Macquarie Galleries, Sydney
- 1985 "The Kimono Show", Macquarie Galleries, Sydney
- 1984 "The Valentine Show", Macquarie Galleries, Sydney
- 1983 "Quipus Memoirs", Macquarie Galleries, Sydney
"Quipus Memoirs - Masks in Paper", Fremantle Art Gallery, WA

- "Quipus Memoirs", Penrith Regional Art Gallery, NSW
1981 "The Uniform Show", Macquarie Galleries, Sydney
1979 "Padded Portraits", Macquarie Galleries, Sydney

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2022 "Sculpture by the Sea", Bondi, NSW
"North Sydney Art Prize", Coal Loader Centre for Sustainability, Waverton, NSW
2021 "The Ninth Western Sydney University Sculpture Award and Exhibition", Western Sydney University (Campbelltown campus), NSW
"Project 2060 – Homewardbound", Coal Loader Centre for Sustainability, Waverton, NSW
"Sculpture in the Vines", Wollombi, NSW
2020 "Retracing, Art Space on the Concourse", Chatswood, NSW
"Sculpture Bermagui", Bermagui, NSW
2019 "Push and Pull of the City / Ebb and flow of Nature", Stella Downer Fine Art, Sydney
"Sculpture in an Orange Garden", Orange, NSW
"North Sydney Art Prize, Coal Loader Centre for Sustainability", Waverton, NSW
2018 "Sculptures in the Garden", Mudgee, NSW
"Flame seed", Incinerator Art Space, Willoughby, Sydney
"Western Sydney University Sculpture Awards", Sydney
"Shades of Green and Blue", Stella Downer Fine Art, Sydney
"The red project – underground wonderland", The Coal Loader Centre for Sustainability, Waverton, Sydney
2017 "North Sydney Art Prize", Waverton, NSW
"Sculpture at Scenic world", Scenic World, Blue Mountains, NSW
2016 "Small works", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
2015 "The Piano has been Drinking", Maitland Regional Art Gallery, NSW
"North Sydney Art Prize", Waverton, NSW
"Sculpture 2015", Stella Downer Fine Art, Sydney
2014 2014 UWS Sculpture Awards, University of Western Sydney
2013 "Small works", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
"The Woollahra Small Sculpture Prize", Sydney
Lambrigg Station, ACT
"Artisans in the Gardens", Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney
"Harbour Sculpture", The Deckhouse, Hunters Hill, NSW
"Gallery Artists", Stella Downer Fine Art, Sydney
"The Pomegranate Project", North Sydney Art Prize, Waverton, NSW
2012 "Small works", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
Melbourne Art Fair
"Sculpture 2012", Stella Downer Fine Art, Sydney
University of Western Sydney Sculpture Award
2011 "Sculpture Ten", Incinerator Art Space, Willoughby, NSW
Willoughby Sculpture Prize, NSW
2010 "Artisans in the Garden", Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney
University of Western Sydney Sculpture Award
2009 "The packsaddle exhibition", New England Regional Art Museum, NSW
Willoughby Sculpture Prize, NSW
"Windows on Pain", Sponsored by the Pain Management Research Institute, NSW
2008 Melbourne Art Fair, (Stella Downer Fine Art, Sydney)
2007 Denese Oates and Nola Jones, BMG Art Adelaide
2006 "Sculpture 2006", Stella Downer Fine Art, Sydney
Eden Gardens Sculpture Exhibition, Sydney
"Winter Solace: Indulgence", Cowra Art Gallery, NSW
The Waterhouse Natural History Art Prize, South Australian Museum, SA
Melbourne Art Fair, (Beaver Galleries)
"Artisans in the Gardens", Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney
University of Western Sydney Sculpture Award
"Shelf Life", Delmar Gallery, Sydney
2005 Eden Gardens Sculpture Exhibition, Sydney

- "Recent Sculpture: Metamorphosis and Materiality", The Delmar Gallery, Sydney
AMP Capital Investors Sculpture Exhibition, Sydney
"The Year in Art", S.H. Ervin Gallery, Sydney
2004 University of Western Sydney Sculpture Award
"Sculpture 2004", Stella Downer Fine Art, Sydney
"Singular Visions", Cowra Art Gallery, NSW
2003 "Sculpture in the Vines", Hunter Valley, NSW.
"50/ fifty exhibition", New England Regional Art Museum, NSW
"The Alumni 2003", Kudos Gallery, Sydney
"Sculpture 2003", Stella Downer Fine Art, Sydney
2002 "50/ fifty exhibition", New England Regional Art Museum, NSW
2002 "Sculpture in the City", Martin Place, Sydney
"Sculpture 2002 (Twelve Galleries)", Stella Downer Fine Art, Sydney
2001 "The Alumni 2001", Kudos Gallery, Sydney.
CoFA Alumni Exhibition Ivan Dougherty Gallery, Sydney
"Alumni on paper", Kudos Gallery, Sydney
"Packsaddle Studio Exhibition", New England Regional Art Museum, Armidale, NSW
2000 "Postcards - Images of the 20th Century", Fairfield City Museum and Gallery, NSW
Australian Contemporary Art Fair 2000, Melbourne (Beaver Galleries)
1999 "The Alumni 1999", Kudos Gallery, Sydney
"On the Tiles", The Sir Hermann Black Gallery, Sydney
"The Packsaddle Exhibition", New England Regional Art Museum, NSW
1998 "Sculpture by the Sea", Bondi, Sydney
"The Sculptors Society Show", Parliament House, Sydney
"The Alumni 1500", Kudos Gallery, Sydney
1997 "Memento", Makers Mark, Sydney
"The Packsaddle Exhibition", New England Regional Gallery, NSW
1996 "50 / fifty exhibition", New England Regional Gallery, NSW
"Head First", Craftwest Gallery, Perth
"The Alumni Show", Works Gallery, Sydney
1995 "The Really Big Paper Show", Broken Hill Regional Gallery, NSW
"Ironsides", New England Regional Gallery, NSW
"The Packsaddle Exhibition", New England Regional Gallery, NSW
"The Alumni Show", Works Gallery, Sydney
1994 "The Really Big Paper Show", Tin Sheds Gallery, Sydney University
1992-94 The Alice Prize Exhibition, Alice Springs, NT
"The Alumni Show", Works Gallery, Sydney
1992 "Open Endings", University of NSW College of Fine Arts Alumni Association Exhibition, CFA Gallery, Sydney
The Packsaddle Exhibition, New England Regional Gallery, NSW
1989 "Individual Views of Eroticism", Breewood Galleries, Katoomba, NSW
1988 "In Context", Cockatoo Gallery, Launceston, Tasmania
"Women 88 Awards", Devise Arts, Melbourne
1987 "Australian Papermakers", Breewood Galleries, Katoomba, NSW
1985 "Evolution of Style - Ornamental Sources", Craft Centre Gallery, Sydney
"The Kimono Show", Crafts Council Gallery, ACT
1984 "Paper Chase", The Robert McDougall Gallery, Christchurch, New Zealand
"Ah Tissue", Tasmanian School of Art Gallery, Hobart
1983 Represented in the Australian Paper Exhibition at the International Paper Conference, Kyoto, Japan
1982 "The Jabberwock Paper Show", Macquarie Galleries, Sydney
"The Paper Show", Women and Arts Festival, Wollongong City Gallery
1981 "Continuum", The Ivan Dougherty Gallery, Sydney
1980 "Ten Young Artists", Macquarie Galleries, Sydney
1979 The Archibald Prize Exhibition, Art Gallery of NSW
1978 The Sulman Prize Exhibition, Art Gallery of NSW
"The Harbour Exhibition", Macquarie Galleries, Sydney
1977 Blaxland Gallery, Sydney
1976 Hogarth Gallery, Sydney

PUBLICATIONS

- 2021 "Works of steel a surrender to nature", Sasha Grishin, *Canberra Times*, 18 October
- 2018 "Copper wire creations evoke shapes of nature", Sasha Grishin, *Canberra Times*, 14 May
- 2014 "Artist's bookish humour invaded", Sasha Grishin, *Canberra Times*, 15 November
- 2012 "Twist on organic growth", Sasha Grishin, *Canberra Times*, 21 February
- 2011 "Not too heavy, not too light", Jill Stowell, *Newcastle Herald Review*, 16 April
"Artist's passion for nature inspires metal sculptures", Emma Swain, *The Maitland Mercury*, 17 March
"Open Gallery: A walk in the woods", Lynne Dwyer, *Spectrum, The Sydney Morning Herald*, 12 February
"Denese Oates", Alicia Wood, *The Sun Herald*, 23 January
- 2010 "Natural attraction: Denese Oates", Vanessa Keys, *The Outdoor Room with Jamie Durie*, 14 December
"Denese takes craft down to the wire", Kat Adamski, *North Shore Times*, 15 October
"Renowned sculptor visits Coffs Harbour", *NBN News*, 28 February
"Artisans in the garden", Peta Rattray, *The Gardens Magazine*, Spring
- 2009 "Sculpture inspired by Keats' dream-vision of nature", Sasha Grishin, *The Canberra Times*, 14 April
- 2007 "Delicate Manipulations", Stephanie Scroope, *The Canberra Review*, 22 February
"Accomplished, engaging", Charly Ogilvie, *Canberra Times*, 26 February
- 2005 "Ambiguous Modalities", Bridie Macgillicuddy, *Craft Arts International*, No. 64
- 2004 "Imaginative work in copper, wire", Sonia Barron, *The Canberra Times*, 25 February
- 2001 "Wonder of nature in painstaking detail", Sonia Barron, *Canberra Times*, 29 June
"Sculptures that grew out of canvas", Cassie Proudfoot, *Canberra Times*, 18 June
- 1999 "Ideals found in works", Myra McIntyre, *Canberra Times*, 29 September
- 1998 Review of Cargo Cult, Kathleen McNamara, *The Central Western Daily*, 21 November
- 1996 "Metaphoric masks come to life", Meredith Hinchliffe, *Canberra Times*, 31 August
- 1995 *Who's Who of Australian Visual Artists*, NAVA, Thorpe
- 1994 "Hidden mystery of the mask", Meredith Hinchliffe, *Canberra Times*, 18 February
- 1992 *The Crafts Movement in Australia: A History*, Grace Cochrane, University of NSW Press
- 1991 *Dictionary of Women Artists of Australia*, Max Germaine, Craftsman House, Roseville
- 1990 *Artists and Galleries of Australia*, Max Germaine, Craftsman House, Roseville
- 1989 "An Artist On The Ascent", Elwyn Lynn, *The Weekend Australian*, 1-2 July
- 1988 "Moulding Opinion", L. Keens, *Belle Magazine*, February/March
New Art Two: New Directions in Australian Contemporary Art, Nevill Drury, Craftsman House, Roseville
- 1986 "Works in Paper", J. Clare, *Craft Arts*, No. 5
- 1985 "Be Crafty", S. Small, *The Sun Herald*, 25 August
- 1982 "Artists seek recognition in male-only domain", G. Neild, *The Australian*, 23 September
- 1980 "Artbank Opens Doors To 'Valuables'", F. Cumming, *The Australian*, 13 August
- 1978 "Harbour Theme Stimulates Touch of Satire", A. McIntyre, *The Australian*, 28 January

COLLECTIONS

Parliament House, Canberra; Artbank, Sydney; Optus, Sydney; University of Sydney Union Art Collection, Sydney; University of New South Wales, Sydney; University of Western Sydney; Maitland Regional Art Gallery, NSW; Wollongong City Art Gallery, NSW; Burnie Art Gallery, Tas; Rockhampton Art Gallery, Qld; Orange Regional Gallery, NSW; New England Regional Art Museum, NSW; Alexander Mackie Collection, Sydney; North Sydney Council, NSW; Christchurch City Collection, NZ