

Fiona Lowry

The bush as locus of myth lies deep in the Australian psyche, or at least in the heart of many of its painters. In Fiona Lowry's dreamy renderings, the scrub pulses and hums with surface tension: a natural beauty unnaturally realised in a striking high-key palette.

Like the majority of the continent's population Lowry's habitat is urban, but she is driven – gently haunted – by the trauma and secrets within the country. This gothic enthrallment is best exorcised through painting, but Lowry moves beyond her own catharsis, intoxicating the viewer and luring us to a psychological ambush, seduced by the violet haze of summer creeks or the acid-gold eucalypt forest.

Lyrical inclined, Lowry ascribes her paintings existential titles drawn from poetry and song as well as the open source of the artist's imagination. Increasingly inspired by specific sites and histories – the flight of bushrangers or spectral 'dog trees' – she is also deeply responsive to the human condition. Few painters working in Australia today treat the naked figure with such candour and the subjects return the investment twofold, performing archetypal dramas against a contemporary vision of wilderness.

To 'airbrush' is to idealise, but as Lowry's instrument of choice it delivers a lightness of touch, breathing spirit into portraits that have won her critical acclaim in the Archibald Prize 2014 and the 2008 Doug Moran National Portrait Prize. A regular exhibitor in the Archibald, Wynne and Sulman prizes, in 2013 Lowry won the Fleurieu Landscape Prize. Her work is held in a number of public collections including the Museum of Contemporary Art, the National Portrait Gallery, Artbank, the University of Queensland Art Museum and the Macquarie Bank Collection.

BIOGRAPHY	1974	Born in SYDNEY
EDUCATION	1998	Bachelor of Visual Arts (Honours), Sydney College of the Arts, SYDNEY
SOLO EXHIBITIONS	2015	<i>Pink Frost</i> , Martin Browne Contemporary, SYDNEY
	2014	<i>New Paintings</i> , Hugo Michell Gallery, ADELAIDE
	2012	<i>I have forgotten who I am</i> , Karen Woodbury Gallery, MELBOURNE ART FAIR
		<i>Gliding over all</i> , Hugo Michell Gallery, ADELAIDE
	2010	<i>New work</i> , Hugo Michell Gallery, ADELAIDE
		<i>I loved you yesterday</i> , Gallery Barry Keldoulis, SYDNEY
	2008	<i>I act as the tongue of you</i> , Gallery Barry Keldoulis, SYDNEY
	2006	<i>I'm having bad dreams about you</i> , Gallery Barry Keldoulis, SYDNEY
	2005	<i>Left behind</i> , Gallery Barry Keldoulis, SYDNEY
	2004	<i>Executioners Drop</i> , Gallery Barry Keldoulis, SYDNEY
	2002	<i>aaaxx</i> , Firstdraft Gallery, SYDNEY
GROUP EXHIBITIONS	2016	Jan Murphy Gallery, SPRING 1883, MELBOURNE
		<i>Painting. More Painting</i> , Australian Centre for Contemporary Art, MELBOURNE
		<i>The Gold Award</i> , Rockhampton Art Gallery, QLD
		<i>Road Trip</i> , Jan Murphy Gallery, BRISBANE
	2015	<i>Redlands Konica Minolta Art Prize</i> , National Art School Gallery, SYDNEY
		Martin Brown Contemporary, Carriageworks, SYDNEY CONTEMPORARY ART FAIR, SYDNEY
		<i>Sulman Prize</i> , Art Gallery of New South Wales, SYDNEY
	2014	<i>Archibald Prize</i> , Art Gallery of New South Wales, SYDNEY
		<i>Sulman Prize</i> , Art Gallery of New South Wales, SYDNEY
		<i>Prudential Eye Awards</i> , SINGAPORE
		Saatchi Gallery, START ART FAIR, LONDON
		<i>Adelaide Biennial of Australian Art: Dark Heart</i> , Art Gallery of South Australia, ADELAIDE
		<i>Tattersall's Club Landscape Art Prize</i> , Tattersall's Club, BRISBANE

GROUP EXHIBITIONS (CONTD)	2014	<i>Percival Portrait Painting Prize</i> , Perc Tucker Regional Gallery, QLD
	2013	<i>Wynne Prize</i> , Art Gallery of New South Wales, SYDNEY
		<i>Sulman Prize</i> , Art Gallery of New South Wales, SYDNEY
		<i>Archibald Prize</i> , Art Gallery of New South Wales, SYDNEY
		<i>Fleurieu Art Prize</i> , Anne & Gordon Samstag Museum of Art, ADELAIDE
	2012	Martin Brown Contemporary, Carriageworks, SYDNEY CONTEMPORARY ART FAIR, SYDNEY
		Extended Operations, Kalimanrawlins Gallery, MELBOURNE
		Sheraton Hotel Taipei, YOUNG ART TAIPEI HOTEL ART FAIR, TAIPEI
		<i>Wonderland: New Contemporary Art from Australia</i> , Museum of Contemporary Art (MoCA), TAIPEI
		Gallery Barry Keldoulis, HONG KONG ART FAIR, HONG KONG
	2011	<i>Panorama: Are we there yet?</i> , Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre, SYDNEY
		<i>The New Arcadia</i> , Lismore Regional Gallery, NSW
	2010	<i>Heads</i> , Utopia Art Gallery, SYDNEY
		<i>McLean Edwards, Rhys Lee, Fiona Lowry & Heather B Swann</i> , Karen Woodbury Gallery, MELBOURNE
<i>An Oeuvre both Abundant and Diverse</i> , Sydney College of the Arts Gallery, SYDNEY		
<i>Time travel: reimagining the past</i> , Tweed River Art Gallery, NSW		
<i>Twenty/20</i> , UTS Gallery, SYDNEY		
<i>Wilderness, Balnaves Contemporary: Painting</i> , Art Gallery of New South Wales, SYDNEY		
2009	<i>Known Sites Contemporary Australian Landscapes from the Artbank Collection</i> , Presiding Officer's Gallery, Australian Parliament House, CANBERRA	
	<i>Wax on – From Cronulla to Palm Beach and Beyond</i> , Hazelhurst Regional Gallery & Arts Centre, SYDNEY	
	<i>Feminism Never Happened</i> , Institute of Modern Art (IMA), BRISBANE	
	<i>The University of Queensland National Artists' Self-Portrait Prize</i> , The University of Queensland Art Museum, BRISBANE	
	<i>I Have Forgotten More Than You Know</i> , Gaffa Gallery, SYDNEY	
	<i>Now & Then</i> , Campbelltown Art Centre, SYDNEY	
	<i>Art on Paper – The 2009 Hazelhurst Art Award</i> , Hazelhurst Regional Gallery & Arts Centre, SYDNEY	
<i>Wynne Prize</i> , Art Gallery of New South Wales, SYDNEY		
2008	<i>Better Places</i> , Perth Institute of Contemporary Arts (PICA), PERTH	

GROUP EXHIBITIONS (CONTD)	2008	<i>All I want to do is spend my life with you</i> , Roger Williams Contemporary, AUCKLAND <i>Doug Moran National Portrait Prize</i> , The State Library of NSW, SYDNEY <i>Cruel and Unusual Punishment: Art and Violence</i> , La Trobe University Art Museum, MELBOURNE Gallery Barry Keldoulis, Royal Exhibition Building, MELBOURNE ART FAIR, MELBOURNE <i>New Millennium</i> , Lismore Regional Gallery, NSW
	2007	<i>Tropical Hot Dog Night</i> , MOP Projects, SYDNEY Gallery Barry Keldoulis, Silvershot, MELBOURNE <i>New acquisitions</i> , Museum of Contemporary Art (MCA), SYDNEY
	2006	<i>Epic</i> , Lismore Regional Gallery, NSW <i>Helen Lempriere Travelling Art Scholarship</i> , Artspace, SYDNEY <i>ABN Amro Emerging Artist Award</i> , ABN Amro, SYDNEY <i>Charge to Slow</i> , MOP Projects, SYDNEY
	2006	<i>Poor Yorick</i> , curated by Anthony Whelan, Virginia Wilson Art, SYDNEY <i>The December Group</i> , Gallery Barry Keldoulis, SYDNEY
	2005	<i>GBK</i> , Royal Exhibition Building, MELBOURNE ART FAIR, MELBOURNE <i>Flaming Youth</i> , Orange Regional Gallery, NSW <i>The December Group</i> , Gallery Barry Keldoulis, SYDNEY <i>Primavera</i> , Museum of Contemporary Art (MCA), SYDNEY Gallery Barry Keldoulis, Span Galleries, MELBOURNE <i>C'Town Bling</i> , Campbelltown Arts Centre, SYDNEY <i>Emerging Artists</i> , Span Galleries, MELBOURNE <i>Picturing the Landscape</i> , Deloitte Foundation, SYDNEY
	2004	<i>ABN Amro Emerging Artist Award</i> , ABN Amro, SYDNEY <i>Perception, Conception, Deception</i> , Soapbox Gallery, BRISBANE
	2003	<i>Log</i> , MOP Projects, SYDNEY <i>Two for One</i> , MOP Projects, SYDNEY <i>Mini Lab</i> , Firstdraft Gallery, SYDNEY <i>Nu Erotica</i> , Phat Space, SYDNEY
	2002	<i>Helen Lempriere Travelling Art Scholarship</i> , Artspace, SYDNEY <i>United in Joy</i> , Imperial Slacks Gallery, SYDNEY <i>Slacking off</i> , Imperial Slacks Gallery, SYDNEY
	2001	<i>Channel 5a</i> , Rubyayre Gallery, SYDNEY <i>ArtCastle</i> , The Castle, SYDNEY

GROUP EXHIBITIONS (CONTD)	2001	<i>Bomb Tibet with Gaming Room</i> , Herringbone Gallery, SYDNEY <i>Fiona Lowry/Marc Dempsey</i> , Gallery 19, SYDNEY <i>Matthys Gerber</i> , CBD Gallery, SYDNEY <i>Collective Duchamp</i> , curated by Billy Gruner, VTKC Gallery, SYDNEY
PRIZES AND RESIDENCIES	2015	Finalist, <i>Sulman Prize</i> , Art Gallery of New South Wales, SYDNEY Finalist, <i>Redlands Konica Minolta Art Prize</i> , National Art School Gallery, SYDNEY
	2014	Winner, <i>Archibald Prize</i> , Art Gallery of New South Wales, SYDNEY Finalist, <i>Prudential Eye Awards</i> , SINGAPORE Winner, <i>Tattersall's Club Landscape Art Prize</i> , Tattersall's Club, BRISBANE Artist-in-Residence, Bundanon Trust, NSW
	2013	Winner, <i>Fleurieu Art Prize</i> , Anne & Gordon Samstag Museum of Art, ADELAIDE Highly Commended, <i>Archibald Prize</i> , Art Gallery of New South Wales, SYDNEY Finalist, <i>Wynne Prize</i> , Art Gallery of New South Wales, SYDNEY Finalist, <i>Sulman Prize</i> , Art Gallery of New South Wales, SYDNEY Finalist, <i>Archibald Prize</i> , Art Gallery of New South Wales, SYDNEY
	2010	New Work Grant, Australia Council
	2008	Winner, <i>Doug Moran National Portrait Prize</i> , SYDNEY New Work Grant, Australia Council
	2006	Employees Choice Award, <i>ABN Amro Emerging Artist Award</i> , SYDNEY Winner, <i>Collex Acquisitive Prize for past Primavera artists</i> , SYDNEY New Work Grant, Australia Council
	2003	Winner, <i>Fauvette Loureiro Memorial Artist's Exchange Scholarship</i> , Sydney College of the Arts, SYDNEY
PUBLICATIONS	2015	Andrew Taylor, <i>Sydney gets a taste for art</i> , Australian Financial Review Weekend, 20 August John McDonald, <i>Archibald Prize 2015: first-time finalists bring new life to the contest</i> , Sydney Morning Herald, 17 July Antigone Anagnostellis, <i>Sulman Prize finalists channel history and folklore in bid for the top prize</i> , Sydney Morning Herald, 16 July Jo Casamento, <i>Fiona Lowry on how winning the Archibald prize has changed her world</i> , Rescu, 1 June

PUBLICATIONS (CONTD)

- 2015 Techa Noble, *Open Catalogue: Fiona Lowry*, Art Guide, 28 May
- 2014 Vogue Australia, *Fiona Lowry & Penelope Seidler in conversation*, October
- John McDonald, *Archibald Prize winner is 50 shades of tasteful grey*, Sydney Morning Herald, 18 July
- Andrew Taylor, *Archibald Prize 2014 goes to Fiona Lowry's portrait of Penelope Seidler*, Sydney Morning Herald, 18 July
- Monica Tan, *Archibald prize won by Fiona Lowry for portrait of architect Penelope Seidler*, The Guardian, 18 July
- Elizabeth Fortescue, *Artist Fiona Lowry wins Archibald Prize with portrait of Sydney architect Penelope Seidler*, The Daily Telegraph, 18 July
- Simon Thomsen, *Artist Fiona Lowry wins Archibald Prize with portrait of architect Penelope Seidler*, Business Insider Australia, 18 July
- Owen Craven, *Fiona Lowry*, Artist Profile, 8 July
- 2013 Sydney Morning Herald, *Haunting work earns Lowry Fleurieu prize*, 29 October
- John McDonald, *Many faces may make a radical choice easy*, Sydney Morning Herald, 17 March
- John McDonald, *The Archibald Prize 2013: A Comment*, Sydney morning
- 2011 Natasha Bullock, exhibition catalogue for *Wilderness Balnaves Contemporary Painting*, Art Gallery of New South Wales
- Kesia Geddes, exhibition catalogue for *The New Arcadia*, Lismore Regional Gallery
- Rachel Watts, exhibition catalogue for *I have forgotten who I am*, Karen Woodbury Gallery
- 2010 Ron Adams, George Adams, Bronwyn Clarke-Coolee, Tania Creighton, exhibition catalogue for *twenty/20*, UTS Gallery
- 2009 Rebecca Olive and Niel Schofield, exhibition catalogue for *Wax On – from Cronulla to Palm Beach and beyond*, Hazelhurst Regional Gallery
- 2008 Katrina Strickland, *Walk in the black forest takes cake*, The Australian Financial Review, 12 March
- Louise Schwartzkoff, *Nudity takes lion's share of accolades in artistic contest*, The Age, 12 March
- Rosalie Higson, *Women display raw power in art prizes*, The Australian, 12 March
- Hannah Elliott, exhibition catalogue for *Cruel and Unusual Punishment*, La Trobe University Art Museum

PUBLICATIONS (CONTD)	2008	Melissa Keys, exhibition catalogue for <i>Better Places</i> , Perth Institute of Contemporary Arts (PICA)
	2007	Rachel Kent, exhibition catalogue for <i>New Acquisitions 2007: a collection in focus</i> , Museum of Contemporary Art
	2006	Tracey Clement, <i>Murder She Painted</i> , Sydney Morning Herald – Metro, 19-25 May
		Sunanda Creagh, <i>Open Gallery: One Mind</i> , Sydney Morning Herald – Spectrum, 20-21 May
	2005	Claire Armstrong, <i>Artists to watch</i> , Art and Australia, volume 43, no. 2
		Janet Briggs, <i>In the frame</i> , Sun Herald, 11 September
		Sally Brand, <i>Contested landscapes: Primavera 2005</i> , The Program, September
		Felicity Fenner, <i>Views from the Home Ground</i> , catalogue essay for <i>Primavera</i> , Museum of Contemporary Art
		Barbara Flynn, <i>Picturing the landscape</i> , Deloitte Foundation publication
		Elizabeth Fortescue, <i>Fear Inspires Eerie Images</i> , The Daily Telegraph, 10 September
		Lisa Havilah & Ann Loxley, <i>C town bling: a different type of shiny</i> , exhibition catalogue for <i>C town bling</i> , Campbelltown Arts Centre
		John Kavanough, <i>Corporate Art: Art for art's sake</i> , Business Review Weekly, 15 December
		Reuben Keehan, exhibition catalogue for <i>Left Behind</i> , Gallery Barry Keldoulis
		John McDonald, <i>Isn't It Ironic?</i> , Sydney Morning Herald – Spectrum, 15-16 October
	Sebastian Smee, <i>Spring loaded</i> , The Weekend Australian, 17-18 September	
	2004	Tim Benzie, <i>In the Frame</i> , The Sun Herald, 16 May
Matthys Gerber, exhibition catalogue for <i>Executioners Drop</i> , Gallery Barry Keldoulis		
	Jess MacNeil, exhibition catalogue for <i>Two for One</i> , MOP Projects	
2003	Lenny Ann Low, <i>Two for one</i> , Sydney Morning Herald, 20 October	
2001	C. Barker, <i>Art Castle</i> , Oyster Magazine, October	

COLLECTIONS

Artbank

ABN Amro Australia, SYDNEY

Macquarie Bank Collection

Museum of Contemporary Art, SYDNEY

National Portrait Gallery, CANBERRA

Parliament House, MELBOURNE

The University of Queensland Art Museum, BRISBANE

UBS Art Collection, SYDNEY

Veolia Environmental Services – Collex Collection, SYDNEY