

'OZ MYTHOLOGY' -

An Exhibition by
Deborah Van Heekeren

CATALOGUE OF WORKS

Exhibition: 3rd–20th June, 2021



**THE HUNTER
ARTISAN GALLERY & CAFÉ**

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Welcome to The Hunter Artisan Gallery's FEATURE EXHIBITION,

'OZ Mythology'

A solo exhibition by Deborah Van Heekeren

Myths contain fundamental truths that tell us something important about the culture or tradition to which they belong. They connect people with places, with their ancestors, with valued traditions and rituals. Like myth and poetry, art can show us important truths. It can also show us possibilities. Many of the oil paintings, drawings and mixed media works for this exhibition are grounded in an Australian vision that imagines shared connections between the land and its inhabitants. Some of the work was shown as part of the Design Canberra festival in 2020 under the title *Beings* and with the overarching theme of CARE.

My work developed a strong involvement with the NSW landscape following a road trip I made in 2018, at the height of the drought. I wanted to show the essence of a dying landscape as a shared experience for all involved. Farmers were suffering, animals were suffering and the land was dying. The human/animals in these paintings take on the colours and forms of the land. They are compacted, reduced to poetic possibility. The images speak to the tragedy of landscape in the face of neglect, and misuse, and suggest a devastating breakdown in human-animal-earth relations.

Predominantly figurative, my practice is grounded in the modernist tradition of oil paint on canvas, with the occasional incorporation of collage and mixed media treatments. I am influenced stylistically by the Australian painters of the mid-twentieth century, nevertheless, my imagery reflects a personal response to the current state of the human condition in its relation to the environment. I also want to challenge the masculinist representation of life on the land and question some common assumptions.

My artistic and intellectual influences are eclectic. They include Marc Chagall, Arthur Boyd, and the philosophy of Martin Heidegger, but it is Patrick White's poetic descriptions of the Australian landscape that are particularly resonant in much of this body of work. At its best art is visual poetry.

Take a look through the catalogue and if there's anything that you are interested in purchasing, please contact the gallery directly, via the details provided, to arrange payment and delivery.

ENJOY!

JENNIFER NICHOLS (Gallery Owner/ Curator)

The Paintings...



NAME OF ARTIST: Deborah Van Heekeren

NAME OF WORK: 'The Farm III' 2018

MEDIUM: Oil on canvas

SIZE: 51 x 41 cm

PRICE: \$380



NAME OF ARTIST: Deborah Van Heekeren

NAME OF WORK: 'Struggle' 2018

MEDIUM: Oil on canvas

SIZE: 51 x 41 cm

PRICE: \$380



NAME OF ARTIST: Deborah Van Heekeren

NAME OF WORK: 'Seth' 2020

MEDIUM: Oil on canvas

SIZE: 41 x 51cm

PRICE: \$380



NAME OF ARTIST: Deborah Van Heekeren

NAME OF WORK: 'Tree Spirit' 2021

MEDIUM: Oil on canvas

SIZE: 41 x 51cm

PRICE: \$380

SOLD



NAME OF ARTIST: Deborah Van Heekeren

NAME OF WORK: 'Dog and Dingo' 2020

MEDIUM: Oil and Paper on canvas

SIZE: 40 x 30cm

PRICE: \$250

SOLD



NAME OF ARTIST: Deborah Van Heekeren

NAME OF WORK: 'Holding On' 2021

MEDIUM: Oil on canvas

SIZE: 76 x 51 cm

PRICE: \$550



NAME OF ARTIST: Deborah Van Heekeren
NAME OF WORK: 'We Dance As One' 2021
MEDIUM: Oil on canvas
SIZE: 90 x 61 cm
PRICE: \$750



NAME OF ARTIST: Deborah Van Heekeren
NAME OF WORK: 'Sheepish' 2020
MEDIUM: Oil on canvas
SIZE: 76 x 51 cm
PRICE: \$650



NAME OF ARTIST: Deborah Van Heekeren
NAME OF WORK: 'The Red Handbag' 2018
MEDIUM: Oil on canvas
SIZE: 76 x 92cm
PRICE: \$950



NAME OF ARTIST: Deborah Van Heekeren
NAME OF WORK: 'Number Our Days' 2018
MEDIUM: Oil on canvas
SIZE: 76 x 92 cm
PRICE: \$950



NAME OF ARTIST: Deborah Van Heekeren

NAME OF WORK: 'The Calligrapher
(Mudgee)' 2020

MEDIUM: Oil on canvas

SIZE: 92 x 76cm

PRICE: \$950



NAME OF ARTIST: Deborah Van Heekeren

NAME OF WORK: 'Australian Soul' 2020

MEDIUM: Oil and Paper on canvas

SIZE: 76 x 92 cm

PRICE: \$950



NAME OF ARTIST: Deborah Van Heekeren

NAME OF WORK: 'Fragility' 2020

MEDIUM: Oil on canvas

SIZE: 46 c 61cm

PRICE: \$420



NAME OF ARTIST: Deborah Van Heekeren

NAME OF WORK: 'Oceanic' 2019

MEDIUM: Oil and Paper on canvas

SIZE: 50 x 61cm

PRICE: \$420



NAME OF ARTIST: Deborah Van Heekeren

NAME OF WORK: 'Bunny Rise' 2017

MEDIUM: Oil and Collage on canvas

SIZE: 30 x 22cm

PRICE: \$150



NAME OF ARTIST: Deborah Van Heekeren

NAME OF WORK: 'Crying Dry' 2019

MEDIUM: Oil and Collage on canvas

SIZE: 76 x 61cm

PRICE: \$650



NAME OF ARTIST: Deborah Van Heekeren

NAME OF WORK: 'Two Australian Heads'
2021

MEDIUM: Oil and Mixed Media (2 pieces)

SIZE: 20 x 41 cm and 12 x 15 cm

PRICE: \$250



NAME OF ARTIST: Deborah Van Heekeren

NAME OF WORK: 'The Colours of Paradise'
2017

MEDIUM: Oil on canvas

SIZE: 28 x 35cm

PRICE: \$220

Works on Paper...



NAME OF ARTIST: Deborah Van Heekeren

NAME OF WORK: 'Farm Girls' 2018

MEDIUM: Mixed media on 185gsm pastel paper in custom frame

SIZE: 61 x 51cm inc. Frame

PRICE: \$380



NAME OF ARTIST: Deborah Van Heekeren

NAME OF WORK: 'Bathers' 2019

MEDIUM: Crayon on paper in unique frame

SIZE: 56 x 42 inc. Frame

PRICE: \$250



NAME OF ARTIST: Deborah Van Heekeren

NAME OF WORK: 'Bather' 2018

MEDIUM: Mixed media on paper Framed

SIZE: 30 x 35 cm inc. Frame

PRICE: \$125

Other...



NAME OF ARTIST: Deborah Van Heekeren

NAME OF WORK: 'Three Tears' 2021

MEDIUM: Mixed media and sculpture/
assemblage

SIZE: 80 cm high x 33 cm wide x 33 cm deep

PRICE: \$350



FRONT



BACK

NAME OF ARTIST: Deborah Van Heekeren

NAME OF WORK: 'Pleasure Box' 2018

MEDIUM: Mixed media Box Sculpture

PRICE: PRICELESS

MORE ABOUT THE ARTIST

Deborah Van Heekeren

I completed 6 years of studio-based training with a major in painting at Hornsby TAFE from 1985-1990, and went on to study art history, philosophy, and anthropology before gaining my PhD (University of Newcastle) in 2004. I held a position as Senior Lecturer in the Anthropology Dept at Macquarie University until 2017, when I returned to my art practice fulltime. In my early career I was a founding member of the Brisbane Water Art Group (BWAG) and the H-12 Group (of Hornsby graduates). I have been living in Maitland since 2013.

Solo Exhibitions

- 2020** *Beings* (with ceramicist A-K Hermkens), Humble House Gallery, Fyshwick ACT, Nov 20-Dec 6
- 2020** *Folding NOT Ironing*, George Gallery, East Maitland Sep 9-20
- 2019** *DISRUPTION at Grossmann House*, Maitland, Feb 9 to May 12
- 2017** *Outside In: Inside Out*, East Maitland Library, Nov 18 to Dec 1
- 1996** *Goddess in Godzone*, Godzone (online) Gallery: <http://www.ozemail.com.au/~godzone>
- 1992** Mark Julian Gallery Glebe, Sydney (with Lynne Perronet Thomas) Mar 25-Apr 5
- 1991** Mark Julian Gallery Glebe, Sydney Mar 5-24
- 1991** *Silent Words* Laycock Street Theatre Foyer, Gosford Nov 18-Dec 1

Group Exhibitions

- 2018** *Lily Briscoe and Friends* Brough House, Maitland Apr 6-22 (Curator and exhibitor)
- 1998** *Passeggiata*, PCL Exhibitionists Strawberry Hills, Sydney (with H-12) Oct 13-24
- 1995** *Raising the Roof* Hester Gallery Newtown, Sydney (with H-12)
- 1994** *Chronography: Four Artists*, James Harvey Gallery Balmain, Sydney July 14-31
- 1993** *Secret and Sacred Places* Hornsby TAFE Artgym July 19-30
- 1992** *Here Comes the Sun* Patonga Bakehouse Gallery
- 1992** *Homeland-a question of belonging* Hornsby TAFE Artgym July 21-31
- 1991** *Here Today* Hornsby TAFE Artgym Nov 4-9
- 1991** *Sticks and Stones* Chatswood Artspace Aug 12-16
- 1991** *Works on Paper* Unicorn Editions, Woy Woy
- 1990** *Seven Dimensions* Laycock Street Theatre Foyer, Gosford Jun 16-July 2
- 1988-1989-1990** *View Point I, II, III* (with Brisbane Water Art Group) at Pearl Beach Community Centre

Selected Group Exhibitions

- Finalist, The Lake Art Prize, MAC Dec 12, 2020-Feb7, 2021
- My Year as a Fairy Tale* (with Helen Hopcroft) Watt Space Newcastle 4-15 Oct 2017
- Edogawa Festival, Japan 1995
- Sydney Royal Art Show 1990, 1992
- Patonga Bakehouse Spring Exhibition 1991
- Warringah Art Prize 1990, 1991
- Wyong Shire Invitation Exhibition 1990
- Avoca Gallery Spring Exhibition 1991
- Holdsworth Contemporary Gallery (Master Builders) 1988
- Drummoyne Bicentennial Exhibition 1988

Festivals

2020 Artastique, High St Maitland, Feb 29-Mar 8

2019 Artastique, High St Maitland, Mar 9-18

2018 The 30 Minute Arts Festival, Bikesmith Laneway Maitland Apr 22

2018 Newcastle Writer's Festival Pavement Pages, Wheeler Place Apr 6-8

1991 Central Coast Festival of the Arts, Kibble Park Gosford Oct 19

Writing (non-academic)

"If on an anxious Wednesday a dreamer" *Pulped Fiction* 2021 (ed) Cassandra Atherton, 99.

["Disconnectivity"](#) *Arts Features International* July – September 2019: *Facing the Future*, (ed) Ruth Skilbeck, 22-23.

"Disruption at Grossman House" *Arts Features International* April – June 2019: *Destruction & Disruption*, (ed) Ruth Skilbeck, 166-185.

"Locals: Old and New for Young and Old" *Meander: Maitland's Lifestyle Magazine* 12-13.

"Time of Death" *Time* (2018): an anthology of microlit (ed) Cassandra Atherton, 49.

Bibliography and weblinks

"Disconnectivity" *Arts Features International* July – September 2019: *Facing the Future*, (ed) Ruth Skilbeck, 22-23.

"Disruption at Grossman House" *Arts Features International* April – June 2019: *Destruction & Disruption*, (ed) Ruth Skilbeck, 166-185.

Brough House exhibition evokes the spirit of Lily Briscoe, National Trust Apr 6 2018 <https://www.nationaltrust.org.au/news/brough-house-exhibition-evokes-the-spirit-of-lily-briscoe/>

#MeToo movement and feminism gain momentum in Maitland Newcastle Herald, Apr 9 2018 <https://www.newcastleherald.com.au/story/5328146/maitland-women-of-the-new-world/?cs=305>

A Feminist Art Exhibition now open at Brough House by Donna Sharpe Maitland Mercury Apr 6 2018

<https://www.maitlandmercury.com.au/story/5325938/a-tribute-to-female-creativity/>

<https://artastique.com/>

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.au/news/brough-house-exhibition-evokes-the-spirit-of-lily-briscoe/>

https://shortaustralianstories.com.au/time-microlit-author-deborah-van-heekeren/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+ShortAustralianStories+%28Short+Australian+Stories%29

Prizes

Commended Modern Figurative Section RAS Sydney 1990, Judge Kevin Connor

Highly commended, Modern Section DMAS Bicentennial Exhibition 1988

Collections

I am represented in many private collections in Sydney, the NSW south and central coast and Hunter region.

Sample of recent Peer Reviewed Publications

2018 "Myth" in Hilary Callan (ed) *The International Encyclopedia of Anthropology*, Wiley-Blackwell.

2017 "The wonder of cloacal creation from myth to MONA", J. Timmer and M. Tomlinson (eds) Special Issue, *The Social Formation of Wonder: Journal of Religious and Political Practice* 3(3):104-119.

2015 "Senses of magic: anthropology, art, and Christianity in the Vula'a lifeworld" in Kalpana Ram and Chris Houston (eds) *Phenomenology in Anthropology: A Sense of Perspective*, pp 248-267. Indiana: Indiana University Press.

2012 *The Shark Warrior of Alewai: A phenomenology of Melanesian identity*, Wantage, UK: Sean Kingston Publishing.

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