

## CLARA HALI

*Clara Hali is an artist who engages with the sculptural possibilities offered by the female form. Influenced by the Cubist ethos of combining figurative and abstract planes, Clara's sculptures explore the bold characteristics of the female figure. Her journey with the female form has recently been influenced by her surrounding landscape, as she captures the vulnerability of human nature through the precarious rock formations that are characteristic of the Blue Mountains. Employing the metaphor of landscape, the sculptures explore how life's experiences can impact and shape us, capturing humanity's strengths and weaknesses. This exhibition reveals a new resolution in Clara's work showing that, after a thorough inquisition of western figurative art and extensive travels experiencing different cultures, it is what lies close to home that has the deepest resonance.*

*Clara studied sculpture at the National Art School in Sydney and later some engineering and ornamental ironwork at the Sydney Institute of Technology. Clara Hali has been a lecturer at the National Art School since 1988 and completed her Masters of Fine Art there in 2007. She has exhibited extensively and her work is represented in the collections including Macquarie University (Sydney), University of Sydney, Compaq Computers and Brambles Australia.*

### BIOGRAPHY

- 1976-79 Diploma in Visual Arts, Darling Downs Institute of Advanced Education, Toowoomba, Qld
- 1984 Post Certificate in Sculpture, National Art School, East Sydney Technical College
- 1984- Art Teacher, Odyssey House, Sydney
- 1985 Higher Certificate in Sculpture (Distinction), National Art School, Sydney
- 1987-88 Art Teacher, Long Bay Correctional Services, Sydney
- 1988-89 Lecturer in Sculpture, Hamilton College of TAFE, NSW
- 1988- Lecturer in Sculpture, National Art School, Sydney
- 1990-93 Lecturer in Sculpture, Liverpool College of TAFE, Sydney
- 1992 Sculpture Teacher, Waverley Woollahra Arts Centre, Sydney
- 1993 Guest Lecturer, Campbelltown City Art Gallery, Sydney  
Guest Lecturer, National Art School, Sydney
- 1994 Guest Lecturer, TAFE Illawarra Institute, Wollongong, NSW
- 1994-95 Lecturer in Sculpture, Meadowbank College of TAFE, Sydney
- 1995 Lecturer in Drawing, National Art School, Sydney
- 1997 Lecturer in Sculpture, University of NSW, Sydney  
Lecturer in Sculpture, St George College of TAFE, Sydney  
Lecturer in Sculpture, Werrington College of TAFE, NSW  
Curated exhibition "Tribal Masterpieces", touring regional galleries of NSW  
Residency in traditional tribal foundry, Kondagaon, Bastar District, MP, India
- 1999 Guest lecturer, Bathurst Regional Art Gallery, NSW
- 2007 Masters of Fine Art, National Art School, Sydney

### SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2009 "Figurative transformations", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
- 2008 Stella Downer Fine Art, Sydney
- 2004 "Sculptures and Drawings", Forge Gallery, Wollombi, NSW
- 2003 Stella Downer Fine Art, Sydney
- 2002 "Bathers and Odalisques", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
- 2000 "Venus of Willoughby", Mary Place Gallery, Sydney
- 1998 "Torso tango", Mary Place Gallery, Sydney
- 1996 "Bums, backs and bellies", Mary Place Gallery, Sydney
- 1992 Mark Julian Gallery, Sydney
- 1990 Syme Dodson Gallery, Sydney
- 1989 Snell Architects, Newcastle, NSW

### SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2011 "Sculpture Inside", Orange Regional Gallery, NSW  
"Sculpture Inside", Cottesloe, Perth

- 2010 "Sculpture 2010", Defiance Gallery, Sydney, NSW  
"Defiant Little Devils", Defiance Gallery, Sydney, NSW  
Sculpture by the Sea, Cottesloe, Perth  
Sculpture by the Sea, Bondi, Sydney  
MFA Graduates 2002-2009, National Art School Gallery  
Acquisitive Sculpture Award, University of Western Sydney  
Campbelltown City Art Gallery, NSW  
"The Hampton Group", Cudgegong Gallery, Gulgong, NSW
- 2009 "The Salon Hang", Defiance Gallery, Sydney, NSW  
"Art and Artifacts", Defiance Gallery, Sydney, NSW  
"You Little Beauty", Defiance Gallery, Sydney, NSW  
Willoughby Sculpture Prize, The Incinerator Gallery, Willoughby, NSW  
The 3D Project, Sydney Opera House, Sydney
- 2008 Sculpture by the Sea, Bondi, Sydney  
Acquisitive Sculpture Award Exhibition, University of Western Sydney
- 2007 Sculpture by the Sea, Bondi, Sydney
- 2006 Acquisitive Sculpture Award Exhibition, University of Western Sydney  
Willoughby City Art Prize, NSW
- 2005 Manning Regional Art Gallery, Taree, NSW
- 2004 Acquisitive Sculpture Award and Exhibition, University of Western Sydney, NSW  
"Spectrum 2004", Parliament House, Parliament of New South Wales, Sydney  
"Sculpture 2004", Stella Downer Fine Art, Sydney  
Melbourne Art Fair, Royal Exhibition Building, Melbourne
- 2003 "Beneath the Surface", National Art School Gallery, Sydney
- 2002 "3 Dimensions of Sculpture: Hague, Haley, Hali", Stella Downer Fine Art, Sydney  
"Clara Hali and Elizabeth Cummings", Orange Regional Gallery, NSW  
"Clara Hali and Elizabeth Cummings", National Art School Gallery, Sydney  
"Soundings", Cube Contemporary Art, Adelaide
- 2001 "Sculpture 2001", Defiance Gallery, Sydney & Campbelltown City Art Gallery, NSW  
"You can keep your hat on", Beowulf Galleries, Sydney  
Walkom Manning Art Prize, Manning Regional Art Gallery, Taree, NSW  
"The Studio Tradition", Hazelhurst Regional Gallery and Arts Centre, Sydney  
"Art for Christmas", Bathurst Regional Art Gallery, NSW  
Ironfest 2001, Talisman Gallery, Hartley, NSW  
Feature Artist Clara Hali, Lillianfels, Katoomba, NSW
- 2000 "Tribal Echo", Oceanic Arts Australia, Sydney  
"Tribal Echo", Defiance Gallery, Sydney  
"Tribal Echo", Campbelltown City Bicentennial Art Gallery, NSW  
"Half metre square", National Art School Gallery, Sydney  
"Tribal Masterpieces", Sir Hermann Black Gallery, Sydney  
"The importance of being small", Defiance Gallery, Sydney  
"The importance of being small", King St Galleries, Sydney  
Quota International Art Competition, Wagga Wagga Regional Art Gallery, NSW  
"Christmas Exhibition", Bathurst Regional Art Gallery, NSW
- 1999 "Animalistic", James Harvey Gallery, Sydney  
"On the Tiles", Sir Hermann Black Gallery, Sydney  
"Big Thoughts Small Works", Defiance Gallery, Sydney  
"Still Life", Defiance Gallery, Sydney  
"Still Life", King Street Galleries, Sydney  
"The Nude", James Harvey Gallery, Sydney  
"Drawn by Sculpture", Defiance Gallery, Sydney  
"Tribal Masterpieces", Dubbo Regional Art Gallery, NSW  
"Tribal Masterpieces", Bathurst Regional Art Gallery, NSW  
"Tribal Masterpieces", Orange Regional Gallery, NSW

- 1998 "Big Thoughts Small Works", Defiance Gallery, Sydney  
"Figure in the landscape", Defiance Gallery, Sydney  
Inaugural Group Exhibition, Defiance Gallery, Sydney  
Bathurst Art Purchase, Bathurst Regional Art Gallery, NSW  
"The Defiant 6", Defiance Gallery, Sydney  
Clara Hali and Mitsuo Shoji, Wollombi Forge Gallery, NSW  
National Art School Staff Exhibition, National Art School Gallery, Sydney  
"Outside / Inside", Sir Hermann Black Gallery, University of Sydney  
"Salon des Refuses", SH Ervin Gallery, Sydney
- 1997 "30 x 30", National Art School Gallery, Sydney  
"Provenance the Artist", James Harvey Gallery, Sydney  
"It's a box II", Defiance Gallery, Sydney  
"Tribal Masterpieces", Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre, NSW  
"Indaphile", International Arts Festival, James Harvey Gallery, Sydney  
"The Biggest Little Show in Town", Defiance Gallery, Sydney
- 1996 "A Box by any other name", Defiance Gallery, Sydney  
Fishers Ghost Art Prize, Campbelltown City Bicentennial Art Gallery, NSW  
"The miniature exhibition", Defiance Gallery, Sydney  
Waverly Woollahra Art Prize, Sydney  
Fisher's Ghost Art Prize, Campbelltown City Bicentennial Art Gallery, NSW
- 1995 Inaugural Exhibition, Fringe Gallery, Sydney  
Olsen Carr Gallery, Sydney  
Wynne Prize, Art Gallery of NSW, Sydney  
Bundaberg Arts Festival, Qld  
Fishers Ghost Art Prize, Campbelltown City Bicentennial Art Gallery, NSW  
Waverley Woollahra Art Prize, Sydney  
Hunters Hill Art Prize, Sydney
- 1994 "Winter in Colour", Gould Street Gallery, Sydney  
"Part II", Museum of Contemporary Art Park, Sydney  
Outdoor Sculpture Park, Macquarie University, Sydney  
"On and Off the Wall", Mary Place Gallery, Sydney  
Fisher's Ghost Art Prize, Campbelltown City Bicentennial Art Gallery, NSW  
Spring Festival, Royal Botanical Gardens, Sydney  
Bundaberg Arts Festival, Qld  
Alice Art Prize Exhibition, Araluen Art Centre, Alice Springs, NT
- 1993 "Figures in Landscape", National Art School Gallery, Sydney  
Alice Art Prize, Alice Springs, NT  
Diamond Valley Art Award Exhibition, Greensborough, Vic
- 1992 Logan Art Award, Logan City Council, Brisbane  
Bundaberg Arts Festival, Qld  
"Contact", Taylor Street Gallery, Sydney  
Stanthorpe Heritage Art Festival, Qld  
Open Sculpture Exhibition, Gomboc Gallery, Perth  
46th Annual Art Exhibition, Far North Queensland Regional Gallery, Cairns, Qld
- 1991 "Technically Speaking", Liverpool College of TAFE, Sydney  
Diamond Valley Art Award Exhibition, Greensborough, Vic  
Alice Art Prize Exhibition, Araluen Art Centre, Alice Springs, NT  
Sixth Annual Sculptors' Award Show, Gold Coast, Qld  
"The Women's Show", National Art School Gallery, Sydney  
"A Figurative Focus", Tamworth City Gallery, NSW
- 1990 Art Prize Exhibition, Araluen Art Centre, Alice Springs, NT  
"Gallery Artists", Syme Dodson Gallery, Sydney
- 1988 "Opening Show", Syme Dodson Gallery, Sydney  
"Sculpture Now", Maitland City Council Art Gallery, NSW

- 1986 "Living Sydney - Sydney Living", Roar Studios, Melbourne  
1985 National Art School Graduate Exhibition, National Art School Gallery, Sydney  
1984 National Art School Graduate Exhibition, National Art School Gallery, Sydney  
"Upcake Art Gallery", Fairfield, NSW  
1979 "Four in One", Downs Gallery, Toowoomba, Qld

#### AWARDS / COMMISSIONS

- 2008 Highly Commended Finalist, University of Western Sydney Acquisitive Sculpture Award  
2007 Distinguished Invited Artist Award, Sculpture by the Sea Bondi, Sydney  
2006 Highly Commended Finalist, University of Western Sydney Acquisitive Sculpture Award  
Finalist, Willoughby City Art Prize, NSW  
2005 3D Award, Walkom Manning Art Prize, Manning Regional Art Gallery, NSW  
Commission, Presbyterian Ladies' College, Sydney  
2002 Research Scholarship, National Art School, Sydney  
2001 2nd Prize, Walkom Manning Art Prize, Taree, NSW  
2000 2nd Prize, Quota International Art Competition, Wagga Wagga, NSW  
1998 Staff Travelling Scholarship, National Art School, Sydney  
Commission, Presbyterian Ladies' College, Sydney  
1995 Research Grant, University of Western Sydney  
Highly Commended, Hunter's Hill Art Prize, Sydney  
1st Prize, Traditional Sculpture, and Highly Commended, Waverley / Woollahra Art Prize, Sydney  
Brambles Australia Limited, Sydney  
Commission, Award for the Women of Iron and Steel, Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission

#### PUBLICATIONS

- 2011 "Dark Star", *Vogue Living*, March/April  
2010 *Sculpture and the enemies*, Issue 2 # 1  
2009 "Powers suffer in small scale", Sasha Grishin, *Canberra Times*, 3 August  
2007 *Artists Observed*, Carol Hampshire, University of New South Wales Press, Sydney  
2006 Helen Musa, *The Canberra Times*, 14 October  
2004 "Clara Hali's Cubist Women", Peter Harris, *Ceramics Art and Perception*, Issue 55  
2003 Sue Williams, *Financial Review*, 27 February  
Peter Hill, *The Sydney Morning Herald*, 7 February  
2002 Victoria Hynes, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 1 February  
Review, Sonia Barron, *The Canberra Times*, 5 March  
2001 Sebastian Smee, *The Sydney Morning Herald*, 22 January  
Review, Peter Harris, *World Sculpture News*, Winter  
"Between Intention and Realization", Peter Harris, *World Sculpture News*, Spring  
*The Studio Tradition - National Art School 1883- 2001*, Manly Art Gallery and Museum, Sydney  
2000 "The Body Natural", Peter Harris, *World Sculpture News*, Vol 6 No 2  
Interview with Dr Sasha Mehta, SBS Radio, 3 August  
"A Focus on Tradition", Peter Harris, *World Sculpture News*, Vol 6 No 3  
Review, Peter Harris, *World Sculpture News*, Vol 6 No 3  
"In the scale of things", Bronwyn Watson, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 11 November  
1999 Elizabeth Bastian, *Central Western Daily*, 12 June  
Sebastian Smee, *The Sydney Morning Herald*, 13 July  
1998 Sebastian Smee, *The Sydney Morning Herald*, 20 February  
"5 days running", Quentin Dempster, *ABC Snapshot*, February  
1996 "Maps of the artist's mind", John McDonald, *The Sydney Morning Herald*, 11 May  
Sebastian Smee, *The Sydney Morning Herald*, 11 October  
1991 *Periphery*, Felicity Fenner, No. 7



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**REPRESENTED**

Mitchell Art Collection, USA; Macquarie University, Sydney; Sir Hermann Black Gallery, University of Sydney; Compaq Computers, Sydney; Brambles Australia, Sydney; Pymble Ladies College, Sydney; Cottesloe City Council, Perth