

eX de Medici

eX de Medici's extraordinary work gravitates around concepts of power through violence, geo-economic politics and environment. Visually seductive and technically brilliant, her sumptuous paintings draw the viewer in with their beauty whilst juxtaposing this with political overtones. Growing up in Canberra, eX studied at the Canberra School of Art, combining performance art, installation, drawing, photography and painting. After receiving an Australia Council Overseas development Grant in 1988, eX worked as an apprentice with a tattoo artist in LA. which led to her working for many years as a tattoo artist. This period continues to have a profound influence on her extraordinarily diverse art practice. eX's work portrays the unpalatable realities of our social landscape with corruption, aggression, guns and detritus often populating her work. Increasingly, eX is interested in exposing the widening divide between two sciences; one devoted to the preservation of life on our planet and the other bent on the destruction of the world through the advancement of human industry and greed. She questions the fetishisation of weaponry and the ceaseless appeal to violence by those of who claim to protect peace. With her masterful and intricate compositions, eX often veils meaning in symbolism, luring her audience into political territory. As Samantha Littley, Curator at the Queensland Art Gallery articulates, within each of eX's works "there is a silent yet persistent plea: for us to recognise the insidious nature of the systems that control us, to wake us from our collective stupor, and to demand change".

eX de Medici has exhibited extensively in Australia and internationally and is a regular participant in national and international awards. In 2002, she won the National Works on Paper prize and was selected as a finalist in the Dobell Prize for Drawing (2002), the National Self-Portrait Prize (2013 and 2015) and the Singapore Art Prize (2014.). In 2009, eX was selected for the prestigious Artist in War program (Solomon Islands Peace Keeping mission) for the Australian War Memorial. She has worked on a number of commissions including a portrait of Midnight Oil for the National Portrait Gallery in 2001 and "Shotgun Wedding Dress" for the National Gallery of Australia in 2015. In 2020, eX had a solo survey exhibition at the Wollongong Regional Gallery and was included as one of fifteen contemporary Australian artists in 'Full Face' at the Queensland Art Gallery/Gallery of Modern Art in Brisbane. eX has been included in the 'Know My Name' exhibition at the National Gallery of Australia from 2020-21 and, in 2023, 'Beautiful Wickedness', a major survey exhibition of eX's work was held at the Queensland Art Gallery of Modern Art. All of the art works from her 2021 Beaver Galleries exhibition 'Double Crossed' were included in the survey and loaned by the collectors who acquired them. eX de Medici's works are represented in many significant collections including the National Gallery of Australia, National Gallery of Victoria, Art Gallery of New South Wales, National Portrait Gallery, Queensland Art Gallery and the Australian War Memorial.

BIOGRAPHY

1959	Born Coolamon, NSW
1986-8	Artist in Residence, Canon Australia. Sydney, Melbourne, Perth and Canberra
1986	Founding member of Canberra Contemporary Art Space
1987	Artist in Residence, Claremont School of Art, Perth
1997	Artist in Residence, Trongate Studios, Glasgow, Scotland
1998	Artist in Residence, University of Tasmania. Hobart
2000	Artist in Residence, Norfolk Island Museums Trust, Norfolk Island
2001	Artist in Residence, Dunedin Museum and Gallery, New Zealand.
2006-07	Artist in Residence, Australian Print Workshop, Melbourne
1998-2009	Artist Fellow, CSIRO Entomology Division (Taxonomy), Black Mountain, Canberra
2009	Official War Artist, Australian War Memorial, Canberra/Solomon Islands
2010	Artist in Residence, Art Vault, Mildura, Vic Artist in Residence, Australian War Memorial, Canberra
2011	Artist in Residence, Art Vault, Mildura, Vic
2012	Artist in Residence, Art Vault, Mildura, Vic
2020	Artist in Residence, Wollongong Art Gallery, NSW Artist in Residence, CSIRO, Canberra

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2023	"Beautiful Wickedness", Queensland Art Gallery of Modern Art, Brisbane "Guns & Flowers – eX de Medici & Sidney Nolan, Canberra Museum & Gallery, Canberra
2021	"DOUBLE CROSSED", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
2020	"From the Room of Dorian Gray", Wollongong Regional Gallery, NSW
2019	"The Wreckers/Farmer and Foreigner", Sullivan+strumpf, Sydney
2018	"Smithereens", Sullivan+strumpf, Singapore
2017	"Spies Like Us", Sullivan+strumpf, Sydney
2015	"Sour Crude", Sullivan+strumpf, Sydney
2013	"Cold Blooded", Drill Hall Gallery, Canberra

- 2012 "Ton of Bricks", Melbourne Art Fair, Royal Exhibition Building, Melbourne (Sullivan+strumpf)
2012 "State Apparatus", Urmia University, West Azarbaijan province, Islamic Republic of Iran
2011 "Need Head", Sullivan+strumpf, Sydney
2010 "eX de Medici/Vexed Generation", Fashion Spage Gallery, London College of Fashion, London, UK
2009 "Sweet Complicity", Karen Woodbury Gallery, Melbourne
2008 "Sold Out", Boutwell Draper Gallery, Sydney
2007 "Black Flag", Boutwell Draper Gallery, Sydney
2005 "Charm School", Boutwell Draper Gallery, Sydney
2004 "Masters and Slaves", Boutwell Draper Gallery, Sydney
eX de Medici@MPRG, Mornington Peninsula Art Gallery, Vic
2003 "Soft Steel", Heide Museum of Modern Art, Melbourne
"Gals with Guns", Helen Maxwell Gallery, Canberra
2001 "Sq.", Helen Maxwell Gallery, Canberra
2000 "Vainglorious", Canberra City Museum and Gallery
1997-9 "60 Heads" Touring Exhibition, Origin: Canberra Contemporary Art Space
1997 "Indelible", Australian Centre for Contemporary Art, Melbourne
1994 "Scratching", Australian Girls Own Gallery, Canberra
1989 "More Scenes from the Ivory Tower", Australian Centre for Photography, Sydney

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2020-21 "Know My Name: Australian women artists 1900 to now, Part One", National Gallery of Australia, Canberra
2020 "Know My Name: National Billboard Project", National Gallery of Australia, Canberra
"Full Face", Queensland Art Gallery/Gallery of Modern Art, Brisbane
2019 "The Courage for Peace, Australian Peacekeepers", Australian War Memorial, Canberra
"Top Five Collection Portraits", National Portrait Gallery, Canberra
"The Ideal Home", Penrith Regional Gallery/Lewers Bequest, Penrith, NSW
"Ideal Home", Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences, Sydney
"Lake Mungo Project", Latrobe University Gallery, Bendigo, Vic & The Art Vault, Mildura, Vic
"Icons", Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences, Sydney
"Love", Tweed Regional Gallery, Murwillumbah, NSW
"Stopping Time, Material Prints 3000BCE to Now" touring exhibition, Griffith University, Logan, Qld (Gympie, Newcastle, Logan, Grafton)
2018 Hong Kong Art Fair, Hong Kong
"Political Connections", Institute of Contemporary Arts, Singapore
"Storm in a Teacup", Mornington Peninsula Regional Gallery, Vic
"The Ideal Home", Museum of Applied Arts and Science/Penrith Art Gallery, Sydney
"Lake Mungo Project", Mildura Arts Centre, Vic
"Two Houses: Politics and histories in the contemporary art collections of John Chia and Yeap Lam Yang", Lasalle College of the Arts, Singapore
"The Waves", Sullivan+strumpf, Sydney
"Line of Enquiry", Mornington Peninsula Regional Gallery, Vic
"Obsession: Devil in the Detail", Mornington Peninsula Regional Gallery, Vic
2017 "Know My Name", National Gallery of Australia, Canberra
"Sugar Spin: You, Me, Art and Everything", Gallery of Modern Art, Brisbane
"Skin Thing", Bundoora Homestead, Melbourne
"Australian Camouflage", Australian War Memorial, Canberra
"Love Is.....", Powerhouse Museum, Sydney
"Romancing the Skull", Art Gallery of Ballarat, Vic
"Lake Mungo Project", Lake Mungo/Art Vault, Mildura, Vic
2016 "Prints at Large", Australian Print Workshop, Melbourne
Singapore Art Fair, Singapore
"Arrival", Sullivan+strumpf, Singapore
"Beyond the Tower, 40 Years and Counting", University of Queensland Art Museum, Brisbane
"Impressions 2016", Australian Print Workshop, Melbourne
"War, A Playground Perspective", University of New South Wales Art & Design, Sydney
Gold Award, Rockhampton City Gallery, Qld
Gippsland Print Prize, Latrobe Regional Gallery, Vic

- 2015 "New Acquisitions", National Gallery of Australia, Canberra
"Sour Crude (Selected)", Murray Art Museum, Albury, Vic
National Self Portrait Prize (Invitational), University of Queensland Gallery, Brisbane
"Home Front", Casula Powerhouse, Sydney
"A Permanent Mark: The Impact of Tattoo Culture on Contemporary Art," touring exhibition, Pinnacles Gallery/Perc Tucker Regional Gallery, Townsville, Qld and Gold Coast City Gallery, Qld
"First Landing to Last Post", Parliament House, Canberra
"Streetwise", NGA Contemporary, Canberra
- 2014 "Sealed Section", Artbank, Sydney
"Afghanistan: Voices from a War", Galleries of Remembrance, The Shrine, Melbourne
"Artbank New", Artbank Gallery, Sydney
"New Australian Prints", Kyoto, Japan
"Gippsland Print Prize, Gippsland Art Gallery, Sale, Victoria
"Quo Vadis, The Last Drawing show", University of New South Wales Gallery, Sydney
"Conflict", University of Queensland Gallery, Brisbane
NGA Contemporary, National Gallery of Australia, Canberra
"DARK HEART", Adelaide Biennial of Australian Art, Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide
- 2013 "New", University of Queensland, Brisbane
"SKUN", Bega Valley Regional Gallery, NSW
"Wild Women (BRG)", Canberra Contemporary Art Space
"Flip Side", ANCA Gallery, Canberra
"Ros Atkins and eX de Medici", Australian Galleries, Melbourne
"Perspectives", national touring exhibition with Jon Cattapan, Australian War Memorial, Canberra
"Birds", Penrith Regional Art Gallery, Penrith, NSW
- 2012 "Selected Works: New acquisitions from the Queensland University of Technology Art Collection, Brisbane
"Ton of Bricks", Melbourne Art Fair
"Like", Casula Powerhouse, Sydney
"Perspectives", National Touring Exhibition with John Cattapan, Australian War Memorial, Canberra
"Contemporary Iranian Art", New Albion Gallery, Sydney
"Controversy", Mornington Peninsula Regional Gallery, Victoria
"Wow, Works from the Collection", Mornington Peninsula Regional Gallery, Victoria
"Rapture of Death", Gippsland Regional Art Gallery, Sale, Victoria
- 2011 "Perspectives", National Touring Exhibition with John Cattapan, Australian War Memorial, Canberra
- 2010 "Living Deadly", Monash University Gallery, Melbourne
"Perspectives", National Touring Exhibition with John Cattapan, Australian War Memorial, Canberra
"The Other World", Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane
"Freehand: Recent Australian Drawings", Heide Museum of Modern Art, Melbourne
- 2009 "Artist in War Program: Solomon Islands Peace Keeping mission (Operation Anode/Ramsi)", Australian War Memorial, Canberra
National Self-Portrait Prize (invitational), University of Queensland Art Museum, Brisbane
"Drawn From the Collection", National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne
- 2008 National Works on Paper Prize, Mornington Peninsula Regional Gallery, Vic
"Cruel and Unusual Punishment/Art and Violence", LaTrobe University Museum, Melbourne
"New Gothic, University of Queensland, Brisbane
"Fall of Night", Helen Maxwell Gallery, Canberra
"Chaos and Revelry" Counihan Gallery/Moreland City Gallery, Melbourne
New Acquisitions, National Gallery of Australia, Canberra
New Acquisitions, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
New Acquisitions, Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide
"Retroactive III", Canberra Contemporary Art Space
"Sold Out", Bouthwell Draper Gallery, Sydney
- 2007 "Collie Fellowship Exhibition", Australian Print Workshop, Melbourne
"Snap Freeze", Tarrawarra Museum of Modern Art, Vic
Auckland Art Fair, Auckland, New Zealand
"The Story of Australian Printmaking", National Gallery of Australia, Canberra
"Schmetterling". Innsbruck Natural History Museum and Vienna Natural History Museum and Art Gallery, Austria
- 2006 "Social Capital", Canberra Contemporary Art Space

- "Contemporary Commonwealth '06", National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne
Asia Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art, Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane
"Warning, Smoking", Mornington Peninsula Regional Gallery, Vic
Melbourne Art Fair, Royal Exhibition Building, Melbourne
"Making Portraits", National Portrait Gallery, Canberra
New Acquisitions, National Gallery of Australia, Canberra
- 2005 "Moist – Australian Watercolours", National Gallery of Australia, Canberra
"Drawn From the Collection", National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne
"Future Tense", Dell Gallery, Griffith University, Brisbane
"Contemporary Australian Drawing", National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne
- 2004 "The Nature Machine", Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane
"The Year in Art", S.H. Ervin Gallery, Sydney
"The Spirit of Football", National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne
"Making Portraits", National Portrait Gallery, Canberra
New Acquisitions, National Gallery of Australia, Canberra
- 2002 Dobell Prize for Drawing, Art Gallery New South Wales, Sydney
"National Works on Paper Prize", Mornington Peninsula Museum and Gallery, Vic
"Contemporary Australian Portraits", National Portrait Gallery, Canberra
"Art of Victoria", Gold Treasury Building, Melbourne
- 2001 "So You Wanna Be A Rock Star", National Portrait Gallery, Canberra
"Secret Life of Plants", Australian Academy of Science, Canberra
- 2000 "The Car in Australian Art and Culture", Heide Museum of Modern Art, Melbourne
"Mirror With a Memory", National Portrait Gallery, Canberra
- 1998-99 "Close Quarters", touring exhibition from Monash University Gallery, Melbourne
- 1998 "Fotofeis. Survey of International Photography", Glasgow, Scotland
New Acquisitions, National Gallery of Australia, Canberra
- 1996 Adelaide Biennial, Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide
- 1995 "Art in the Age of Aids", National Gallery of Australia, Canberra
- 1990 Adelaide Biennial (Inaugural), Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide
"10 Years of Acquisitions", National Gallery of Australia, Canberra

PERFORMANCE

- 2004 "Stilled Life", performance in two parts with Dr Ted Gott, Mornington Peninsula Regional Gallery, Vic
- 2003 "Gals with Guns" (with Polly McGee and audience members), Helen Maxwell Gallery, Canberra
- 2000 "Red/Blue", Canberra Museum and Gallery
- 1997 "Scum", Fotofeis Forum, Glasgow, Scotland
- 1988 "Fast and Slow", Canberra Contemporary Art Space
- 1986 "Sexsongs", Galerie Constantinople, Queanbeyan, NSW
- 1985 "ANZART'85", Auckland, New Zealand

AWARDS / COMMISSIONS

- 2017 Commission, Powerhouse Museum, Sydney
- 2016 Selected Finalist, Gold Prize, Rockhampton Regional Gallery, Qld
- 2015 Commission, National Gallery of Australia, Canberra
Selected Finalist, National Self-Portrait Prize, University of Queensland Art Museum, Brisbane
- 2014 Selected finalist (Inaugural) Singapore Art Prize
- 2013-14 Board Member, Canberra Glassworks
- 2013 Selected Finalist, National Self-Portrait Prize, University of Queensland Art Museum, Brisbane
- 2009-10 Artist in War Programme, Australian War Memorial, Canberra
Commission, Australian War Memorial, Canberra
- 2008 21st Anniversary Print Edition, Art Monthly Australia
- 2006 Australian Print Workshop 2006 Collie Print Trust Fellowship, Melbourne
- 2002 National Works on Paper Prize. Mornington Peninsula Museum and Gallery, Vic
- 2002 Selected finalist, Dobell Prize for Drawing, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
- 2001 Professional Development Grant. VACB, Australia Council.(CSIRO)
Commission, National Portrait Gallery, Canberra
Commission, CSIRO Australian National Insect Collection, Canberra

- 1995 Critics Circle Award for Visual Arts, Canberra
1988 Professional Development Grant, VACB, Australia Council, Los Angeles, United States of America
Board Member, Canberra Contemporary Art Space
1982-5 Board Member, Bitumen River Gallery, Canberra

PUBLICATIONS & MEDIA

- 2023 "Destroying wickedness with beauty: Canberra artist eX de Medici has a major survey show at GOMA", *The Canberra Times*, Sasha Grishin, 26 June
- 2021 "Mesmerising moths, weapons and gold", Sasha Grishin, *The Canberra Times*, 17 May
"Marking time: the life and work of Canberra artist eX de Medici", Sally Pryor, *The Canberra Times*, 15 May
"Interview: eX de Medici", Tracey Clement, *Art Guide Australia*, May-June issue
- 2020 "Wollongong gallery shows the bravery now necessary", John McDonald, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 24 July
eX de Medici: from the room of Dorian Gray, Samantha Littley, Wollongong Art Gallery
- 2019 "On the brink of catastrophe with eX de Medici", Claire Bridge, *Art World Women*, online
- 2018 "Artist eX de Medici paints brutal violence in a gentle medium", Akshita Nanda, *The Straits Times*, 29 May
- 2017 "eX de Medici: Spies Like Us", Tiarney Miekus, *Art Guide Australia*, 9 June
"Cure for Pain: 'Powerful' work by elusive artist eX de Medici acquired by Australian War Memorial", Andrew Bell, *ABC News*, 27 March
- 2015 "The National Gallery of Australia's new eX de Medici artwork now on display", Jill Hogan, *The Canberra Times*, 27 November
"eX de Medici on Sublime 'Sour Crude' Subversions in Sydney", Nicholas Forrest, *Blouin Artinfo*, 9 July
"eX de Medici's Sour Crude", Neha Kale, *Broadsheet*, 7 July
"See: eX de Medici's 'Sour Crude'", Mitchell Oakley-Smith, *Manuscript*, 26 June
"Preview – eX de Medici", Jane O'Sullivan, *Art Guide Australia*, 23 June
"eX de Medici's 'psychologically nauseating' works selling fast", Jane O'Sullivan, *Australian Financial Review*, 10 June
- 2014 "Dark Heart: Adelaide Biennial", Jonathan Thompson, *Asian Art News*, May/June
"What Now? eX de Medici", Melissa Keys. *Art Collector*, Art Basel Hong Kong Special Edition
"eX de Medici", Margherita Dessanay, *Elephant Magazine*, Issue 18, Spring
"South Australia's Dark Heart Revealed", Tim Stone and Carlo Zeccola. *ABC Arts*, 26 March
"Dark Heart Takes Australia's Pulse", *A Magazine*, February
Cold Blooded, Australian National University, Drill Hall Gallery
- 2013 "Top Drawer: artist pushing the boundaries of drawing", Andrew Frost, *The Guardian*, 2 July
"eX de Medici: Cold Blooded", Owen Craven, *Art Almanac*, June, p. 35
"A Loop of Attraction and Repulsion", Sally Pryor, *The Sydney Morning Herald*, 22 June
- 2012 "Violent Beauty: Controversial Australian Artist talks War, Politics & Painting", Nicholas Forrest, *Blouin Art Info*, 23 July
"Best and Fairest – 2012 Melbourne Art Fair", Ray Edgar, *Art Guide*, p. 69, July – August
Ton of Bricks, Jenny McFarlane, Sullivan+Strumpf
"The Battle of Subject Matter", Paul Flynn, *Artist Profile*, Issue 18, p. 112
- 2011 "I wanted to use a language which they understand, is in your face, plain as day." Catherine Keenan, *Spectrum*, Sydney Morning Herald, April 30 – 1 May
"Float Like a Butterfly, Sting like a Bee", Edward Colless, *Australian Art Collector*, Issue 56, April - June, pp. 136 – 143
Cure for Pain, Jenny McFarlane, Sullivan+Strumpf
- 2010 "Business as Usual", J. Durrant, *Photofile*, Issue #90, August – November, 18 – 23
"The Jungle...it Just Came Alive", Diana Warnes, *Perspectives Australian War Memorial*, pp. 28 – 33
"Tattooist Breaks Her Own Pattern", Rosemary Sorensen, *The Australian*, 29 July
- 2009 "Art Market Report", Terry Ingram, *Upfront*, *Australian Art Collector*, January – March, pp. 78-80
- 2008 "X", P. Flynn, *Artist Profile*, pp. 28 - 35
Skin documentary, ABC Television. September
- 2004 *eX de Medici@MPRG*, Roger Leong
"Sex, Death and Fascism", Sarah Thomas, *Art Monthly*, June
- 2002 "Seduce and Destroy", Magda Keaney, *Portrait #2*, *National Portrait Gallery*
- 2001 "An Epic Journey on a Lilliputian Scale", Ted Gott, *Art and Australia*, Vol. 40
"Nothing's as Precious as a Hole in the Ground", eX de Medici, *So you Wanna Be a Rock Star* catalogue, National Portrait Gallery, Canberra
- 2001: *Snapshot*. ABC Canberra and ABC Asia Network..
- 2000 "The Car in Australian Art", Ted Gott, Heide Museum of Modern Art, Melbourne, pp. 22 –24.
- 1999 "The scandal of eX de Medici", Gordon Bull, *Photofile*, #56, May, pp. 12-17

- 1996 *Review*, ABC Television, Sydney.
- 1995 *60 Heads*, Gordon Bull & Jenny McFarlane, Canberra Contemporary Art Space, Canberra
Carpet Burns/Eat Carpet, SBS Television, Sydney.
- 1994 *Tattoo*, Channel 9 Adelaide
"The Illustrated Woman", M. Desmond, *World Art*, Vol.1 #1, pp. 72 - 75
- 1993: *Review*, ABC Television, Sydney.
Steve Vizard show, Channel 9, Melbourne
- 1990 "Disposable Icons", ex de Medici, *Artlink*, Vol 12, No. #4

COLLECTIONS

National Gallery of Australia, Canberra; National Portrait Gallery, Canberra; Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney; Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide; National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne; Queensland Art Gallery/QAGOMA, Brisbane; Artbank, Sydney; Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences (Powerhouse), Sydney; Australian War Memorial, Canberra; Parliament House Art Collection, Canberra; University of Queensland Art Museum, Brisbane; Monash University Museum of Art, Melbourne, Griffith University Art Gallery, Brisbane; Mornington Peninsula Museum and Gallery, Vic; Museum of Old and New Art, Hobart; Gold Coast Regional Gallery, Qld; Canberra Museum and Gallery; Penrith Regional Gallery, NSW; Wollongong Art Gallery, NSW; Geelong Regional Gallery, Vic; Shepparton Art Museum, Vic; CSIRO Australian National Insect Collection, Canberra; Australian High Commission, Beijing, China.