

CLARA HALI

Clara Hali is an artist who engages with the sculptural possibilities offered by the human form. Influenced by the Cubist ethos of combining figurative and abstract planes, Clara's sculptures explore the bold characteristics of both the female and male figure. Her journey with the human form has 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. Continuing with her exploration of the human form, Clara's most recent bronze figures are engaged in the practice of yoga, her sculptures reflecting our deep desire to find balance and spirituality within our busy lifestyles. Clara's work shows 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
- 2017 Residency, The Kiosk, Katoomba

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2023 "Selected works: 1992-2022", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
- 2022 "Land Forms Body Forms", Defiance Gallery, Sydney
"The circle & the square", Blue Mountains City Art Gallery, Katoomba, NSW
- 2021 "Selected works from 1995-2020", Defiance Gallery, Sydney
- 2016 "Fusion", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
- 2013 "Yogis and Yoginis", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
"Configurations", University of Western Sydney
- 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

2023 "The Summer Show", Defiance Gallery, Sydney
2022 "Sculptures @ the House", Government House, NSW
"Sculpture at Sawmillers", Sawmillers Reserve, Sydney
"Defiance 2022", Defiance Gallery, Sydney
"6x6x6" Miniature Exhibition", Defiance Gallery, Sydney
"Major Works", Defiance Gallery, Sydney
2021 "Abstraction 2021", Defiance Gallery, Sydney
"The Miniature Show 2021", Defiance Gallery, Sydney
"Selected Works 2021", Defiance Gallery, Sydney
2020 "Group Exhibition", Defiance Gallery, Sydney
2019 "Bathurst Art Fair", Bathurst Regional Art Gallery, NSW
"Figural – imagery & association", Defiance Gallery, Sydney
"Autumn Group Show", Defiance Gallery, Sydney
"Group Exhibition", Defiance Gallery, Sydney
"Clara Hali & Peter Powditch", Defiance Gallery, Sydney
2018 "Peter Rushforth – A Legacy", Blue Mountains Cultural Centre, Katoomba, NSW
"Hillview exhibition of Contemporary Sculpture", NSW
"Sculpture at Scenic World", Katoomba, NSW
"Metal urges", Braemar Gallery, Springwood, NSW
2017 "Material Form: Bronzes from the Vault", The Kiosk, Katoomba
2016 "Sculpture Inside", Cottesloe, Perth
"Acquisitive Sculpture Award", University of Western Sydney
"Sculpture at Sawmillers", Sawmillers Reserve, Sydney
"Winter exhibition: Rio Tinto", SXS, Perth
"Sculpture by the Sea", Sydney
"Finger Wharf exhibition", ARTPark Australia, Sydney
2015 "6x6x6 inch miniature sculpture show", Defiance Gallery, Sydney
"Finger Wharf exhibition", ARTPark Australia, Sydney
"Winter Exhibition", SXS, Perth
2014 "Sculptures at Sawmillers", Sawmillers reserve, Sydney
"Inner and outer landscapes", Incinerator Art Space, Sydney
"Gesture", Coorah Contemporary Art Gallery, Blue Mountains, NSW
"A winter showcase", Sculpture by the Sea, Sydney
"Sculpture by the Sea", Bondi, Sydney
"Minumental – 19th miniature show", Defiance Gallery, Sydney
2013 "Sculpture Inside", Cottesloe, Perth
"Maximus Minimus – 18th miniature show", Defiance Gallery, Sydney
"Tutor's exhibition", Scratch Art Space, Sydney
2012 "Sculpture by the Sea", Bondi, Sydney
"Sculpture Inside", Cottesloe, Perth
"10 Years Inside Out", Chrissie Cotter Gallery, Sydney
"Tiny Titans and Miniliths", Defiance Gallery, Sydney
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, Lilianfels, 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
"Big Thoughts Small Works", Defiance Gallery, Sydney
- 1998 "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

- 1996 "Indaphile", International Arts Festival, James Harvey Gallery, Sydney
"The Biggest Little Show in Town", Defiance Gallery, Sydney
"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

- 2021 The Lady Nock Sculpture Prize, Defiance Gallery, Sydney
- 2014 The Borton Sculpture Prize, Defiance Gallery, Sydney
- 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

- 2016 Sasha Grishin, *Canberra Times*, 23 September
Jennifer Curtin, *Blue Mountain Gazette*, 19 October
2012 *Blue Mountains Gazette*, Shane Desiatnik, 24 October
Lithgow Mercury, Troy Walsh, 20 October
The Telegraph, Elizabeth Fortescue, 21 June
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

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