

## WARATAH LAHY

Canberra artist Waratah Lahy is drawn to painting the often unnoticed details of suburban life. Working in watercolour and oil, her intriguing scenes capture moments gleaned from the everyday. Quietly recording afternoon shadows that gently skim across pavements and the whispers of budding leaves before spring, Waratah reveals recognisable yet unexpectedly beautiful details of suburbia. As a child, Waratah noticed newly installed Neighbourhood Watch signs which instilled within her a sense of watchfulness. Since then, she has been an avid observer and recorder of her surroundings. Her works at once speak of isolation and points of connection, telling the story of ongoing social change and directing us, in particular, to watch shifting populations, accrual of wealth, removal of public housing, bigger apartment blocks and separation from the natural environment. For Waratah, this process of careful observation is also deeply meditative and enriching. She says of her work, "It's a story of growth and change, but it's an ode to accidental beauty and how the observation of small things can add value and meaning to the everyday."

Waratah has exhibited widely since graduating from the Australian National University School of Art with Honours in Visual Arts and the University Medal in 1999. She has undertaken numerous residencies, including at the Cité Internationale des Arts, Paris awarded by the Australia Council for the Arts in 2012. Waratah was a finalist in the Calleen Art Awards in 2020, winner of the 2018 M16 Drawing Award and the Canberra Critics Circle Award for visual arts in 2017. Waratah is also an experienced arts administrator and educator. Her work is held in several collections including Artbank, Parliament House and the Goulburn Regional Art Gallery.

## BIOGRAPHY

- 1974 Born
- 1997 Exchange student, Faculty of Fine Arts, Chiang Mai University, Thailand
- 1998 Bachelor of Arts (Visual) with First Class Honours and University Medal, School of Art, Australian National University
- 1999 Artist in Residence, Gorman House Arts Centre, Canberra  
Graduate in Residence, School of Art, Australian National University
- 2000 Exhibitions Team, ScreenSound Australia
- 2001 Artist in Residence, Arthur Boyd Bundanon Trust, NSW
- 2003-4 Board Member, Canberra Contemporary Art Space
- 2004-21 Emerging Artist Support Scheme Coordinator, ANU School of Art
- 2007-13 Sessional lecturer, life drawing, Visual Arts Access, Centre for Continuing Education, ANU
- 2007 Doctor of Philosophy (Visual Arts), School of Art, Australian National University
- 2007-8 Museum Attendant, Canberra Museum and Gallery
- 2011 Residency, Megalo Print Studio and Gallery, ACT
- 2012 Residency, Cité Internationale des Arts, Paris. Awarded by Australia Council for the Arts.
- 2009-21 Sessional lecturer, Painting Workshop, ANU School of Art, Australian National University
- 2009-22 Outreach coordinator, ANU School of Art, Australian National University

## SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2023 "Neighbourhood watch", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
- 2020 "The Shape of Things", MAY SPACE, Sydney
- 2019 "Hand Held World", MAY SPACE, Sydney
- 2017 "Everyday", MAY SPACE, Sydney  
"Three hundred and sixty six", CCAS Manuka, Canberra
- 2015 "Not far from the truth", Brenda May Gallery, Sydney
- 2014 "Overlooked", Brenda May Gallery, Sydney
- 2013 "Hidden", Brenda May Gallery, Sydney
- 2012 "Open studio", Cité Internationale des Arts, Paris
- 2011 "Not What It Seems", Brenda May Gallery, Sydney
- 2010 "Look", Brenda May Gallery, Sydney
- 2009 "In the Gallery", Helen Maxwell Gallery, Canberra
- 2008 "Nightlife", Brenda May Gallery, Sydney  
"Backyard Barbie", Helen Maxwell Gallery, Canberra
- 2005 "out the window", Craft ACT, Canberra
- 2004 "Work in Progress", Photospace, School of Art, Australian National University
- 2003 "Tourist Complex", Linden St. Kilda Centre for Contemporary Arts, Melbourne  
"Crowd", School of Art Foyer Gallery, Australian National University
- 2002 "Blokes, Dogs and Utes", West Space, Melbourne  
"Cold Comfort", Canberra Contemporary Art Space
- 1999 "Eleven ships", Canberra Contemporary Art Space

**SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS**

- 2021 "HABITAT: Ways of Living", Canberra Museum and Gallery
- 2020 Calleen Art Award, Cowra Regional Art Gallery, NSW  
"Seeing Canberra", Canberra Museum and Gallery  
"Fake Nature", Tuggeranong Arts Centre, Canberra
- 2019 "A World in a Looking Glass", Grafton Regional Gallery, NSW  
"Goulburn Bustle: The permanent collection en masse", Goulburn Regional Art Gallery, NSW  
"Sydney Contemporary, Carriageworks, Sydney (MAY SPACE)
- 2018 M16 Drawing Award, M16 Artspace, Canberra  
"Splash" McClelland Contemporary Watercolour Award, McClelland Sculpture Park + Gallery, Vic  
Grace Cossington Smith Art Award, Grace Cossington Smith Gallery, Abbotsleigh, Wahroonga, NSW  
"Painting Amongst Other Things", ANU School of Art and Design Gallery, Canberra  
"Celebration: 20 years of collecting visual art at CMAG", Canberra Museum and Gallery  
45<sup>th</sup> Muswellbrook Art Prize, Muswellbrook Regional Arts Centre, NSW
- 2017 "Backyards", MAYSPACE, Sydney  
Hazelhurst Art on Paper Award, Hazelhurst Regional Gallery & Art Centre, NSW  
"Pareidolia: cloud gazing", Megalo Print Studio and Gallery, Canberra
- 2015 "30 Years / 30 Artists / 30 Works", Brenda May Gallery, Sydney  
"Colour Code", CCAS Manuka, Canberra  
"Imaginarium", Belconnen Arts Centre, Canberra
- 2014 "Kitchenalia", Goulburn Regional Art Gallery, NSW  
"More than a big sheep", Goulburn Regional Art Gallery, NSW  
"In Tandem", Brenda May Gallery, Sydney
- 2013 "Small works", Beaver Galleries, Canberra  
"Holiday and Memory", Penrith Regional Gallery, NSW  
"It's a Small World", Glasshouse Regional Gallery, Port Macquarie, NSW  
"The Country Show", Bega Valley Regional Gallery, NSW  
"Naked & Nude", Manning Regional Art Gallery, NSW  
Art Stage Singapore (Brenda May Gallery)
- 2012 "Night visions", Lismore Regional Gallery, NSW
- 2011 "Natural Digression", University of Technology, Sydney  
"Democracy", School of Art Gallery, Australian National University
- 2010 Stan and Maureen Duke Gold Coast Art Prize, Gold Coast Regional Gallery, Qld  
"Something in the Air", Canberra Museum and Gallery  
Stanthorpe Art Prize, Stanthorpe Regional Gallery, Qld  
"Three Prints: Vivienne Binns, Jan Brown and Waratah Lahy", Megalo Print Studio, Canberra
- 2009 Heysen Prize for Interpretation of Place, Heysen Gallery, Hahndorf, SA  
"Curious Cars and Miniature Movers", Ipswich Regional Gallery, Qld
- 2008 "The Country Show", School of Art Foyer Gallery, Australian National University  
Melbourne Art Fair (Brenda May Gallery)
- 2007 "Art + Humour Too", Brenda May Gallery, Sydney  
"Look: Visual Arts Graduate Season" (PhD exhibition), School of Art, Australian National University
- 2006 "Found Out", Lake Macquarie City Art Gallery, NSW  
"The Great Dividing Range", Canberra Contemporary Art Space
- 2005 "Found Again", Rocketart, Newcastle, NSW  
City of Hobart Art Prize, Tasmanian Museum and Gallery, Hobart
- 2004 "Found", Inflight Gallery, Hobart
- 2003 "Finalists Exhibition, Brett Whiteley Travelling Art Scholarship", Brett Whiteley Studio, Sydney
- 2000 "Stitched up", Canberra Contemporary Art Space
- 1999 "A Letter to Picasso – The Stamp in Contemporary Art", Post Master Gallery, National Philatelic Centre, Melbourne
- 1998 "Exc'ita", Canberra School of Art Gallery, Australian National University

**AWARDS / COMMISSIONS**

- 2023 Finalist, Elaine Bermingham National Watercolour Prize in Landscape Painting, Griffith University, Qld
- 2020 Finalist, Calleen Art Award, Cowra Regional Art Gallery, NSW
- 2018 Hill End Artist in Residence, Bathurst Regional Art Gallery, NSW

- Winner, M16 Drawing Award, M16 Artspace, Canberra  
2017 Winner, Visual Arts, Canberra Critics Circle Award  
2014 Arts ACT project funding grant  
2012 Australia Council for the Arts Residency, Cité Internationale des Arts, Paris  
2011 Residency, Megalo Print studio and Gallery, Canberra  
2010 Acquisition, Stan and Maureen Duke Gold Coast Prize, Qld  
2009 Highly Commended, Heysen Prize for Interpretation of Place, SA  
2008 Capital Arts Patrons Organisation ISIS Award  
2007 ArtsACT Project Funding Grant  
2006 The EASS Patrons Graduate Anniversary Scholarship, Australian National University  
2005 Canberra Contemporary Art Space/ Helen Maxwell Gallery exhibition award  
2004 Finalist, Royal Overseas League Travelling Scholarship  
2003 Pat Corrigan Artists' Grant  
Graduate Materials Award, School of Art, Australian National University  
Finalist, Brett Whiteley Travelling Scholarship  
2002 Finalist, Royal Overseas League Travelling Scholarship  
2001 Australian Postgraduate Award Scholarship  
1998 Graduate Medal in the Honours School of Art, Australian National University  
EASS (Emerging Artist Support Scheme) Residency Award  
EASS Art Monthly subscription prize  
1997 Recipient, University Mobility in Asia Pacific Grant

#### **PUBLICATIONS**

- 2018 "This huge ANU exhibition comments on a vibrant visual culture", Sasha Grishin, *Canberra Times*, 22 August  
"Paintings, and other things, explore today's world", J. Landt, *City News*, 22 August  
2017 "*Pareidolia: Cloud Gazing* at Megalo Print Gallery shows imagination and technique", Sasha Grishin, *Canberra Times*, 23 March  
"Fourteen", Tracey Clement, *Art Guide Australia*, March/April  
2014 "Exhibition brief: *In Tandem*", *Art Almanac*, May  
"Separately Working In Tandem", Olivia Welch, *Trouble Magazine*, May  
2012 "Shades of Light and Dark", *Virgin Blue Voyeur*, July  
2013 "Night Visions and the Starlab Cosmodome", J. St Clair, ABC North Coast, 4 February  
<http://www.abc.net.au/local/reviews/2013/02/04/3682606.htm>  
"Natural Digression", Tracey Clement, *Art Guide*, May/June  
2011 "Open Gallery", *Sydney Morning Herald*, 24 April  
2009 "More potential in snapshots of gallery observations", Sasha Grishin, *Canberra Times*, 8 December  
2008 "Nightlife – BBQ", *Art World*, Issue 5.  
2006 "The Great Dividing Range", Russel Smith, *Art & Australia*, vol. 43 No. 4  
Miranda Tetlow, *Art Beat*, JJJ Radio interview, February <http://www.theprogram.net.au/featuresSub.asp?id=3386&state=1>.  
2005 *24:7 II: Art in Canberra's Public Place in the Year of the Built Environment*, exhibition catalogue, artsACT  
2003 "Canny artist transforms the humble beer tinny", Helen Musa, *Canberra Times*, 24 July  
"Canfuls of Aussie culture", Fleur Anderson, *Sunday Telegraph*, 27 July  
"The art of relocation", Diana Klaoson, *RealTime*, Issue 54, April/May  
2000 "Postmodern context in group showing", Sonia Barron, *The Canberra Times*, 9 August  
"Motel Artists", Kate Murphy, *RealTime*, Feb/Mar  
1999 "Connecting with the past", Sonia Barron, *Canberra Times*, 24 October

#### **COLLECTIONS**

ArtBank; Parliament House Art Collection, Canberra; Canberra Museum & Gallery, Canberra; Goulburn Regional Art Gallery, NSW; HOTA Gallery, Gold Coast, Qld; University of Canberra Rehabilitation Hospital, Canberra; Arthur Boyd Bundanon Trust, NSW; Schloss Haldenstein, Switzerland