

Wendy Sharpe

CIRCUS





Cirque d'Hiver Interior
Cover: *Spenser and Beau with Ladder* 2016 pastel on Stonehenge paper 76x57cm

Wendy Sharpe **CIRCUS**

13 September – 8 October 2016



Olivia's Dream 2015 oil on canvas 30x30cms

King Street Gallery
on William

www.kingstreetgallery.com.au



Self Portrait with Circus 2016 oil on linen 96x102cm



Gemma and Birdwoman 2015 oil on linen 50.5x56cm



CIRCUS

is about spectacle, magic & exuberance

The recent revival in Contemporary Circus is no longer about animals nor does it rely on technology, but it is about people and skill. Its live, precarious and anything can happen. Over the last couple of years I have visited many different contemporary circuses in Australia, France and Berlin. This exhibition comes from a combination of observation and imagination.

I have always loved the famous (humans only) Circus Oz. There is unrelenting energy, live music. irreverence, satire and of course the incredible artistry of the performers. The shows have a mixture of crazy humour, surrealism and poetry.

Last year, I finally decided to contact them to ask if I could come and work as artist in residence. I was delighted to receive an immediate and very enthusiastic YES! I spent many days with the circus in Melbourne and Sydney, I drew and photographed in warm up sessions, back stage in the dressing rooms, in the 'green room' tent and at many performances. I was delighted that several performers came in costume to my Sydney studio to pose for me.

I live and work part of every year in Paris, where I went several times to draw at the historic Cirque d'Hiver (the Winter Circus). The stunning building dates from 1852. It is dazzling inside with red velvet and chandeliers. Many artists have worked there, including Georges Seurat and particularly, Henri Toulouse Lautrec. It has also been the site of many films and photo shoots.

A huge thank you to all Circus Oz management. Thank you for allowing me in and making me welcome! It was fascinating and a great privilege. I am even more of a fan now than I was before!

A special thank you to Mike Finch, Debra Batton and all the wonderful, extraordinary Circus Oz performers, particularly those who sat for me in my studio, Lilkoi Kaos, Spenser Inwood, Beau Dudding and Olivia Porter.

I would also like to thank Mitchell Pitch, Heidi "Hoops" Hillier, Rosie Rivette and Rita Fontaine in Australia and Camille, Gemma, Marcel and Marguerite and the staff at Cirque d'Hiver in Paris.

Wendy Sharpe
August 2016

Lilkoi Kaos in the studio



Ring Mistress 2016 oil on linen 125x100cm



Blue Tea (Heidi & Mitchell) 2016 oil on linen 125x100cm



Rosie and White Boa 2015 oil on linen 42x35cm



Performer with Leopard Print 2016 oil on linen 101x76cm



Circus Oz Triptych 2016 oil on linen 160x312cm



Rita and Russell 2016 oil on linen 76x60cm



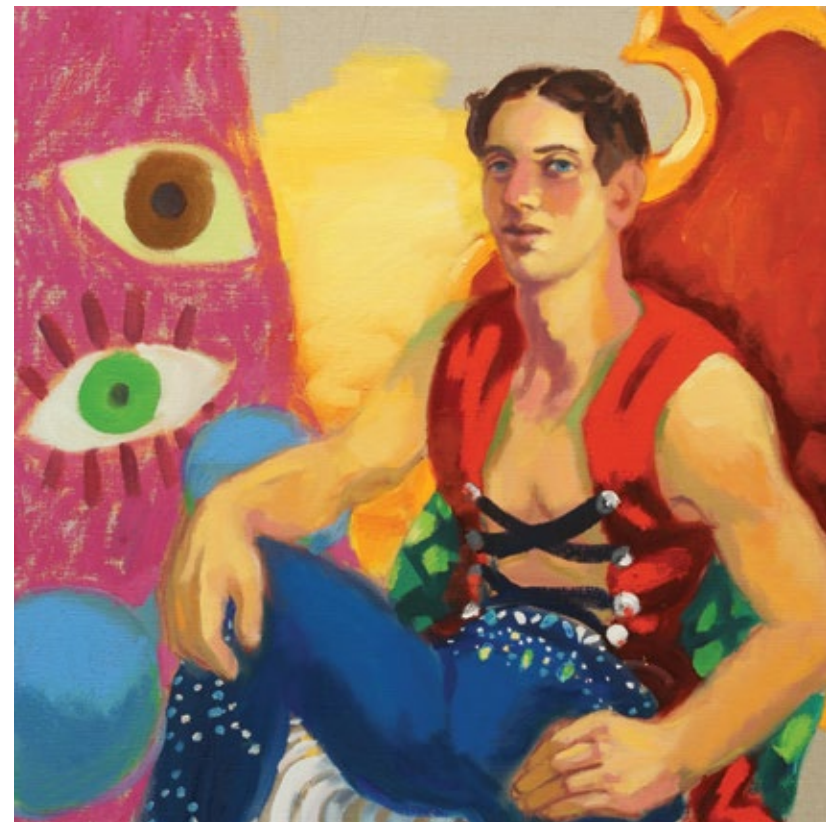
Wonder Woman Top Hat and Tiger 2016 oil on linen 76x60cm



Dressing Room 2016 oil on linen 120x240cm



Mitchell in Wendy's studio at St Peters



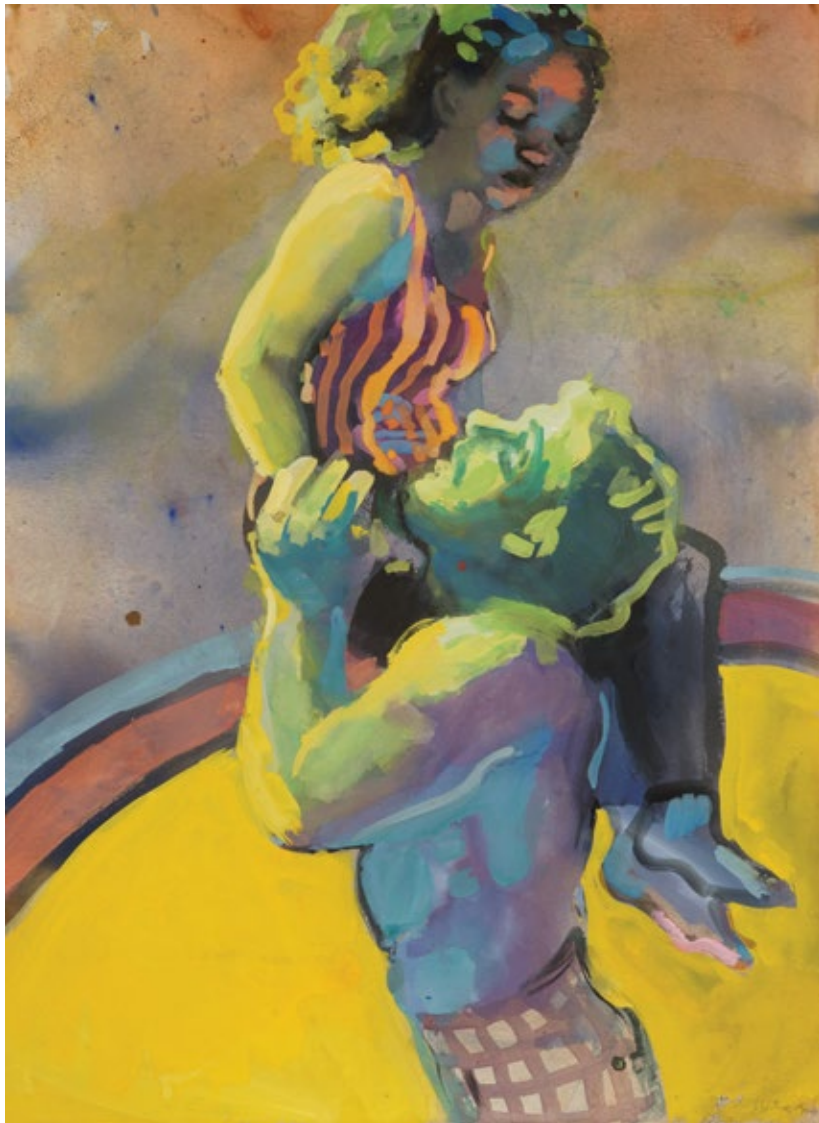
Mitchell in a Vintage Costume 2016 oil on linen 71x71cm



Red Lights - Cirque d'Hiver 2016 gouache on fabiano paper 76x56cm



Musicians Circus Oz 2016 gouache on fabiano paper 76x56cm



Couple with Yellow Light 2016 gouache on fabriano paper 76x56cm



Couple with Green Light 2016 gouache on fabriano paper 76x56cm



Unicycle Pas de Deux 2016 gouache on fabiano paper 76x56cm



Fire 2016 gouache on fabiano paper 76x56cm



Cirque d'Hiver Trapeze 2016 gouache on fabriano paper 15x38cm



Lilkoj and Headdress 2016 76x56cm gouache on fabriano paper



Circus Couple and Cloud 2016 oil on linen 91x76cm



Upside Down 2016 gouache on fabriano paper 76x56cm



Mid Air 2016 gouache on fabriano paper 76x56cm



Dressing Room No 5 2016 gouache on Chinese silk board 17x48cm



Dressing Room No 1 2016 gouache on Chinese silk board 17x48cm



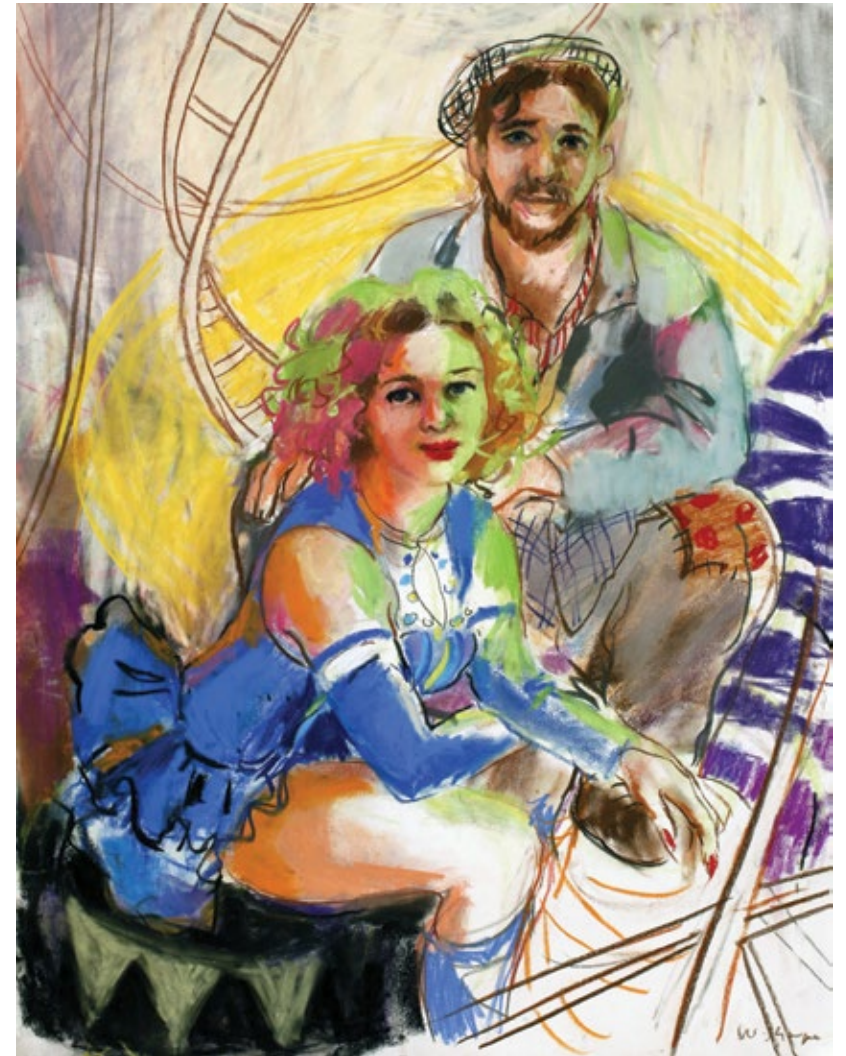
Olivia's Dream 2016 gouache on fabriano paper 76x56cm



Aerialist Cirque d'Hiver 2016 gouache on fabriano paper 26x21cm



Red and Yellow Tutu – Camille 2016 pastel on handmade paper 40x30cm



Spenser and Beau with Ladder 2016 pastel on stonehenge paper 76x56cm



Night Circus 2016 pastel on arches paper 90x227cm



High Trapeze 2015 oil on canvas 30x30cm



Ambroise and Adele 2015 gouache on fabiano paper 76x56cm

Wendy Sharpe

Brief CV: lives and works in Sydney and Paris

Solo Exhibitions – A small selection out of 46 exhibitions

- 2016 'Theatre of Dreams', Drawing Projects UK, Trowbridge, UK
- 2016 'Wanderlust', Tweed Regional Gallery, Murwillumbah QLD
- 2016 'Beautiful Monsters', Philip Bacon Galleries, Brisbane QLD
- 2015 'Theatre of Dreams', Michael Reid Gallery, Berlin, Germany
- 2015 'Seeking Humanity', Portraits of Asylum Seekers', The Muse, Ultimo TAFE, Sydney
- 2014 'Night', King Street Gallery on William, Darlinghurst, Sydney, NSW
- 2013 'Wendy Sharpe's Antarctica', Long Gallery, Salamanca Art Centre, Hobart, TAS
- 2013 'Truth or Dare', Muk Muk Fine Art, Darwin, NT
- 2012 'Artist & Model', Buratti Fine Art, North Fremantle, WA
- 2011 'Wendy Sharpe - the Imagined Life' (retrospective), S.H. Ervin Gallery, Sydney
- 2010 'Venice' King Street Gallery on William Sydney, NSW
- 2008 'Intimacy and Solitude' Adele Boag Gallery Adelaide, SA
- 2007 'Stories from the Studio' Philip Bacon Galleries, Brisbane, QLD
- 2006 'Couples' Mars Gallery Melbourne, VIC
- 2005 'Artist & City', Chapman Gallery, Canberra, ACT
- 2004 'Travel paintings' Phillip Bacon Gallery, Brisbane, QLD
- 2000 'New Beginnings-East Timor,' Australian War Memorial, Canberra, ACT
- 1999 'Drawings, Paintings and Mixed Media Works for The Annette Kellermann Mural' King Street Gallery on William Burton, Sydney, NSW
- 1991 'Ghosts' Pod Theatre, Sydney, NSW
- 1990 'Magic Paintings' DC Art Gallery, Sydney, NSW
- 1985 'Sex and Death' Nicholson Street Gallery, Sydney, NSW

Awards, Major Commissions and Prizes – A small selection

- 2015 Artist in residence, Circus Oz, Melbourne and Sydney
- 2015 International Artists Residency, Zhouzhuang, China
- 2014 Obracadobra Residency, Oaxaca, Mexico
- 2014 Winner Adelaide Perry Drawing Prize awarded by Edmund Capon
- 2013 'Manning Art Prize', Manning Regional Gallery, Taree
- 2012 Antarctica Artist Residency Mawson Centenary – Mawson's Hut Foundation
- 2011 Taronga Zoo Artist Residency Sydney
- 2008-09 Commission: The Arts Centre Victoria - The Australian Ballet's Exhibition
- 2008 Artist Residency Australian Embassy Cairo, Egypt
- 2006 Awarded tenancy Cite Internationale des Arts Studio, Paris, Art Gallery of NSW
- 2003 Portia Geach Memorial Prize Award S.H Ervin Gallery, Sydney, NSW
- 1999 Commissioned as Official Australian War Artist to East Timor, Australian War Memorial ACT (The 1st woman since WW2)
- 1998-99 Commissioned City of Sydney - Olympic pool murals Cook & Phillip Aquatic Centre
- 1998 Bathurst Art Prize, Bathurst Regional Art Gallery, NSW
- 1996 Archibald Prize Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney, NSW
- 1995 Kedumba Drawing Prize, NSW
- 1995 The Portia Geach Memorial Prize, SH Ervin Gallery, Sydney, NSW
- 1992 Robert Le Gay Bereton Drawing Prize, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
- 1991-92 Australian Post Graduate Research Award
- 1989 Mercedes Benz Art Scholarship
- 1986 Awarded tenancy Cite Internationale Studio, Paris Art Gallery of NSW
- 1986 Marten Bequest, Travelling Art Scholarship (painting)
- 1986 The Sulman Prize, Art Gallery of New South Wales, judged by Albert Tucker

Finalist, Sulman Prize – Art Gallery of New South Wales – 12 times

Finalist, Archibald prize – Art Gallery of New South Wales – 6 times

For a complete CV see www.wendysharp.com



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Wendy in the studio at St Peters, Sydney



King Street Gallery
on William

10am – 6pm Tuesday – Saturday
177 William St Darlinghurst NSW 2010 Australia
T: 61 2 9360 9727 F: 61 2 9331 4458
art@kingstreetgallery.com www.kingstreetgallery.com.au
Directors: Robert Linnegar and Randi Linnegar