

Wendy Sharpe
Magic

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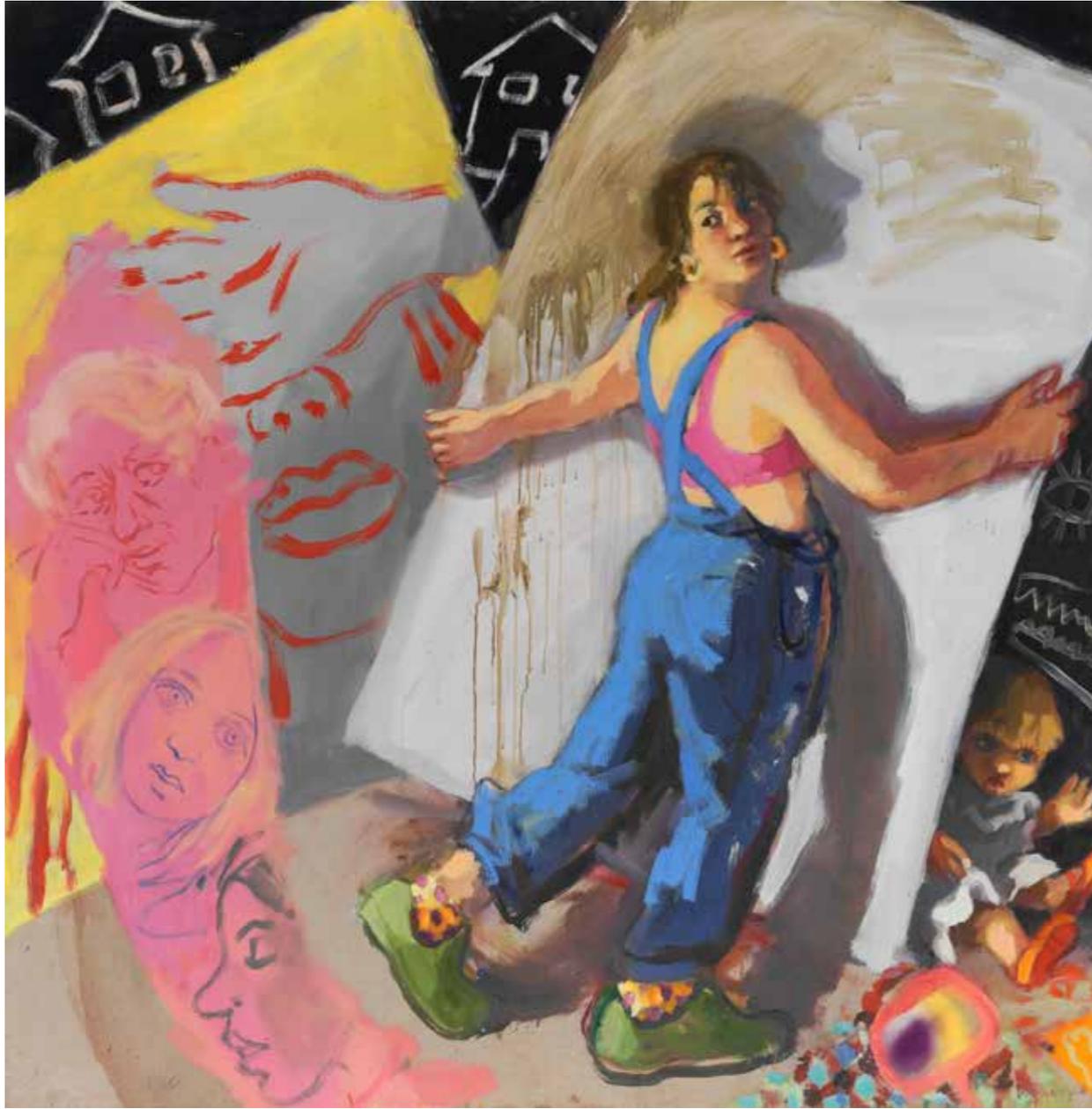
29 September – 24 October 2020

King Street Gallery 
on William

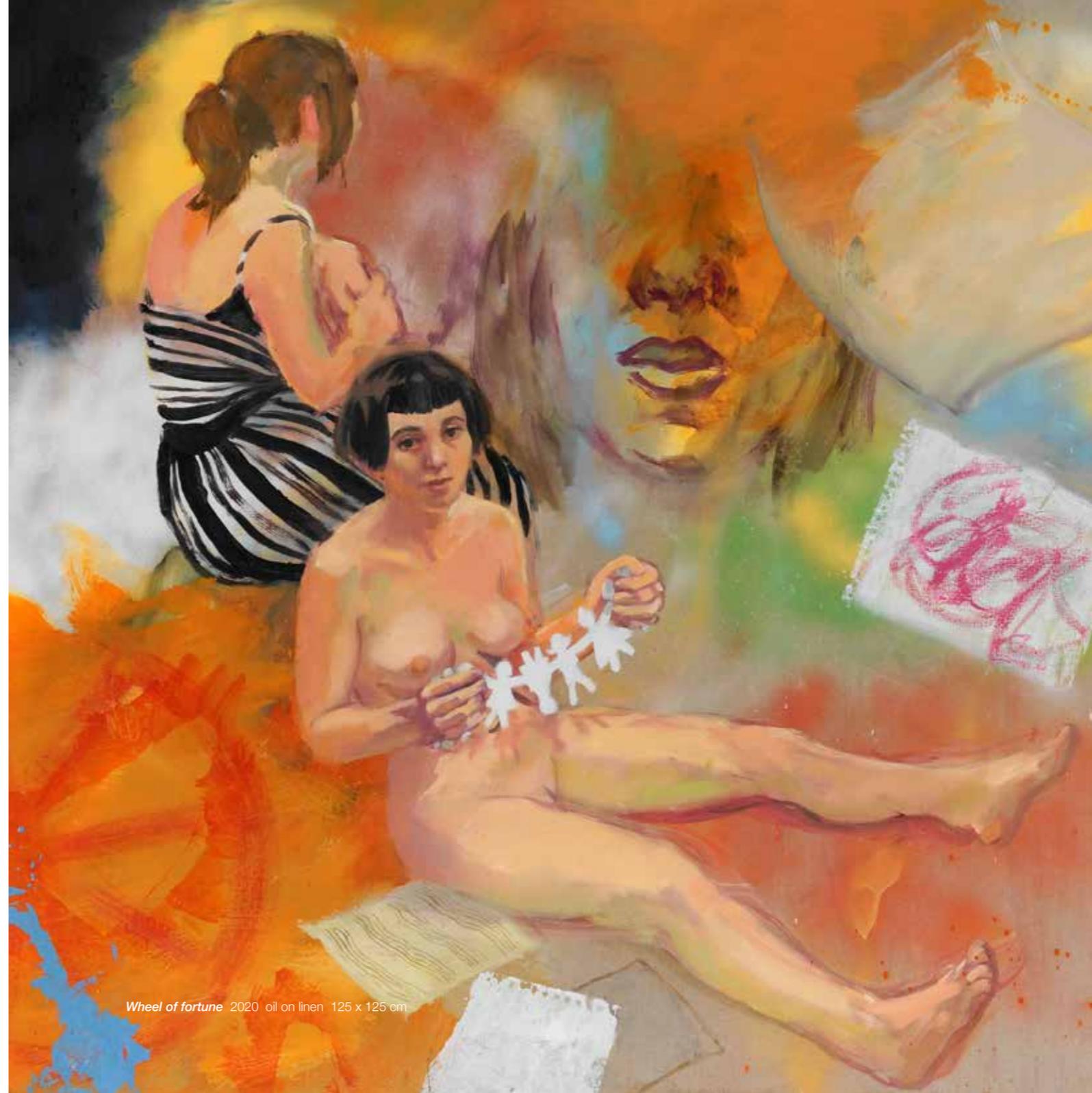
10am – 6pm Tuesday – Saturday
177-185 William St Darlinghurst NSW 2010 Australia
T: 61 2 9360 9727 E: art@kingstreetgallery.com
www.kingstreetgallery.com.au

Front cover: *Other peoples monsters* 2020 oil on linen 125 x 125 cm
Opposite: Studio, Inner West, Sydney. Photo courtesy: Riste Andrievski
Artwork photography in catalogue by Martin Lane

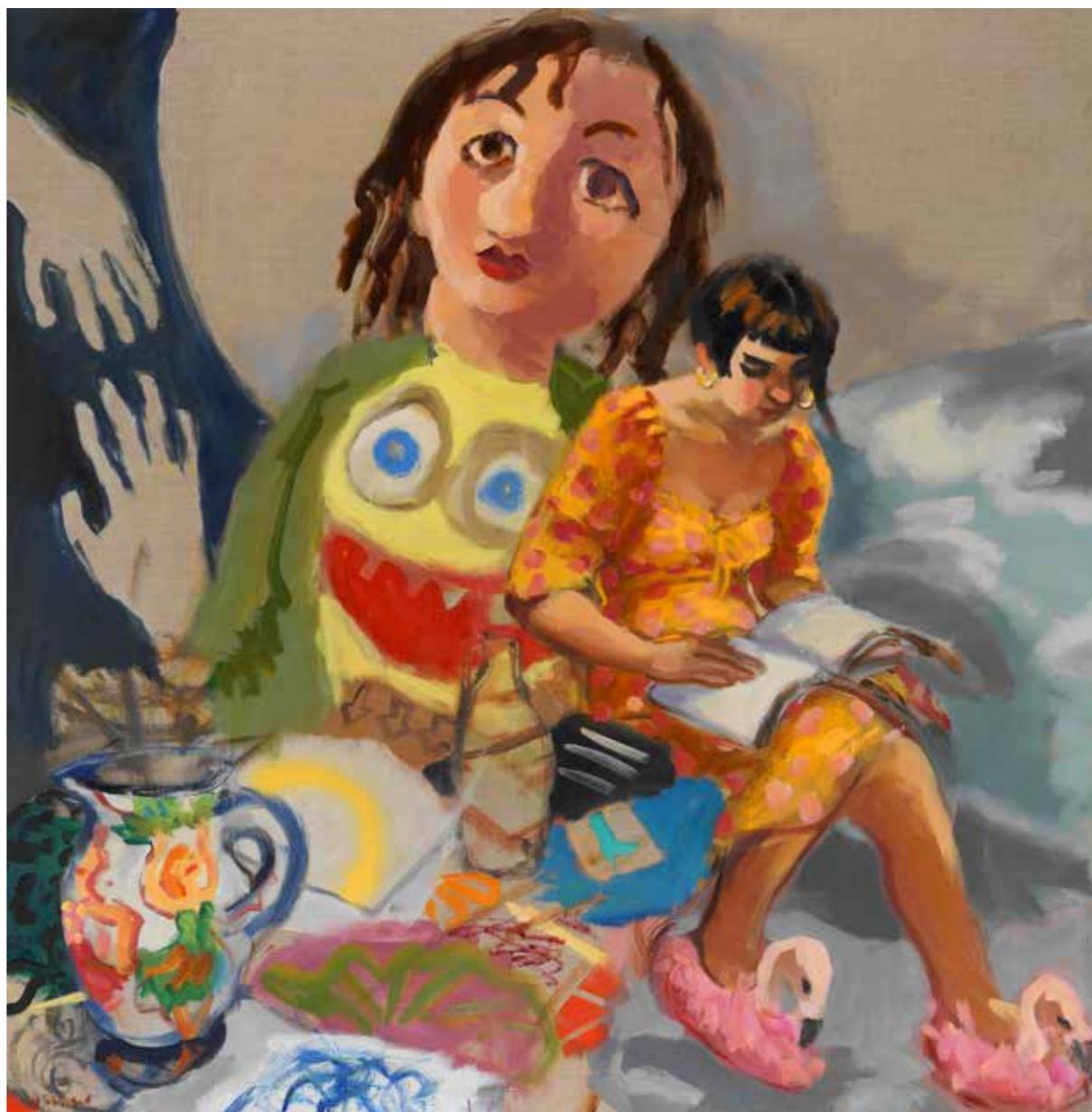




The door to the unreal 2020 oil on linen 125 x 125 cm



Wheel of fortune 2020 oil on linen 125 x 125 cm



The book of recurring dreams 2020 oil on linen 125 x 125 cm

“Magic - The power of apparently influencing events by using mysterious or supernatural forces.” Oxford Dictionary

Originally, I thought this exhibition would be about stage magicians or ghosts, people creating something out of nothing, but as I worked, I soon realized the paintings were actually about creativity.

The juxtaposition of the real and the imagined has always been present in my work.

I am excited by this new suite of paintings which explores this rich theme with deeper knowledge and experience.

“Those who dream by day are cognizant of many things which escape those who dream only by night.” Edgar Allen Poe

As a sensitive only child, whose only real interests were Art and Literature, I have always lived partly in the realm of fantasy, needing time on my own. We all live in the coinciding worlds of our imagination and the everyday with its emails, electricity bills and supermarkets. As an artist this is particularly true. You must be able to enter your own labyrinth of infinite possibilities, yet not get lost in there, and never fully lose hold of the string that will lead you back out. Ideas appear to come “out of thin air” but they are the result and reward from years of work and linking seemingly unconnected concepts in different ways, memory, play and experimentation. It is impossible to create something new without daring to explore unfamiliar territory and taking risks.

This exhibition is comprised of major oil paintings, as well as, a collection of small framed work which are like vignettes or private fragments of poetry. I bought most of these antique frames from flea markets in Paris. They are like artifacts, full of poignant unknown histories, silent and resonant. Perhaps once a much loved picture on someone's wall, a wedding gift, a family heirloom, a secret treasure. I have added a new narrative while still retaining a feeling of mystery and possibilities.

The suite of large oil paintings depict someone whose inner life is made visible, surrounding them with open ended dream like images. The paintings are simultaneously about past and future, the invisible and tangible. There are no limits to the possible meanings of each painting. There is no one answer. I am not interested in the obvious or straight forward, these paintings are not prescriptive or illustrational. The viewer is invited to bring their own interpretation. There are endless possibilities, like creativity itself.

“The job of the artist is to deepen the mystery.”
Francis Bacon

Wendy Sharpe, August 2020



Blue magic 2020 oil on linen 84 x 92 cm
Photo courtesy: Harry Klein



Forever is composed of nows 2019 oil on linen 145 x 170 cm
Photo courtesy: Steven Cavanagh



Wendy Sharpe in her Sydney studio, 2020
Photo courtesy: Ella Burrett



Fluid time 2020 oil on linen 84 x 92 cm
Photo courtesy: Harry Klein



Under the sign of the hourglass 2020 oil on linen 145 x 170 cm



Wendy Sharpe in her
Sydney studio, 2020
Photo courtesy: Ella Burrett



Longing for the indefinable 2020 oil on linen 145 x 170 cm

Hocus Pocus 2019 oil on linen 145 x 170 cm





Magic 2020 installation shot, Sydney
Photo courtesy: Harry Klein



Involuntary memories 2020
oil on linen 70 x 129 cm

Rock paper scissors 2020 oil on linen 125 x 125 cm





Walking home 2020 oil on linen 145 x 170 cm



Half seen 2020 oil on linen 70 x 129 cm

Wendy Sharpe

Born 1960 Sydney, Australia

Lives Sydney and Paris

Solo exhibitions [selection from over 50]

2020 *Magic* King Street Gallery on William, Sydney
Celebrating women for Hamlin Fistula Foundation Sydney

2019 *Paris* Linton and Kay Galleries, Subiaco, Perth
Paris stories Phillip Bacon Galleries, Brisbane, Qld
Western Front WWI Philip Bacon Galleries

2018 *Paris Windows* King Street Gallery on William, Sydney
Secrets Maitland Regional Art Gallery, NSW
Wanderlust Aarwun Gallery, Canberra

2017 - 2018 *Wendy Sharpe* Clayton Utz, Sydney

2017 *Wanderlust* Mornington Peninsula Regional Gallery, Victoria
Burlesque and Circus Linton and Kay, Perth
Burlesque and Circus Aarwun Gallery Canberra
House of Dreams and The Book of Constant Stars Juniper Hall, Sydney

2016 *Wendy Sharpe - China* Linyi Contemporary Art Centre, Linyi China
China Stories Shanghai Cultural Centre and Art Gallery Shanghai China
CIRCUS King Street Gallery on William
Butt Naked Salon with The Australian Art Quartet Yellow House, Sydney
Theatre of Dreams Drawing Projects UK, Trowbridge, UK
Wanderlust Tweed Regional Gallery, Murwillumbah, Qld
Beautiful Monsters Philip Bacon Galleries, Brisbane

2015 *Theatre of Dreams* Michael Reid Gallery, Berlin, Germany
Seeking Humanity – Portraits of Asylum Seekers The Muse, Ultimo, Sydney;
Belconnen Art Centre, Canberra; Penrith Regional Gallery, Sydney;
Mary McKillop Place Museum Nth Sydney

2014 *Le Regard de Deux Australiens* Espace Beaujon, 75008 Paris, France
Night King Street Gallery on William

2013 *Wendy Sharpe's Antarctica* Long Gallery, Salamanca Art Centre, Hobart
Truth or Dare Muk Muk Fine Art, Darwin

2012 *Wendy Sharpe's Antarctica* Australian National Maritime Museum, Darling Harbour, Sydney
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

2008 *Intimacy and Solitude* Adele Boag Gallery, Adelaide

2007 *Stories from the Studio* Philip Bacon Galleries, Brisbane

2006 *Couples* Mars Gallery Melbourne

2005 *Artist & City* Chapman Gallery, Canberra

2004 *Travel paintings* Phillip Bacon Gallery, Brisbane

2000 *New Beginnings-East Timor* Australian War Memorial, Canberra

1999 *Drawings, Paintings and Mixed Media Works for The Annette Kellermann Mural*
king street gallery on burton, Sydney

1991 *Ghosts* Pod Theatre, Sydney

1990 *Magic Paintings* DC Art Gallery, Sydney

1985 *Sex and Death* Nicholson Street Gallery, Sydney

Group exhibitions [selected]

2020 *Archibald Prize* Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
Kilgour Art Prize Newcastle Art Gallery
Mosman Art Prize Mosman Art Gallery
Portia Geach Memorial Award S.H. Ervin Gallery
The Gordon Darling Portrait Prize National Portrait Gallery, Canberra
Eye to eye National Portrait Gallery, Canberra
Portraits Project Manly Art Gallery & Museum
National Works on Paper Prize Mornington Peninsula Regional Gallery, Vic

2019 *Salon des Refusés* S.H. Ervin Gallery, NSW
Artist Book Award, Manly Art Gallery, Sydney
Meroogal Women's Art Prize, NSW
Ravenswood School for Girls Art Prize Sydney
Calleen Art Award Cowra Regional Art Gallery, NSW
The Dobell Drawing Prize Art Gallery of New South Wales (AGNSW)
Muswellbrook Art Prize NSW
Australia Day Artist Sydney Morning Herald Exhibit
Inside/Outside King Street Gallery on William, Sydney
Ravenswood Art Prize Centenary Centre Gordon, Sydney

2018 *The Art of Friendship* Gallery Lane Cove, Sydney
Sir John Sulman Prize Art Gallery of New South Wales
Salon des Refusés S.H. Ervin Gallery
Salient – Contemporary Artists at the Western Front National Travelling Exhibition
Australian Women Artists Philip Bacon Galleries, Brisbane

2017 *Salon des Refusés* S.H. Ervin Gallery
Portia Geach Memorial Award S.H. Ervin Gallery

2016 *Sir John Sulman Prize* Art Gallery of New South Wales
Drawing Exhibition, Untitled Factory, Rue Gabrielle 18 eme. Paris, France
Self Portrait Exhibition Yellow House, Potts Point, Sydney
WAR – A Playground Perspective Newington Armory Gallery, NSW

2015 *Doug Moran Portrait Prize*, Juniper Hall, Paddington
Escape to Antarctica Shackleton Sydney Maritime Museum
The Art of Shakespeare with Bell Shakespeare, Sydney Opera House, Parliament House, Canberra
Newtown Romantics Penny Contemporary Gallery, Hobart
Australian Masterworks Handmark, Hobart
Painting for Antarctica: Wendy Sharpe and Bernard Ollis Follow Shackleton Australian National Maritime Museum, Darling Harbour, Sydney

Performances & live drawing

- 2018 *Secrets* Maitland Regional Gallery, NSW
2017 *The Enraged Musicians* with the Australian Art Quartet, Unashamedly Original Festival, City Recital Hall, Sydney
2016 *Butt Naked Salon* with the Australian Art Quartet, Yellow House, Sydney

Awards, major commissions and prizes [selected]

- 2020 Australia Council Resilience Grant
Australian Copyright Agency Grant
2019 Winner *Calleen Art Award*, Cowra Regional Art Gallery, NSW
Winner *Artist Book Award*, Manly Art Gallery & Museum, Sydney
Artist in Residence, Ethiopia for Hamlin Fistula Foundation
Artist in Residence, Svalbard, Arctic
2018 National Art School Fellowship, Sydney
2017-18 Clayton Utz Art Partnership
Artist in Residence, The State Library of NSW, Sydney
2016 Ambassador, Asylum Seeker Centre, Sydney
2015-16 Artist in Residence, Circus Oz, Melbourne and Sydney
2015 Artist Residency, Zhouzhuang, China
2008-2014 Member of the Council of the Australian War Memorial, Canberra
2014 Obracadobra Residency, Oaxaca, Mexico
Winner Adelaide Perry Drawing Prize awarded by Edmund Capon
Artist in Residence, Antarctica (Chimu)
2013 Winner *Manning Art Prize* Manning Regional Gallery, Taree
2012 Artist Residency, Antarctica Mawson Centenary – Mawson's Hut Foundation
2011 Artist in Residence, Taronga Zoo 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 New South Wales
2003 Winner *Portia Geach Memorial Award* S.H. Ervin Gallery, Sydney
1999 Official Australian War Artist - East Timor, Australian War Memorial (1st woman since WW2)
1998-99 Commissioned City of Sydney - Olympic pool murals Cook & Phillip Aquatic Centre
1998 Winner *Bathurst Art Prize* Bathurst Regional Art Gallery, NSW
1996 Winner *Archibald Prize* Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
1995 Winner *Kedumba Drawing Prize* NSW
Winner *Portia Geach Memorial Award* S.H. Ervin Gallery
1992 Winner *Robert Le Gay Bereton Drawing Prize* Art Gallery of New South Wales
1991-92 *Australian Post Graduate Research Award*
1989 Mercedes Benz Art Scholarship
1986 Awarded tenancy Cite Internationale Studio, Paris Art Gallery of New South Wales
Marten Bequest, Travelling Art Scholarship (painting)
Winner *Sir John Sulman Prize* Art Gallery of New South Wales, judged by Albert Tucker



The woman that she was 2020 oil on canvas 76 x 90 cm

Wendy painting the Women's Empowerment Mural in Newtown, Sydney, 2020



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