



Wendy Sharpe  
*Wheel of Fortune*



# Wendy Sharpe

## Wheel of Fortune

1 August - 26 August 2023

King Street Gallery   
on William

10am-6pm Tues - Sat | Sun - Mon by appointment  
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Published by King Street Studios P/L  
Artwork photography: John Fotiadis  
Artist and Studio Photographs: John Fotiadis,  
Nikki McLennan and Bernard Ollis  
Design: King Street Gallery on William  
ISBN: 978-0-6455394-1-7  
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Wendy Sharpe in studio, Inner West, Sydney  
Photo Courtesy: Nikki McLennan

Front cover [detail]  
*3 Fates with Suburban Street* 2023  
oil on linen  
122 x 137 cm





*A Dance to the Music of Time* 2022  
oil on linen  
152 x 122 cm







French Kiss 2023 oil on linen 84 x 84 cm

I am intrigued by the ripped layers of advertising posters in the Paris Metro.  
A woman drinking coffee is torn back, to reveal a child on a swing.  
A train winding through a snowy landscape is ripped away to uncover a screaming crowd at a rock concert.

I am reminded of pentimento, a term in painting, where as paint ages and becomes transparent, an image hidden beneath is finally visible.  
Multiple images take us beyond the surface of things, suggesting alternate scenarios, secrets or hidden truths.

The meaning of each painting is open-ended, allowing the viewer to engage with the work on a subjective level, and to create their own narratives based on personal experience.

This exhibition includes paintings of the 3 fates: who spin, measure, and cut the thread of life and the wheel of fortune, symbolising the capricious nature of fate, spun at random.  
Both express the idea our lives are largely determined by factors beyond our control, such as luck, timing, and circumstance.

The Wheel of Fortune is also a reminder of the countless alternate paths our lives could have taken, if different choices or circumstances had been in play. This 'what if' question is one that haunts many of us, and reflects the inherent uncertainty and mystery of life itself.

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Wendy Sharpe  
2023





*Magic Night* 2023 [collaboration with Ian Smith] underglaze & oil paint stoneware 45 x 86 cm



*Nightmare after Fuseli* 2023 oil on linen 92 x 102 cm



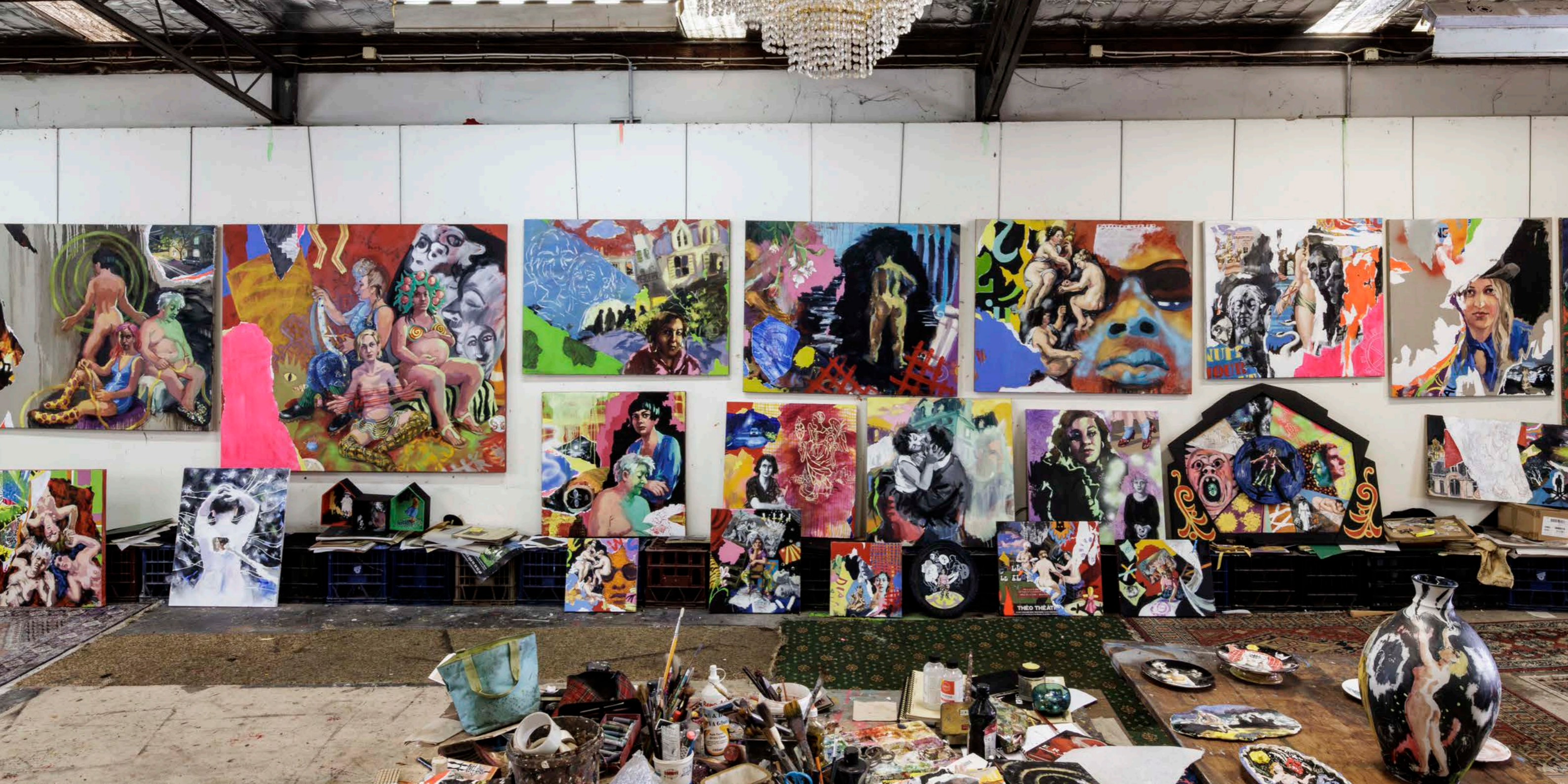


*Before I Forget* 2023 oil on linen 39 x 39 cm



*The Road Less Travelled* 2023 oil on linen 76 x 76 cm







*The Wine Dark Sea* 2023  
oil on linen  
100 x 125 cm





Wendy Sharpe is one of our most highly regarded contemporary artists, someone who has worked beyond tirelessly in the development of her practice. In doing so, she has created a distinctive pictorial style that speaks directly to a long life in art lived with unabated energy, force, humour, humanity, and generosity.

Wendy Sharpe's record in securing awards, prizes – one of which I can happily testify too – commissions, residencies, honours and the rest must be among the most impressive of any artist of her generation. She really is an amazing champion for the visual arts; and that world and the world beyond it is all the richer for her efforts.

Her AM.... is a richly deserved public accolade that could not have found a better home.

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**Chris Saines CNZM**

Director of Queensland Art Gallery and Gallery of Modern Art  
To congratulate Wendy on her AM - Order of Australia [2023]  
June, 2023



*Moonlight* 2023 oil on linen 85 x 84 cm



*The Wind* 2023  
oil on linen  
91 x 122 cm







*3 Fates and Sunglasses [After Rubens]* 2023  
oil on linen  
100 x 125 cm



*The Notion of Circular Time* 2023 ceramic plate 19 cm  
*The Last Piece of the Jigsaw* 2023 ceramic plate 22 x 29 cm







*The Wheel* 2023 oil on board with tyre frame 42 x 39 cm



*Distant Memories [With Il Sodoma's Fates]* 2023 oil on linen 92 x 102 cm





*The Sound of the Sea* 2023 oil on linen 46 x 92 cm





*Wheel of Fortune* 2023  
oil and acrylic on wood with spinning centre  
90 x 103 cm



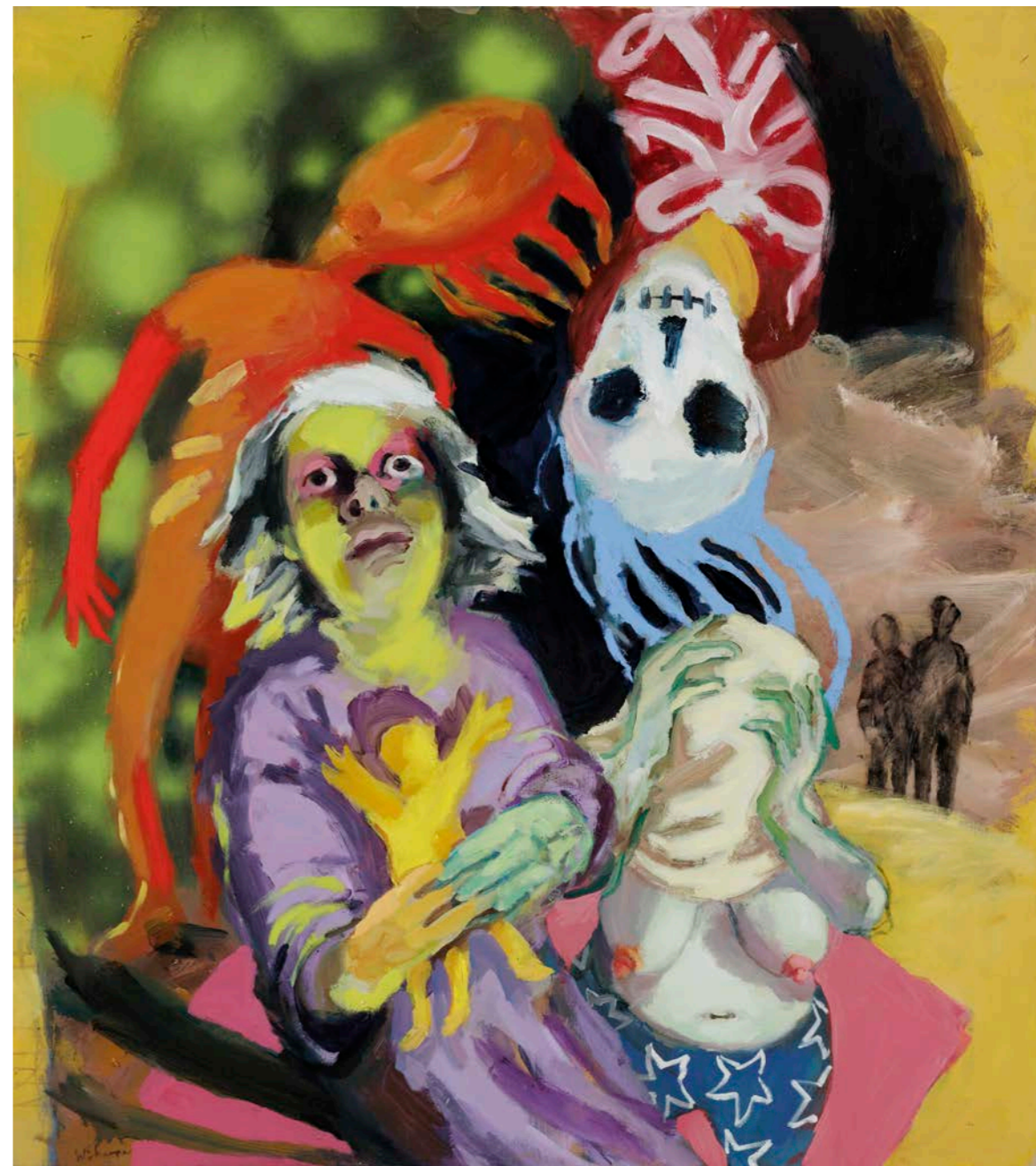
*Three Fates with Cat's Cradle* 2023  
oil on linen  
145 x 170 cm







*Shadow Box for my Mother and Grandmother* 2023  
oil on wooden box  
29 x 59 cm



*Witches with Green Light* 2022 oil on linen 137 x 122 cm





Time Spiral - with Poussin 2023 oil on linen 40 x 50 cm

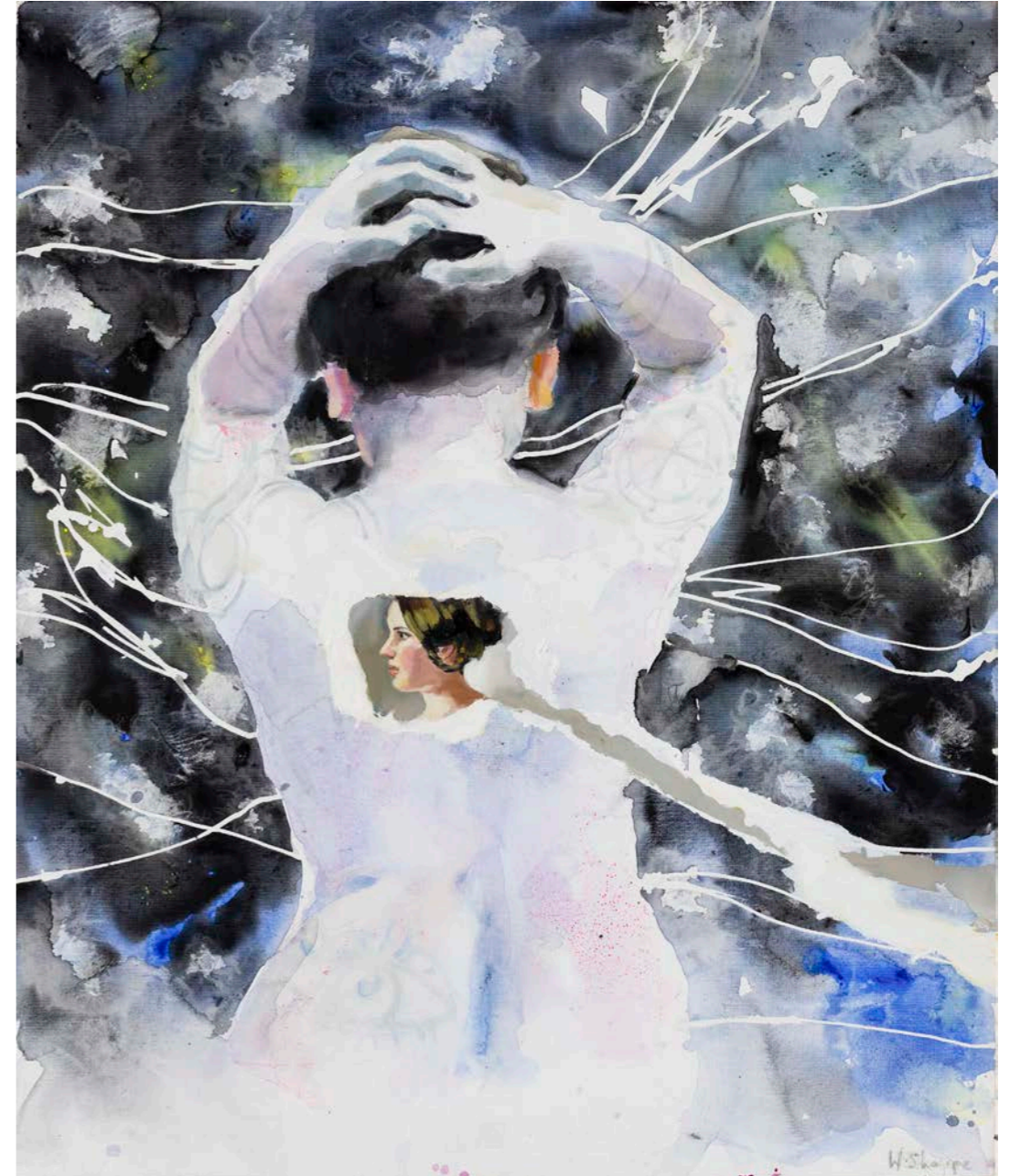


Three Fates and Doll [after Pieter Thijs] 2023 oil on linen 50 x 56 cm





*Being Somewhere Else* 2023 oil on linen 76 x 76 cm



*Two Worlds at Once* 2023 oil on linen 77 x 61 cm





*Wheel of Fortune* 2023 metal box with gouache folding book 3.5 x 3.5 cm



*Goya's Owls and Il Sodoma's Fates* 2023 oil on linen 91 x 101 cm



*Absence and Presence* 2023  
oil on linen  
122 x 152 cm







*Summer Night* [Faustine and Winslow Homer] 2023  
oil on linen  
102 x 92 cm



*Circle Game* 2023 oil on linen 76 x 76 cm



# Wendy Sharpe AM

**Born** 1960 Sydney, Australia

**Lives** Sydney and Paris

## Solo exhibitions [selection from over 70]

2023 *Wheel of Fortune* King Street Gallery on William, Sydney  
 2022 - 2023 *A Dance to the Music of Time* Lake Macquarie Museum of Art and Culture  
 2022 *Transience* Phillip Bacon Galleries, Brisbane  
 2020 *Magic* King Street Gallery on William  
*Celebrating women for Hamlin Fistula Foundation*, Sydney  
 2019 *Paris* Linton and Kay Galleries, Subiaco, Perth  
*Paris stories* Phillip Bacon Galleries  
*Western Front WWI* Philip Bacon Galleries  
 2018 *Paris Windows* King Street Gallery on William  
*Secrets* Maitland Regional Gallery, NSW  
 2017 - 2018 *Wendy Sharpe* Clayton Utz, Sydney  
 2017 *Wanderlust* Mornington Peninsula Regional Gallery, Victoria  
*Burlesque and Circus* Linton and Kay, Perth  
*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] Trowbridge, UK  
*Wanderlust* Tweed Regional Gallery, Murwillumbah, Qld  
*Beautiful Monsters* Philip Bacon Galleries  
 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, North Sydney  
 2014 *Le Regard de Deux Australiens* Espace Beaujon, 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, 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  
 2006 *Couples* Mars Gallery, Melbourne  
 2005 *Artist & City* Chapman Gallery, Canberra  
 2004 *Travel paintings* Phillip Bacon Galleries

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 [selection from over 100]

2023 *Salon des Refusés* S.H. Ervin, Sydney  
 2022 *Art for Ukraine* Sea Street Gallery, Meadow Bank, Sydney  
*Finalist Archibald Prize*, Art Gallery of New South Wales  
*Finalist Sulman Prize*, Art Gallery of New South Wales  
*Treasures from the Vault* Manly Art Gallery and Museum, Sydney  
 2021 - 2024 *Archie 100: A Century of the Archibald Prize* Art Gallery of New South Wales, Geelong Gallery, Cairns Art Gallery,  
 Art Gallery of SA, Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery, Launceston, Bathurst Regional Gallery, Museum and Art  
 Gallery of NT, Home of the Arts Gold Coast, National Portrait Gallery Canberra  
 2021 *Salon des Refusés* David Roche Foundation, Adelaide, SA  
*Finalist Kennedy Art Prize*, Adelaide  
*Finalist Muswellbrook Art Prize*, NSW  
 2020 *The Gordon Darling Portrait Prize* National Portrait Gallery, Canberra  
*Eye to Eye* National Portrait Gallery, Canberra  
 2019 *Salon des Refusés* S.H. Ervin Gallery, NSW  
*Winner Artist Book Award*, Manly Art Gallery and Museum  
*Meroogal Women's Art Prize*, NSW  
*Finalist Ravenswood School for Girls Art Prize* Sydney  
*Winner Calleen Art Award* Cowra Regional Art Gallery, NSW  
*The Dobell Drawing Prize* Art Gallery of New South Wales  
*Muswellbrook Art Prize*, NSW  
*Australia Day Artist* Sydney Morning Herald Exhibit  
*Inside/Outside* King Street Gallery on William  
 2018 *Finalist Ravenswood Art Prize* Centenary Centre, Sydney  
*The Art of Friendship* Gallery Lane Cove, Sydney  
*Finalist 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  
 2017 *Salon des Refusés* S. H. Ervin Gallery  
*Portia Geach Memorial Award* S.H. Ervin Gallery  
 2016 *Finalist Sulman Prize* Art Gallery of New South Wales  
 Drawing Exhibition, Untitled Factory, Rue Gabrielle 18 eme. Paris, France  
 Self Portrait Exhibition Yellow House, Sydney  
*WAR – A Playground Perspective* Newington Armory Gallery, NSW  
 2015 *Doug Moran Portrait Prize*, Juniper Hall, Sydney  
*Escape to Antarctica Shackleton* Australian National Maritime Museum, Sydney  
*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  
*Shackleton: Escape from Antarctica* Australian National Maritime Museum  
*The Australians* 12Gallery, Auckland, New Zealand

### Awards, Major Commissions and Prizes [Selected]

2023 Wendy Sharpe Member [AM] of the Order of Australia [General Division], King's Birthday 2023 Honours  
 2022 *Winner*, Gold Award, Rockhampton Museum of Art, QLD, judged by Chris Saines  
 2021 Portrait of Wendy Sharpe by Fintan Magree 10x30cm, Marrickville Metro Sydney, NSW  
 Inner West 2021 International Women's Day Honour Roll, Inner West Council, Sydney  
 2020 Women's Empowerment Mural, Newtown, Inner West Council, Sydney  
 Resilience Fund - Survive, Australia Council for the Arts  
 Resilience Fund - Create [Dreams in Dark Times], Australia Council for the Arts  
 Action Fund for Visual Arts Projects, Copyright Agency  
 2019 *Winner*, Calleen Art Award, Cowra Regional Art Gallery, NSW  
*Winner*, Artist Book Award, Manly Art Gallery, Sydney  
 Artist in Residence, Ethiopia for Hamlin Fistula Foundation  
 Australia Day Artist, Sydney Morning Herald  
 Artist in Residence, Svalbard, Arctic  
 2018 *Highly Commended*, Ravenswood Art Prize, Centenary Centre Gordon, Sydney  
 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 tribute to the Ballet Russes Exhibition  
 2008 Artist Residency, Australian Embassy Cairo, Egypt [Personal invitation of the Australian Ambassador]  
 2006 Awarded tenancy Cite Internationale des Arts Studio, Paris, Art Gallery of New South Wales  
 2003 *Winner*, Portia Geach Memorial Prize 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 Prize Award SH Ervin Gallery  
 1992 *Winner*, Robert Le Gay Bereton Drawing Prize Art Gallery of New South Wales  
 1991-92 *Winner*, 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*, The Sulman Prize Art Gallery of New South Wales, judged by Albert Tucker

### Artwork Collections

Art Gallery of New South Wales	Grafton Regional Gallery, NSW	Qantas, Australia
Arts Centre, Victoria	Hawkesbury Regional Gallery, NSW	Rockhampton Museum of Art, QLD
Adelaide Perry Collection, Croydon, NSW	Kedumba Drawing Collection	State Library of New South Wales
Australian War Memorial, Canberra, ACT	Maitland Regional Gallery, NSW	State Library of Queensland
ANZAC Memorial, Sydney, NSW	Manly Art Gallery and Museum, NSW	Sydney Jewish Museum
Australian Embassy, Paris, France	Manning Regional Art Gallery, NSW	Tweed Regional Gallery and
Bathurst Regional Art Gallery, NSW	Mosman Art Gallery, NSW	Margaret Olley Art Centre, NSW
BHP Australia	National Art School Sydney, NSW	University of Queensland
Blue Mountains City Art Gallery, NSW	National Portrait Gallery, ACT	University of Sydney
City of Belmont, Perth, WA	Northern Beaches Library, NSW	
City of Sydney Council, NSW	Orange Regional Gallery, NSW	

For a complete CV visit [www.kingstreetgallery.com.au](http://www.kingstreetgallery.com.au)



Wendy Sharpe with Paris Metro posters 2023  
 Photograph courtesy of Bernard Ollis



