



Annie Howie

Artist's statement

Recent Work: Different and the same

My studio in winter is cold so I set up the drawing table inside, opened summer sketch-books, found coloured pencils and drew.

I had been making paintings of the beach for a long time: exploring ideas of landscape as well as ideas of human interaction and disengagement. These sketches covered many years and many beaches (life is a beach!).

Using a grid I scaled these drawings onto small canvases. It was fun and suited my time limitations. Importantly, I wanted to explore some different ways of working and still maintain expression for my concerns and interests. I wanted to play with shape and line: the graphic quality. It was fun, but I also found myself in danger of 'fascist colouring-in': bush fire's and our recent world stage conspiring to recall 1939 and further haunt me. It was demanding to try for paintings that resonate. These women emerged, which I hope as paintings do resonate, and also pack the punch to disrupt the 'the gaze'.

Another theme in this show is the immediate and the domestic. This includes my lounge, as well as lounges I imagine in the flats down the road, the rooms in Palestine as seen on TV, and 'the others' place. Continuing my earlier series of children engaged in games of menace in city/ industry settings (The Playground Series) held little interest. But I did want to continue the narrative: to reconcile domestic ease and privilege with disruption, dislocation and danger. Specifically in this work I wanted to emphasize our commonality/ humanity: our need for a roof, food, and the freedom to pat a cat, or lie on a bed.

Although they "look different to what I usually do" these works are part of a progression of ideas and interests that have accompanied my twenty-five years of picking up a brush. I like painting what I see and thinking about what I paint. I have often used scattered images across a field and shallow -stage like spaces with wonky perspective. The paintings on board use these devices. The copying and revision of the smaller works is also another element of difference and similarity.

ANNIE HOWIE

Born: Melbourne 1958

Studied: 1978-81 Painting Prahran College of Advanced Education, Vic

Solo Exhibitions

- 1983 Paintings, Roar Studios
- 1985 Stuttgart, Germany
- 1988 Drawing Show, Moscow Club, London
- 1991 Footscray Community Arts Centre
- 1992 '342+', Women's Gallery, Fitzroy
- 1995 Scope Gallery, Fitzroy

Group Exhibitions

- 1981 'Roar Benefit Exhibition', Green Street Studio, Prahran
- 1982 'Roar Studios Opening Show', Roar Studios, Fitzroy
'Group Show', Roar Studios, Fitzroy
'Portrait Show', Field Workshop, Elsternwick
'New Artists New Art', Heide Park and Art Gallery, Bulleen
- 1983 'Group Show', Roar Studios, Fitzroy
'Three Person Show', Roar Studios, Fitzroy
- 1989 'Group Show', Robb Street Gallery, Bairnsdale
- 1991 'Out of Our Oeuvre', Tolarno, St Kilda
'Landmarks', Footscray Institute of Technology
Footscray Saltwater River Festival Art Show
- 1992 'Roar Studios Touring Exhibition', Shepparton Art Gallery,
touring Heide Park and Benalla Art Galleries,
'The Postcard Show', Linden, St Kilda
'MREAM and Friends', Tolarno, St Kilda
'10" Square', Wilderness Society, Linden, St Kilda
'Roar 82-83 Now', Roar 2, Fitzroy
'Roar 2 Members' Exhibition', Roar 2, Fitzroy
Footscray Saltwater River Festival Art Show
- 1993 Williamstown Art Exhibition
Flemington Multicultural Inaugural Art Show, Flemington
'Landscape Show', Roar 2, Fitzroy
'Five Year Celebration', Robb Street Gallery, Bairnsdale
Diamond Valley Art Show, Greensborough

cont.

'The Footy Show', The Artists Garden, Brunswick Street, Fitzroy
Richmond City Council Acquisitive Awards, Richmond
Saltwater River Festival Art Show, Footscray
The Little Show, Blaxland Gallery, Myers, Melbourne

1995-2002.1 Represented Annual Footy Show Artist's Garden, Fitzroy
Represented Annual Artist for Kids Culture Trust exhibition

Represented

Art Bank
Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology
Shepparton Art Gallery
Richmond City Council Art Collection
Footscray City Council Art Collection
Private collections Australia, Germany and Great Britain

Commissions

1984 Three-month commission for a violin maker in Germany.
1994 Melbourne Theatre Company: cover design

Prizes

1981 Powell Street Painting Prize — Highly Commended
1993 Flemington Inaugural Art Prize
Diamond Valley Art Prize, Works on Paper — Highly Commended
Richmond City Council Acquisitive Prize
Footscray City Council Acquisitive Prize