

Fiona Lowry.

b. 1974, Sydney, Australia
Lives and works in Sydney, Australia

'I've always loved the ambiguity of paranoia in a beautiful setting.'

Since 2001, Fiona Lowry's practice has explored the complexity of the human condition. Through the use of airbrushed pastels and monochromatic colour palettes, Lowry's images maintain an overarching softness and ambiguity. This aesthetic serves to complement and enhance the deeply emotive undertones such as vulnerability, melancholia and danger that remain pervasive within her work.



Lowry's paintings of the Australian landscape portray the bush as strangely beautiful, alluring and steadfast. Rendered in vibrant, dreamlike colours and made nebulous by the artist's distinctive airbrush technique, nature is majestically stark yet also complex, imbued with a sense of foreboding and menace. Her paintings present the natural environment as a dreamlike, surreal theatre to events associated with interventions of the human kind – deeds or misdeeds that infiltrate and permeate the scene with a profound unease that extends its grip to paranoia and the psychotic.

Winner of the Archibald Prize, Moran Portrait Prize, and Fleurieu Landscape Prize, Lowry's work is also held in several public, university, and corporate Australian collections, including the National Gallery of Australia, Canberra; Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney; Artbank, Sydney; Macquarie Bank, Sydney; National Portrait Gallery, Canberra; UBS, Sydney; and The University of Queensland Art Museum, Brisbane.

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EDUCATION

Master of Fine Arts, University of New South Wales
Bachelor of Visual Arts (painting), Sydney College of the Arts, University of Sydney

AWARDS, GRANTS, RESIDENCIES

- 2025 Archibald Prize (finalist), Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
Ravenswood Art Prize (finalist), Sydney
- 2023 Brisbane Portrait Prize (winner, womens prize), Brisbane
- 2022 Archibald Prize (finalist), Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
Ravenswood Art Prize (finalist), Sydney
- 2021 Archibald Prize (finalist), Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
- 2014 Archibald Prize (winner), Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
Tattersalls Landscape Award (winner), Tattersalls Club, Brisbane
Prudential Eye Award (finalist), Singapore
- 2013 Fleurieu Landscape prize (winner), Adelaide
Wynne Prize (finalist), Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
Sulman Prize (finalist), Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
Archibald Prize (highly commended), Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
- 2008 Doug Moran National Portrait Prize (winner), Sydney
Australia Council for the Arts, New Work Grant
- 2006 Employees Choice Award, ABN Amro Emerging Artist Award, Sydney
Collex Acquisitive Prize for past Primavera artists
Australia Council for the Arts, New Work Grant
- 2003 Fauvette Louriero, Artist Travel Grant

COLLECTIONS

Art Gallery of New South Wales
The National Gallery of Australia
Artbank
ABN Amro Australia
Sydney Macquarie Bank Collection
Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney
National Portrait Gallery, Canberra
Parliament House, Melbourne
The University of Queensland Art Museum, Brisbane
UBS Art Collection, Sydney
Veolia Environmental Services – Collex Collection, Sydney

COMMISSIONS

- 2020 Cate Blanchett portrait for Vogue Australia Cover

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2023 The murmuring rises and falls, Niagara Galleries, Melbourne
- 2022 Destination Sydney, Manly Museum and Art Gallery
- 2021 Review, 333 art projects at Clayton Utz, Sydney
- 2019 while the sun burns behind the islands, Jan Murphy, Brisbane
- 2018 the ties that bind, Martin Browne contemporary, Sydney
- 2016 Out in the night, Hugo Michell Gallery, Adelaide
- 2015 Pink Frost, Martin Browne Contemporary
- 2014 new paintings, Hugo Michell Gallery, Adelaide
- 2012 I have forgotten who I am, Melbourne Art Fair
Gliding over all, Hugo Michell Gallery, Adelaide
- 2010 new work, Hugo Michell Gallery, Adelaide
I loved you yesterday, Gallery Barry Keldoulis

- 2008 I act as the tongue of you, Gallery Barry Keldoulis
2006 I'm having dreams about you, Gallery Barry Keldoulis
2005 Left behind, Gallery Barry Keldoulis
2004 Executioners Drop, Gallery Barry Keldoulis, Sydney
2002 aaaxxx, Firstdraft gallery, Sydney

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2026 SEARCHERS: Graffiti and Contemporary Art, National Art School Galleries, Sydney
2025 Curlew Camp, Mosman Art Gallery, Sydney
Summer '25, N.Smith Gallery, Sydney
Yesterday, N.Smith Gallery, Sydney
2024 This Given Moment and the Garden of Hopes and Dreams, Bondi Pavillion
Sydney Contemporary, N.Smith Gallery Galleries booth
New South: Recent painting from Southern Australia, Hazelhurst Gallery
Sunrise, Sunset, N.Smith Gallery, Sydney
2022 collection works, Sydney Modern, AGNSW
2019 Bodies of art, The National gallery of Australia, Canberra 2019 Love, Tweed regional gallery, Murwillumbah
2017 Martin Browne Contemporary, Sydney Contemporary, Carriageworks, Sydney
Wynne Prize, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
Artist Profile: Australasian Painters 2007 – 2017, Orange Regional Gallery, NSW
2016 Painting, More Painting, Melbourne Australian Centre for Contemporary Art
Road Trip, Jan Murphy Gallery, Brisbane
The Gold Award, Rockhampton Art Gallery, QLD
2015 Redlands Konica Minolta Art Prize (finalist), National Art school, Darlinghurst
Martin Browne booth at Sydney Contemporary, Carriage works
Sulman prize (finalist), Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
2014 Tattersalls Landscape award (winner), Tattersalls club, Brisbane
Sulman prize (highly commended) Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
Archibald prize (winner) Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
Saatchi gallery booth, Start Art Fair, London
Perc Tucker Portrait award (finalist)
Adelaide Biennial of Australian Art: Dark Heart Art Gallery of South Australia
Prudential Eye Award for Contemporary Art Exhibition (finalist), Singapore
2013 Fleurieu Landscape prize, Adelaide (winner)
Wynne Prize (finalist), Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
Sulman prize (finalist), Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
Archibald prize (highly commended) Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
2012 Young Art Taipei, Yat Hotel Art Fair, Sheraton Hotel Taipei
Wonderland: New Contemporary Art from Australia, Museum of Contemporary Art (MoCA) Taipei
GBK @ Hong Kong Art Fair, Hong Kong Art Fair
Panorama Are we there yet? Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre
2011 The New Arcadia, Lismore Regional Gallery, Lismore
heads, Utopia Art Gallery, Sydney
2010 McLean Edwards, Rhys Lee, Fiona Lowry & Heather B. Swann, Karen Woodbury Gallery, Melbourne
An Oeuvre both Abundant and Diverse, Sydney College of the Arts Gallery, Sydney
Time travel: reimagining the past, Tweed River Art Gallery
twenty/20, UTS: Gallery, Sydney
Wilderness, Balnaves Contemporary: Painting, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
Known Sites, Contemporary Australian Landscapes from the Artbank
Collection, Presiding Officer's Gallery, Parliament House, Canberra
2009 Wax On - From Cronulla to Palm Beach and Beyond, Hazelhurst Regional Gallery & Arts Centre, Sydney
Feminism Never Happened, Institute of Modern Art, Brisbane
The University of Queensland National Artists' Self-Portrait Prize, The University of

Queensland Art Museum, Brisbane
I Have Forgotten More Than You Know, Gaffa Gallery, Sydney
Now & Then, Campbelltown Art Centre, Sydney
Art on Paper – The 2009 Hazelhurst Art Award (finalist), Hazelhurst Gallery, Sydney
Wynne Prize (finalist), Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney

2008 Better Places, Perth Institute of Contemporary Art, Perth
Doug Moran National Portrait Prize (finalist), The State Library of NSW, Sydney
Cruel and Unusual Punishment: Art and Violence, La Trobe University Art Museum, Melbourne
gbk @ Melbourne Art Fair, Royal Exhibition Building, Melbourne
New Millennium, Lismore Regional Gallery, New South Wales

2007 Tropical Hot Dog Night, MOP Projects, Sydney
gbk @ Silvershot, Silvershot, Melbourne
New Acquisitions, Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney

2006 Epic, Lismore Regional Gallery, Lismore
Helen Lempriere Travelling Art Scholarship, Artspace, Sydney
ABN Amro Emerging Artist Award, ABN Amro, Sydney
Charge to Slow, MOP Projects, Sydney
Poor Yorick, curated by Anthony Whelan, Virginia Wilson Art, Sydney
The December Group, Gallery Barry Keldoulis, Sydney

2005 gbk @ Melbourne Art Fair, Royal Exhibition Building
Flaming Youth, Orange Regional Gallery
The December Group, Gallery Barry Keldoulis, Sydney
Primavera, Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney
gbk at Span Galleries, Melbourne
C'Town Bling, Campbelltown Arts Centre, Sydney
End, Kings ARI, Melbourne
Emerging Artists, Span Galleries, Melbourne
Picturing the Landscape, Deloitte Foundation, Sydney

2004 ABN AMRO Emerging Artist Award (finalist), Sydney ABN AMRO, Sydney
Perception, Conception, Deception, Soapbox gallery, Brisbane

2003 Log, Mop projects, Redfern
Two for One, Mop projects, Redfern
Mini Lab, Firstdraft Gallery, Surry Hills
Nu Erotica, Phat Space, Sydney

2002 Helen Lempriere Travelling Art Scholarship, Artspace, Sydney
United in Joy, Imperial Slacks Gallery, Surry Hills
Slacking off, Imperial Slacks Gallery, Surry Hills

2001 Channel 5a, Rubyayre Gallery, Surry Hills
ArtCastle, The Castle, Dover Heights
Bomb Tibet with Gaming Room, Herringbone Gallery, Surry Hills
Bomb Tibet with Gaming Room, Herringbone Gallery, Surry Hills
Fiona Lowry/Marc Dempsey, Gallery 19, Sydney
Matthys Gerber, CBD Gallery, Sydney
Collective Duchamp, curated by Billy Gruner, VTKC Gallery, Rozelle

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Sydney Morning Herald, 'A spectacle worth seeing: celebrating the vitality of women artists', John McDonald, 7 January 2022.

Vogue Australia, 'The making of Vogue Australia's June/July 2020 cover: Cate Blanchett painted by Fiona Lowry', The Vogue Team, 19 June 2020.

Sydney Morning Herald, 'Friends of Fiona Lowry posed naked in the rain for the artist's latest works', Ali Gripper, 12 October 2018.

Adelaide Review, 'Fiona Lowry's Out in the Darkness of Night', Jane Llewellyn, 5 December 2016.

Vogue Australia, 'Fiona Lowry wins 2014 Archibald Prize with portrait of Penelope Seidler', Dijana Kumurdjian, 18 July 2014.

UNSW Sydney, 'Fiona Lowry wins 2014 Archibald Prize', 18 July 2014.

The Guardian, 'Archibald prize won by Fiona Lowry for portrait of architect Penelope Seidler', Monica Tan, 18 July 2014.

ABC, 'Archibald Prize 2014: Fiona Lowry wins with portrait of architect Penelope Seidler', 18 July 2014.

Edmund Capon, 'Fiona Lowry text', Curated by Nick Mitzevich, 2014.

Apollo Magazine, 'Lay of the land essay by Edmund Capon', 2012.

Rachel Watts, 'Fiona Lowry — I have forgotten who I am', Melbourne Art Fair essay, 2012.

Tunnicliffe, Wayne, *Wilderness: Balnaves Contemporary Painting*, 'Essay by Natasha Bullock', 2010.

ABC, 'Naked artist's self-portrait wins Moran prize', 11 March 2008