



KARLA DICKENS



RETURN TO SENDER

Return to **sender** — the weather **is** here, wish you were nice

Colonial Post Service **d**elivers
some have a numbered mailbox out front
checking for letters**s**, bills**s**, or a postcard
others **s** live under a tarp, tin, or a tree
the Queen's **s**tamp postmarked

Wish you were here
some wish they weren't
just a quick note to **s**ay hi
genocide greetings**s** with catchy captions
the mailer **is** now the jailer

Postman with history haunting mailbags
carrying Australian **s**nap**s**hot **s**ouvenirs
senseless **m**essages from the Smith**s** to the Jones**s**
when picture postcards **d**on't need for a word
conjuring loving hate mail

There'll be no cheques**s** in the mail
waiting on **s**nail mail to **d**eliver unseen **s**orries
are they **a**s **d**eaf **a**s the post — I listen
I hear — metal chainmail from new poison pens
now **s**ent via email

Return to **sender**



RETURN TO SENDER #1 2021

Large—Inkjet print, 174 × 128 cm, Edition 3—\$8,800 (unframed)

Small—Inkjet print, 130.5 × 96 cm, Edition 8—\$5,500 (unframed)



RETURN TO SENDER #2 2021

Large—Inkjet print, 174 × 128 cm, Edition 3—\$8,800 (unframed)

Small—Inkjet print, 130.5 × 96 cm, Edition 8—\$5,500 (unframed)



RETURN TO SENDER #3 2021

Large—Inkjet print, 168 × 118 cm, Edition 3—\$8,800 (unframed)

Small—Inkjet print, 126 × 86.5 cm, Edition 8—\$5,500 (unframed)



RETURN TO SENDER #4 2021

Large—Inkjet print, 170 × 128 cm, Edition 3—\$8,800 (unframed)

Small—Inkjet print, 127.5 × 96 cm, Edition 8—\$5,500 (unframed)



Small—Inkjet print, 121.5 x 96 cm, Edition 8—\$5,500 (unframed)



RETURN TO SENDER #6 2021

Large—Inkjet print, 174 × 146 cm, Edition 3—\$8,800 (unframed)

Small—Inkjet print, 130.5 × 109.5 cm, Edition 8—\$5,500 (unframed)



RETURN TO SENDER #7 2021

Large—Inkjet print, 168 × 128 cm, Edition 3—\$8,800 (unframed)

Small—Inkjet print, 126 × 93 cm, Edition 8—\$5,500 (unframed)



RETURN TO SENDER #8 2021

Large—Inkjet print, 140 × 104 cm, Edition 3—\$8,800 (unframed)

Small—Inkjet print, 105 × 78 cm, Edition 3—\$5,500 (unframed)



RETURN TO SENDER #9 2021

Large—Inkjet print, 174 × 116 cm, Edition 3—\$8,800 (unframed)

Small—Inkjet print, 130.5 × 87 cm, Edition 8—\$5,500 (unframed)



RETURN TO SENDER #10 2021

Large—Inkjet print, 137 × 174 cm, Edition 3—\$8,800 (unframed)

Small—Inkjet print, 102.75 × 130.5 cm, Edition 3—\$5,500 (unframed)



KARLA DICKENS

READY, WILLING AND ABLE

Ready, willing and able

No erected Big Top today
no sawdusted arenas or rolls of painted canvas
a dark sideshow has found its way
into a womb of Colonial privilege

Star-spangled banners exert unease
Ms Ready emphatically reclaims this sacred space
her legs mirroring the strength of its marble columns
an exotic Koori knockout, she harnesses the spirits
stolen from those caged
in the rusty menagerie over which she towers

These Aboriginal faces reflect historical human zoos
sadly mirrored today in jails countrywide
unnatural spectacles without safety nets
spell-binding juggling acts are needed to sidestep those circuses
as the magicians who manipulate such entertainments continue to shine
ticket prices skyrocket as risks and casualties increase

Mr Ready firmly stands his ground
not just a boxing-tent performer
his fists help him to protect and survive—day in, day out
tattoos share daredevil stories and legacies
scars of resilience
just like tightrope walkers, who demand respect

Knife dodging acts, gun shooting cowboys and bareback riders
fires rage with spectacular damage
evidence of a nation with holes in buckets
which leak more than water
"There's a gaping hole in this bucket, dear Liza,
how on earth can you fix it dear Henry, dear Henry?"

The clowns enter and the show goes on...



HARD-HITTING BROTHER I 2019

Large—Inkjet print, 180 × 120 cm, Edition 3—~~\$~~8,800 (unframed)

Small—Inkjet print, 120 × 80 cm, Edition 3—~~\$~~5,500 (unframed)



HARD-HITTING SISTER I 2019

Large—Inkjet print, 180 × 120 cm, Edition 3—\$8,800 (unframed)

Small—Inkjet print, 120 × 80 cm, Edition 3—\$5,500 (unframed)



HARD-HITTING BROTHER II 2019

Large—Inkjet print, 180 × 120 cm, Edition 3—~~\$~~8,800 (unframed)

Small—Inkjet print, 120 × 80 cm, Edition 3—~~\$~~5,500 (unframed)



HARD-HITTING SISTER II 2019

Large—Inkjet print, 180 × 120 cm, Edition 3—~~\$~~8,800 (unframed)

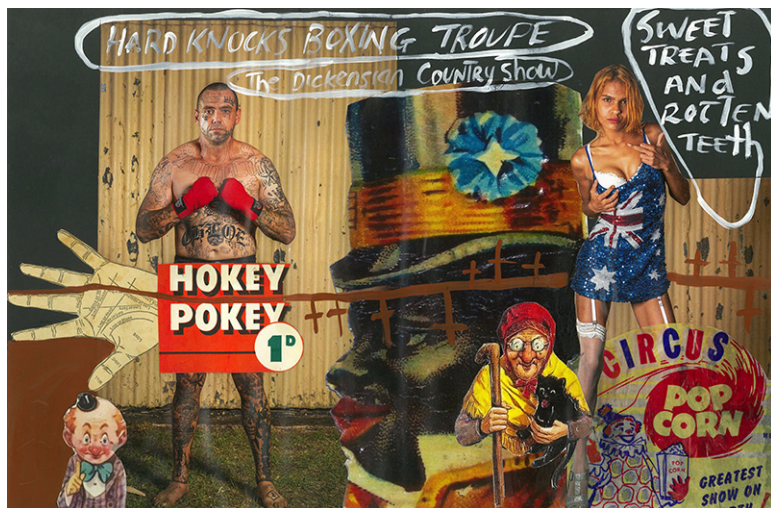
Small—Inkjet print, 120 × 80 cm, Edition 3—~~\$~~5,500 (unframed)



MS READY AND MR WILLING 2019

Large—Inkjet print, 180 × 120 cm, Edition 3—\$8,800 (unframed)

Small—Inkjet print, 120 × 80 cm, Edition 3—\$5,500 (unframed)



HOKEY POKEY 2019

Inkjet print, Edition 20

38 x 58 cm

\$1,320 (unframed)



PIN-UP 2019

Inkjet print, Edition 20

58 x 41 cm

£1,320 (unframed)

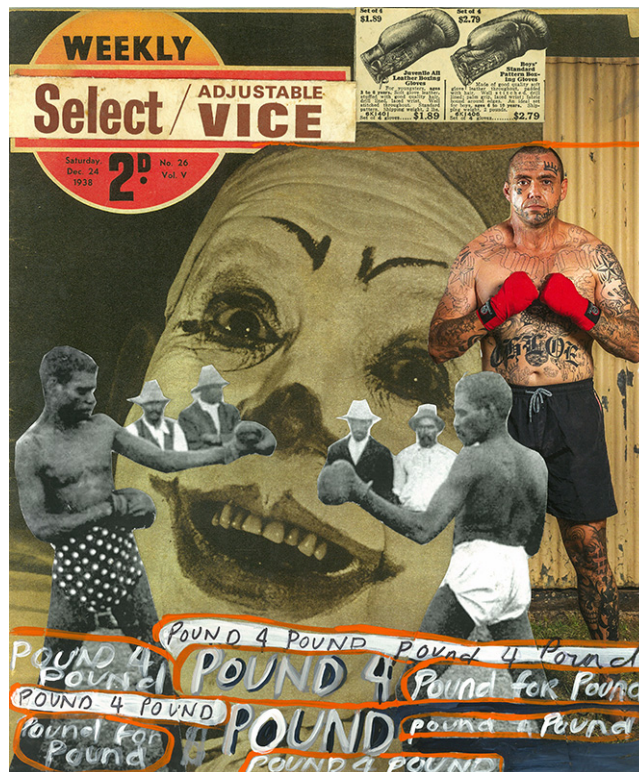


PINNED-DOWN 2019

Inkjet print, Edition 20

58 x 41 cm

£1,320 (unframed)



POUND 4 POUND 2019

Inkjet print, Edition 20

58 x 48 cm

£1,320 (unframed)



KARLA DICKENS

MOTHER'S LITTLE HELPERS

MOTHER'S LITTLE HELPERS

The deathbed rattles
reality has arrived
with an offbeat heart
her veins die

Thirsty and hungry
no shelter to hide
screaming and crying
as water levels rise

No coloured pills
for mother today
overdosing on crooked Band-aids
shakes from withdrawal stay

Battered and bruised
sweating in pain
the time has come
to nurse her back

Too late for flowers
hold her hand
hug her tight
love her through long, dark nights

Sleepless chaos
no more fight
I see you, I hear you
I stand to fight

As mother recovers
looking unsure
and drained
she feels connection

Not blissfully
but respectfully
a world where humans
are brave enough to listen

An environment
that builds
trust in survival
where money is not the hero

Another realm
without excuses
hate or cunning
or self searching gain

Stay crazy for a minute longer
imagine a sustainable future
your heart full of hope
and an openness to learn

Where governments and those in power
make change
with a sense of intelligence
and childish wonder

Let's keep tripping
Act now



MOTHER'S LITTLE HELPERS I 2019

Inkjet print, Edition 10

67 x 120 cm

\$4,400 (unframed)



MOTHER'S LITTLE HELPERS II 2019

Inkjet print, Edition 10

67 x 120 cm

\$4,400 (unframed)



MOTHER'S LITTLE HELPERS III 2019

Inkjet print, Edition 10

67 x 120 cm

€4,400 (unframed)



MOTHER'S LITTLE HELPERS IV 2019

Inkjet print, Edition 10

67 x 120 cm

\$4,400 (unframed)



MOTHER'S LITTLE HELPERS V 2019

Inkjet print, Edition 10

67 x 120 cm

\$4,400 (unframed)



MOTHER'S LITTLE HELPERS VI 2019

Inkjet print, Edition 10

67 x 120 cm

\$4,400 (unframed)



MOTHER'S LITTLE HELPERS VII 2019

Inkjet print, Edition 10

67 x 120 cm

\$4,400 (unframed)



KARLA DICKENS



TO SEE OR NOT SEE

TO SEE OR NOT TO SEE

A woman
mother
about to turn 50
fair-skinned
queer Aboriginal
living with mental health
making art
under the hood

I see

As a kid
I longed for invisibility
my gift granted
a loud voice rises
I fade
underestimated
Little Miss Riding Hood
I smile deep

Seeing you

Spotlights circle
the beautiful embraced
artists give a knowing nod
moulding, movers, dealers
I stand back
I watch
I hide
I dip a toe in the hood

Bearing witness

The good, the bad, the game
needing protection
laying naked, exposed
on exhibition
for sale
artist / work interwoven
on the chopping block
with or without the hood

See me



TO SEE OR NOT SEE #1 2017

Inkjet print, Edition 3, 100 x 100 cm—\$6,600



TO SEE OR NOT SEE #2 2017

Inkjet print, Edition 3, 100 x 100 cm—\$6,600



LOOKING AT YOU I 2017

Large—Inkjet print, Edition 3, 100 × 100 cm—\$5,500

Small—Inkjet print, Edition 7, 60 × 60 cm—\$2,200



LOOKING AT YOU II 2017

Large—Inkjet print, Edition 3, 100 × 100 cm—\$5,500

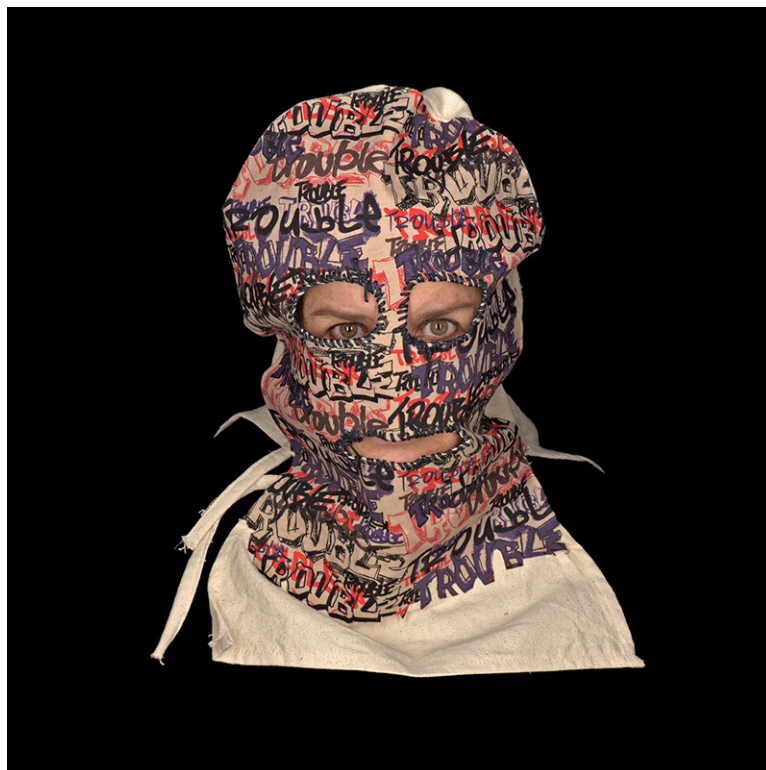
Small—Inkjet print, Edition 7, 60 × 60 cm—\$2,200



LOOKING AT YOU III 2017

Large—Inkjet print, Edition 3, 100 × 100 cm—\$5,500

Small—Inkjet print, Edition 7, 60 × 60 cm—\$2,200



LOOKING AT YOU IV 2017

Large—Inkjet print, Edition 3, 100 × 100 cm—\$5,500

Small—Inkjet print, Edition 7, 60 × 60 cm—\$2,200



LOOKING AT YOU V 2017

Large—Inkjet print, Edition 3, 100 × 100 cm—\$5,500

Small—Inkjet print, Edition 7, 60 × 60 cm—\$2,200



LOOKING AT YOU VI 2017

Large—Inkjet print, Edition 3, 100 × 100 cm—\$5,500

Small—Inkjet print, Edition 7, 60 × 60 cm—\$2,200



LOOKING AT YOU VII 2017

Large—Inkjet print, Edition 3, 100 × 100 cm—\$5,500

Small—Inkjet print, Edition 7, 60 × 60 cm—\$2,200



LOOKING AT YOU VIII 2017

Large—Inkjet print, Edition 3, 100 × 100 cm—\$5,500

Small—Inkjet print, Edition 7, 60 × 60 cm—\$2,200



KARLA DICKENS



EXPOSED



EXPOSED I 2016

Inkjet print, Edition 6

60 x 90 cm

£2,200



EXPOSED II 2016

Inkjet print, Edition 6

60 x 90 cm

£2,200

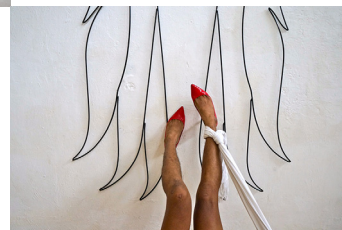
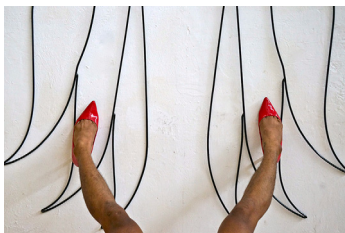


Exposed III 2016

Inkjet print, Edition 6

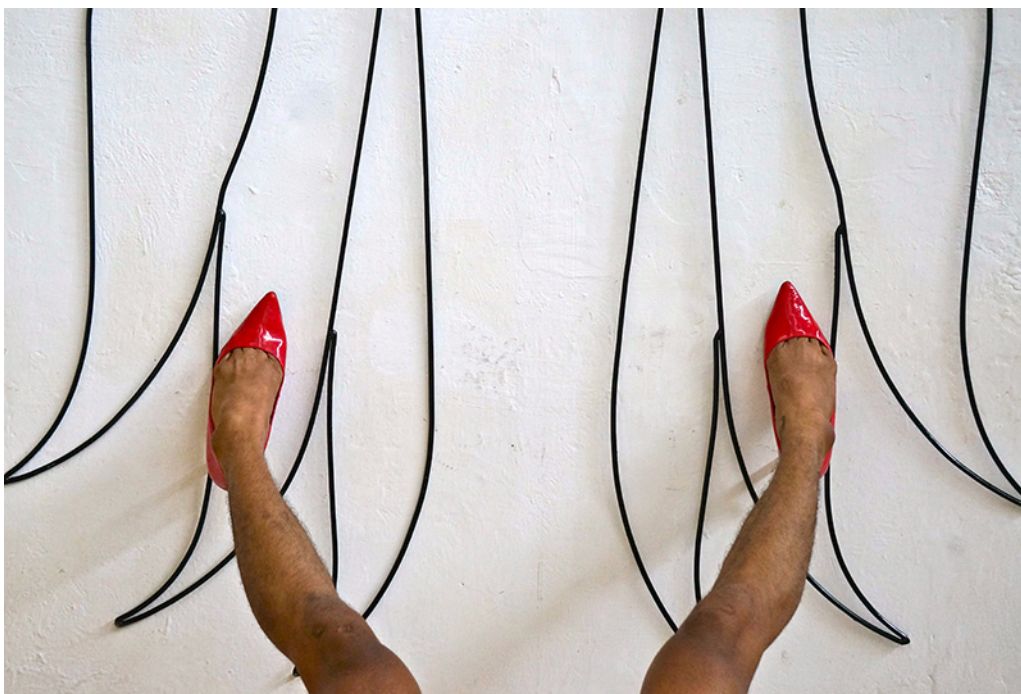
60 x 90 cm

£2,200



KARLA DICKENS

ABUSED, CROSS AND ENTRAPPED



ABUSED 2015

Inkjet print, Edition 6

60 x 90 cm

£2,200



CROSS 2015

Inkjet print, Edition 6

60 x 90 cm

£2,200



ENTRAPPED 2015

Inkjet print, Edition 6

60 x 90 cm

£2,200



KARLA DICKENS



FALLEN

Seven Sisters (Fallen)

Seven **sisters**
stars are tools
the **sky** a calendar
darkness unveils the lightness
union of human and **divine**
Pleiades to **some**

Seven **sisters**
over western **deserts**
flames licking **elders'** faces
dogs woven into laps
nestled in the **dust**
the Dreaming

Seven **sisters**
over Java roads
smoke flittering on **dancers'** faces
lights, makeup and **dreams**
stars at work, in **heels**
wings in flight

Desert to city
west to east
women hold golden **threads**
sky to earth
anchoring **mystical** heartbeats
bearing **torches** in the night

Seven **sisters**
chased by men
Is it love?
they run, flee, are caught
songlines travel from ancient times
close above the horizon

Seven **sisters**
mothers and **daughters**
aunties and lady-girls light fires
glimpses of men as hunters
the Southern Cross hijacked
unwelcome attention
scarves stolen

Bigger **stories** are always underfoot
always overhead
listen and widen your eyes
not forgetting the morning and evening
stars
focus on the dark patches
opaque clouds of **dust** and **gas**

Connect



FALLEN 2015

Inkjet print, Edition 3

110 x 252 cm

\$11,000

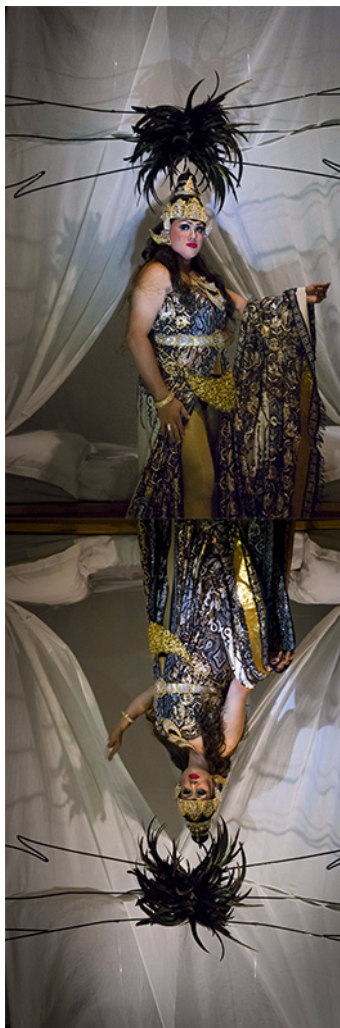


FALLEN #1 2015

Inkjet print, Edition 6

110 x 36 cm

£2,200



FALLEN #2 2015

Inkjet print, Edition 6

110 x 36 cm

£2,200



FALLEN #3 2015

Inkjet print, Edition 6

110 x 36 cm

£2,200



FALLEN #4 2015

Inkjet print, Edition 6

110 x 36 cm

£2,200

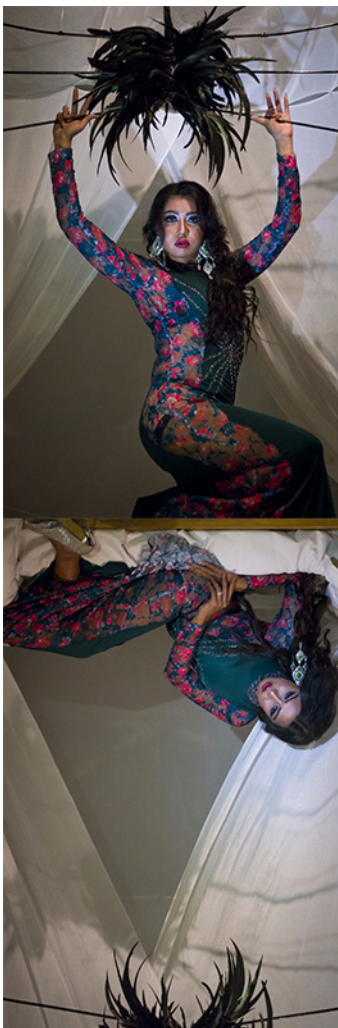


FALLEN #5 2015

Inkjet print, Edition 6

110 x 36 cm

£2,200



FALLEN #6 2015

Inkjet print, Edition 6

110 x 36 cm

£2,200



FALLEN #7 2015

Inkjet print, Edition 6

110 x 36 cm

£2,200



KARLA DICKENS

YOU WINESOME YOU LOSE SOME

ARTIST'S STATEMENT—FOR THE EXHIBITION *YOU WINESOME YOU LOSE SOME*

I am a Wiradjuri woman, artist, mother, upheld with the power of an my eagle totem, and bower bird by nature.

Presented with a the project titled *Home* I was became flooded with visual images. I have always wrestled with the idea of a home on many levels. What is a 'home'? A roof, a river, a sky, country, belonging, memories, an abandoned nest. Hope.

Earlier this year my home became a roof and four walls that were closing in, I started to collect bird cages, I embedded them in the frame of an old caravan. The cage doors were left open as freedom became attractive. In a struggle with social conformity I realised no matter what a bird's flight entailed, a nest was needed. A safe resting place.

The Winesome Cafe is a safe resting place—a watering hole, a feeding bowl, a large communal nest.

Void of white picket fences and conformity, this reclaimed pub shelters a tight-knit community, woven together by support, basic essentials and a sense of belonging. The images I have chosen to work on with the community are birds (sparkling bunting) flagging the building and nests built from found materials representing the human nesting instinct. Embracing the connection of structural objects are a number of projections: one of washing on a line, one flowing with various bird images, another holding images of abandoned houses with long-held memories along with one sporting faces at times set behind masks of a number of people I have had the privilege to spend time with on this journey.

As bed springs swing, enjoy the warmth of our fire.

GUARDIANS

Masked
what lies beneath?
why wear one?

Protection maybe
to protect oneself in battle
protect oneself from the fears of others
a country with little understanding
and no care

To hide
conceal your scars
hidden from the truth of those not
ready to face it
Australia's colonial shame

A sense of the invisibility
when you're barely seen and never heard
a few with eyes wide open
those who have a similar knowing
no recognition

Death masks
cultural genocide
dark secrets still live
no matter how deep they are buried
they linger, haunt
government policies

Worn by the homeless
the phantoms who walk through dispossession
closure of communities
an unspoken apartheid

Disguise the ugly
to beautify the frightening reality
masquerade the facts
suicide numbers raise

Altered states veiled
masking the landscape
destruction of Aboriginal sites
commercialise the spiritual
discounted culture
mining heritage

Masking complexities
mirroring back to the face of a nation
to the world
presence and memories
camouflage deceiving rule

Heroes wearing masks
fighting for truth
justice
unlawful act unnoticed
black face
red necks

Outsiders transform
smokescreens thick
distortion of warriors
protected
we see you



BIFOCAL 2014

Inkjet print, edition 9

90 x 60 cm

£2,200



Braveheart 2014

Inkjet print, edition 9

60 x 90 cm

£2,200



DREAM WOMAN 2014

Inkjet print, edition 9

90 x 60 cm

£2,200



DREAM WOMAN II 2014

Inkjet print, edition 9

90 x 60 cm

£2,200



FAIRY MAN 2014

Inkjet print, edition 9

60 x 90 cm

£2,200



FATHER MAN 2014

Inkjet print, edition 9

60 x 90 cm

£2,200



FATHER MAN II 2014

Inkjet print, edition 9

60 x 90 cm

£2,200



HOLDEN MAN 2014

Inkjet print, edition 9

90 x 60 cm

£2,200



HOLDEN MAN II 2014

Inkjet print, edition 9

90 x 60 cm

£2,200



LOST LOVE 2014

Inkjet print, edition 9

60 x 90 cm

£2,200



LOVE NEST 2014

Inkjet print, edition 9

60 x 90 cm

£2,200



MAORI MUMMA 2014

Inkjet print, edition 9

90 x 60 cm

£2,200



MONEY MAN 2014

Inkjet print, edition 9

90 x 60 cm

£2,200



PEACE MAKER 2014

Inkjet print, edition 9

90 x 60 cm

£2,200



SITTING STRONG 2014

Inkjet print, edition 9

90 x 60 cm

£2,200



SUNRAY 2014

Inkjet print, edition 9

60 x 90 cm

£2,200



THE WHOLE WORLD 2014

Inkjet print, edition 9

90 x 60 cm

£2,200



THE WHOLE WORLD II 2014

Inkjet print, edition 9

90 x 60 cm

£2,200



THE WHOLE WORLD III 2014

Inkjet print, edition 9

90 x 60 cm

£2,200



THE WHOLE WORLD IV 2014

Inkjet print, edition 9

90 x 60 cm

£2,200



VISION 2014

Inkjet print, edition 9

90 x 60 cm

£2,200



VISION II 2014

Inkjet print, edition 9

90 x 60 cm

£2,200



WING MAN 2014

Inkjet print, edition 9

90 x 60 cm

£2,200



WING MAN II 2014

Inkjet print, edition 9

60 x 90 cm

£2,200



KARLA DICKENS

MRS WOODS



MRS WOODS 2013

Inkjet print, Edition 10

66 x 100 cm

£4,400



MRS WOODS AND 'ERE 2013

Inkjet print, Edition 10

66 x 100 cm

£4,400

KARLA DICKENS

BIOGRAPHY

1967 Born: Warrang | Sydney
Heritage Aboriginal (Wiradjuri), Irish, German

EDUCATION

2000 Bachelor of Fine Arts, National Art School, Sydney
1993 Diploma of Fine Arts, National Art School, Sydney

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2020 *SOS*, Andrew Baker Art Dealer, Brisbane
My Mother's Keeper, Linden New Art, Melbourne
Mother's Little Helpers, Mosman Art Gallery, Sydney

2018 *Lucky Bastards and Fast Food*, Andrew Baker Art Dealer, Brisbane
Warrior woman, Andrew Baker Art Dealer @ MAF, Southbank Arts Precinct, Melbourne
Mother of All—works from the crypt, Andrew Baker Art Dealer, Brisbane

2017 *The Queen's Road*, Wynscreen, Wynyard Station, Sydney

2016 *Black and Blue*, Andrew Baker Art Dealer, Brisbane
Focus on the Collection: Karla Dickens, Artspace Mackay, Queensland

2016–17 *King-hit by a life-like liquid*, Allens, Sydney

2015 *Black Dogs, Love and Crutches*, Andrew Baker Art Dealer, Brisbane
You Winesome you lose some, Glasshouse Port Macquarie, New South Wales
On This Site, Verge Gallery, University of Sydney Union, New South Wales

2012 *Field and Game*, The Hughes Gallery, Sydney

2011 *Home is Where the Rabbits Live*, Firstdraft, Sydney

2010 *The Black Madonna*, Casula Powerhouse, Sydney; Grafton Regional Gallery, New South Wales
Beloved Mother, Dacou, Alstonville, New South Wales

2009 *In Loving Memory I Found the Black Madonna*, Museum of Brisbane, Queensland

2008 *Karla Dickens*, Iain Dawson Gallery, Sydney
Loving Memory, Lismore Regional Gallery, New South Wales

2005 *Home*, Next Contemporary Art Space, Southern Cross University, Lismore, New South Wales

2004 *Our Lady of Triana*, Black Fellas Dreaming, Sydney

2003 *Love, Luck & Lust*, A-Space on Cleveland, Sydney

2002 *Sheilas Downunder*, Pine Street Gallery, Sydney

2001 *Unwind*, A-Space on Cleveland, Sydney

2000 *Now Nowhere Here*, DQ Gallery, Sydney

1998 *Cross Works*, Guardella, Italy

No Limits, Hogarth Galleries, Sydney

JOINT EXHIBITIONS

2014 *The Honey and the Bunny* (with Monica Oppens), Southern Cross University Library, Lismore, New South Wales

2011 *Mother of All* (with Ishta Wilson), Tweed River Art Gallery, Murwillumbah, New South Wales

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2021 *Big Weather*, The Ian Potter Centre: NGV Australia Federation Square, Melbourne

The Cry of the Land, Heide Museum of Modern Art, Melbourne

Iden-Defy, Pine Rivers Art Gallery, Queensland; Caboolture Regional Art Gallery, Queensland

NAIDOC 2021 — Culture Remembered, Revitalised; Reactive, Caloundra Regional Gallery, Queensland

Good grief (Hang on Snoopy, Snoopy hang on), Damien Minton Gallery, Sydney

2020 *2020 Adelaide Biennial of Australian Art: Monster Theatres*, Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide

22nd Biennale of Sydney, NIRIN, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney

Know My Name: Australian Women Artists 1900 to Now, National Gallery of Australia, Canberra

Eight days in Kamay, State Library of New South Wales, Sydney

Three views (part of *Sydney Festival 2020*), Mosman Art Gallery, Sydney

Rite of Passage, QUT Art Museum, Brisbane

The TERRA inside, Shoalhaven Regional Art Gallery, New South Wales

William and Winifred Bowness Photography Prize, Monash Gallery of Art, Melbourne

King & Wood Mallesons Contemporary First Nations Art Award 2020, fortyfivedownstairs, Melbourne

Contour 556: Canberra's Public Art Biennial, Thor's Hammer—The Mixing Room Gallery, Canberra

Drawn thread, Artisan, Brisbane

- 2019–20 *Just Not Australian*, Artspace, Sydney; Wollongong Art Gallery, New South Wales; Tweed Regional Gallery and The Margaret Olley Arts Centre, New South Wales; Art Gallery of Ballarat, Victoria; Bathurst Regional Art Gallery, New South Wales; Lake Macquarie City Art Gallery, New South Wales; Blue Mountains Cultural Centre, New South Wales; Cairns Art Gallery, Queensland; Gladstone Regional Gallery, Queensland; Hervey Bay Regional Gallery, Queensland; Caboolture Regional Gallery, Queensland; Port Pirie Regional Art Gallery, South Australia; Walkway Gallery, Bordertown, South Australia
- 2019–20 *In Her Words*, Horsham Regional Art Gallery, Victoria; Deakin University, Victoria; Wangaratta Art Gallery, Victoria; Swan Hill Regional Art Gallery, Victoria; Logan Art Gallery, Queensland
Violent Salt, Artspace Mackay, Queensland; Noosa Regional Gallery, Queensland;
 Toowoomba Regional Art Gallery, Queensland; Lake Macquarie City Art Gallery, New South Wales; Canberra Contemporary Art Space, Australian Capital Territory; Swan Hill Regional Art Gallery, Victoria; Bundoora Homestead Art Centre, Victoria
- 2019 *Dora Ohlfson and the facade commission*, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
Eyes on Australia—Eyes on Main Street, Wilson, NC, USA; Pingyao International Photography Festival, Pingyao, China
Between the Moon and the Stars, Museum and Art Gallery of Northern Territory, Darwin
To Be Continued, Freemantle Arts Centre, Western Australia
Heroine—Celebration and Protest in Women's Art, .M Contemporary, Sydney
Vis-ability, QUT Art Museum, Brisbane
Everyday Madonna, Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre, Sydney
The Abyss: Strategies in contemporary art, Griffith University Art Museum, Brisbane
Playing with Matches, Incinerator Gallery, Melbourne
Cemental9: Contemporary Arts Festival, Kandos, New South Wales
- 2018–21 *Safe Space*, Logan Art Gallery, Queensland; Bundaberg Regional Art Gallery, Queensland; Rockhampton Art Gallery, Queensland; Dogwood Crossing, Miles, Queensland; Toowoomba Regional Art Gallery, Queensland; Grafton Regional Gallery, New South Wales; Maitland Regional Art Gallery, New South Wales; Devonport Regional Gallery, Tasmania; Murray Bridge Regional Gallery, South Australia; Latrobe Regional Gallery, Victoria; New England Regional Art Museum, Armidale, New South Wales; University of Sunshine Coast Gallery, Queensland

- 2018–20 *The Partners*hipping Project, Burnie Regional Art Gallery, Tasmania; Umbrella Studio Contemporary Arts, Townsville, Queensland; Lismore Regional Art Gallery, New South Wales; Riddoch Art Gallery, Mount Gambier, South Australia
- 2018 *Cook and the Pacific*, National Library of Australia, Canberra
Meditation on a Bone: Albert Tucker beyond the Modern, Heide Museum of Modern Art, Bulleen, Victoria
National Art—Part One, National Art School Gallery, Sydney; Tweed Regional Gallery, New South Wales; Glasshouse, Port Macquarie, New South Wales; Maitland Regional Art Gallery, New South Wales
The Ideal Home, Penrith Regional Gallery, New South Wales; Powerhouse Museum, Sydney
Let her rip, Byron School of Art, Mullumbimby, New South Wales
*King & Wood Malle*sons Contemporary ATSI Art Prize, New South Wales Parliament House, Sydney
Contour 556: Canberra's Public Art Biennial, Australian Capital Territory
The 1818 Project, Newcastle Art Gallery, New South Wales
- 2017–20 *Defying Empire: 3rd National Indigenous Art Triennial*, National Gallery of Australia, Canberra; Museum and Art Gallery of Northern Territory, Darwin; UQ Art Museum, Brisbane; Western Plains Cultural Centre, Dubbo, New South Wales; Mildura Art Gallery, Victoria; Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery, Launceston, Tasmania; Australian National Maritime Museum, Sydney
- 2017 *The National 2017: new Australian art*, Carriageworks, Sydney
Everyone Has a History: Part One: Plain Speak, Art Gallery of Western Australia, Perth
Grounded: Contemporary Australian Art, National Art School, Sydney
Faith, Casula Powerhouse, Sydney
Four Women: (I do Belong) Double, Lismore Regional Art Gallery, New South Wales
National Self-Portrait Prize 2017: Looking at me looking at you, UQ Art Museum, Brisbane
We're Closer Than You Think, The Old Gallery, Lismore, New South Wales
Unwelcome Boats and Black Bones (as a part of *North Head Project*), Quarantine Station on Car-rang gel Country/Northern Beaches Council/Manly Art Gallery and Museum, Sydney
Restless, Margaret Lawrence Gallery, Melbourne
- 2016 *Lighting the Sails: Songlines* (part of *Vivid LIVE*), Sydney Opera House, New South Wales

- Darkness on the Edge of Town*, Artbank, Sydney
- Sixth Sense*, National Art School, Sydney
- At the Junction of Two Rivers: the Wellington exchange project*, Old Western Stores Building, Wellington, New South Wales
- Old Land, New Marks*, Dubbo Regional Gallery, New South Wales
- 2017 NSW Visual Artist Fellowship Exhibition*, Artbank, Sydney
- All dressed up: the culture, drama and play of clothing, costume and disguise*, Hawkesbury Regional Gallery, Windsor, New South Wales
- 2015 *Western Australian Indigenous Art Awards 2015*, Art Gallery of Western Australia, Perth
- The Colour of the Sky Today: Prague Quadrennial of Space and Design (PQ)*, Collorádo Mansfeld Palace, Prague, Czech Republic
- Bungaree's Farm*, The Tanks/Mosman Art Gallery, Sydney
- Blak Nite Screen 2015*, City of Melbourne, Treasury Gardens, Melbourne
- Cemental5: Contemporary Arts Festival*, Kandos, New South Wales
- Wiradjuri Ngurambanggu*, Murray Art Museum Albury (MAMA), New South Wales
- C3West Blacktown Native Institution Corroboree*, Blacktown Arts Centre/Museum of Contemporary Art Australia/UrbanGrowth NSW, Sydney
- Talk the change//Change the talk: An exhibition of Aboriginal self-determination*, Fairfield City Museum & Gallery, New South Wales
- Rough Medicine: Life & Death in the Age of Sail*, Australian National Maritime Museum, Sydney
- 2014 *TarraWarra Biennial 2014: Whisper in My Mask*, TarraWarra Museum of Art, Healesville, Victoria
- Hereby Make Protest*, Carriageworks, Sydney
- 2013 *The Art of Sound*, Grafton Regional Gallery, New South Wales
- The Native Institute*, Blacktown Arts Centre, New South Wales
- Parliament of New South Wales Aboriginal Art Prize*, Parliament House, Sydney
- 2012–15 *Bungaree: The First Australian*, Mosman Art Gallery, Sydney; Lake Macquarie City Art Gallery, New South Wales; The Glasshouse, Port Macquarie, New South Wales
- 2012 *Home*, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
- Feminage: The Logic of Feminist Collage*, The Cross Art Projects, Sydney
- 2011 *People We Know—Places We've Been*, Goulburn Regional Gallery, New South Wales

- Thank you for the days: My Teenage Years*, Lismore Regional Gallery, New South Wales
- Pink Sunrise*, Boomalli Aboriginal Artists Co-operative, Sydney
- Freedom Riders*, University Art Gallery, The University of Sydney, New South Wales
- Fairytales in Fairyland*, Grafton Regional Gallery, New South Wales
- 2010 *Safari: Biennale of Sydney Fringe*, MOP, Sydney
- Parliament of New South Wales Indigenous Art Award*, Parliament House, Sydney
- Articles of Interest*, SCI Next Art Gallery, Lismore, New South Wales
- Lest We Forget*, Dacou, Alstonville, New South Wales
- 2009 *Parliament of New South Wales Indigenous Art Award*, Parliament House, Sydney (touring New South Wales regional galleries)
- Connections*, NPWS Art, Northern Rivers Community Gallery, Ballina, New South Wales
- 2008 *Messages of Peace*, Gallery XX, Settembre, Italy
- Fisher's Ghost Art Award*, Campbelltown City Art Centre, New South Wales
- Confidential Business Project*, Casula Powerhouse, Sydney
- Australian Values*, Next Art Gallery, Southern Cross University, Lismore, New South Wales
- Premier State*, Campbelltown City Art Centre, New South Wales
- Identity*, Grafton Regional Gallery, New South Wales
- The Year of the Apology*, Northern Rivers Community Gallery, Ballina, New South Wales
- 2007 *Parliament of New South Wales Indigenous Art Award*, Parliament House, Sydney (touring New South Wales regional galleries)
- Past, Present, Future*, Grafton Regional Gallery, New South Wales
- 3 in 10*, Boomalli Aboriginal Artists Co-operative, Sydney
- 2006 *Chrysalis: The Emergence of Northern Rivers Artists*, Lismore Regional Gallery, New South Wales
- The Pink, The Black and the Beautiful*, Boomalli Aboriginal Artists Co-operative, Sydney
- Our Spirit Our Country*, Bungjalung Art Award, Lismore Regional Gallery, New South Wales
- 2005 *Group of Eleven Artists—NAIDOC Week*, Waverley Library, Sydney
- 2004 *Nice Coloured Dolls*, 24HR Art Northern Territory Centre for Contemporary Art, Darwin

- Urban Aboriginals*, Black Fellas Dreaming, Bangalow, New South Wales
- 2003 *Hung, Drawn and Quartered*, Tin Sheds Gallery, University of Sydney, New South Wales
- 2001 *Aboriginal Ways of Knowing*, Macy Gallery, Columbia University, New York, NY, USA
- 1999 *Perspecta: Love Magic*, S.H. Ervin Gallery, Sydney
- Arone Meeks & Co.*, Coeee Aboriginal Gallery, Sydney
- 1998 *National Indigenous Heritage Art Award*, Old Parliament House, Canberra
- Co-existence—Sorry*, Hogarth Galleries, Sydney
- 1997 *Stars on the Net*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney
- 1996 *Never the Less*, John Paynter Gallery, Newcastle, New South Wales
- 1995 *Portia Geach Memorial Award*, S.H. Ervin Gallery, Sydney
- 1994 *Festival of Fisher's Ghost*, Campbelltown City Art Gallery, New South Wales
- Recognising the Republic*, Michael Nagy Fine Art Gallery, Sydney

AWARDS AND COMMISSIONS

- 2020 Commission, 'Facade', Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
- Finalist, *William and Winifred Bowness Photography Prize*, Monash Gallery of Art, Melbourne
- 2019 Winner, *Fellowship for a Visual Artist*, Copyright Agency, Sydney
- Recipient, *Creative Koori—Arts & Cultural Projects Fund*, Create NSW, Sydney
- 2018 Finalist, *King & Wood Mallesons Contemporary ATSI Art Prize*, NSW Parliament House, Sydney
- 2017 Commission, 'The Queen's Road' (8 minute video), *Wynscreen*, Wynyard Station, Transport for NSW, Sydney
- 2013 Winner, *New South Wales Parliament Art Prize*, NSW Parliament, Sydney
- 2009 Runner-up, *NPWS Northern Rivers Region Aboriginal Art Award*, Northern Rivers Community Gallery, Ballina, New South Wales
- 2007 Winner, *NPWS Northern Rivers Region Aboriginal Art Award*, Northern Rivers Community Gallery, Ballina, New South Wales
- 2006 Winner, *NPWS Northern Rivers Region Aboriginal Art Award*, Northern Rivers Community Gallery, Ballina, New South Wales

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Baum, Tina. *Defying Empire: 3rd National Indigenous Art Triennial*, National Gallery of Australia, Canberra, 2017

Behrendt, Larissa. 'Hereby Make Protest review—a historical reflection on Aboriginal activism', *The Guardian*, 18 June 2014

Blackall, Judith. 'Karla Dickens', *Grounded: Contemporary Australian Art* (ex. cat.), National Art School, Sydney, 2017

Browning, Daniel. 'A Dickensian Sideshow', *AWAYE!*, ABC Radio, 28 November 2020

Brett, Shannon. 'Karla Dickens', *Rite of Passage* (ex. cat.), QUT Art Museum, 2020

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Dickens, Karla. *SOS* (ex. cat.), Andrew Baker Art Dealer, Brisbane, 2020

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Artbank, Sydney
Museum of Applied Arts & Sciences, Sydney
Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney
Artspace Mackay, Queensland
Bega Valley Regional Gallery, New South Wales
Bendigo Art Gallery, Victoria
Black Fellas Dreaming Museum, Sydney
Bundoora Homestead Art Centre, Melbourne
Campbelltown City Art Centre, New South Wales
City of Sydney Civic Collection, New South Wales
Grafton Regional Art Gallery, New South Wales
International Education Services Indigenous Art Collection, Brisbane
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