



KARLA DICKENS

TO SEE OR NOT SEE

TO SEE OR NOT TO SEE

A woman
mother
about to turn 50
faired-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
under estimated
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 × 100 cm—\$6,600



TO SEE OR NOT SEE #2 2017
Inkjet print, Edition 3, 100 × 100 cm—\$6,600



LOOKING AT YOU I 2017

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

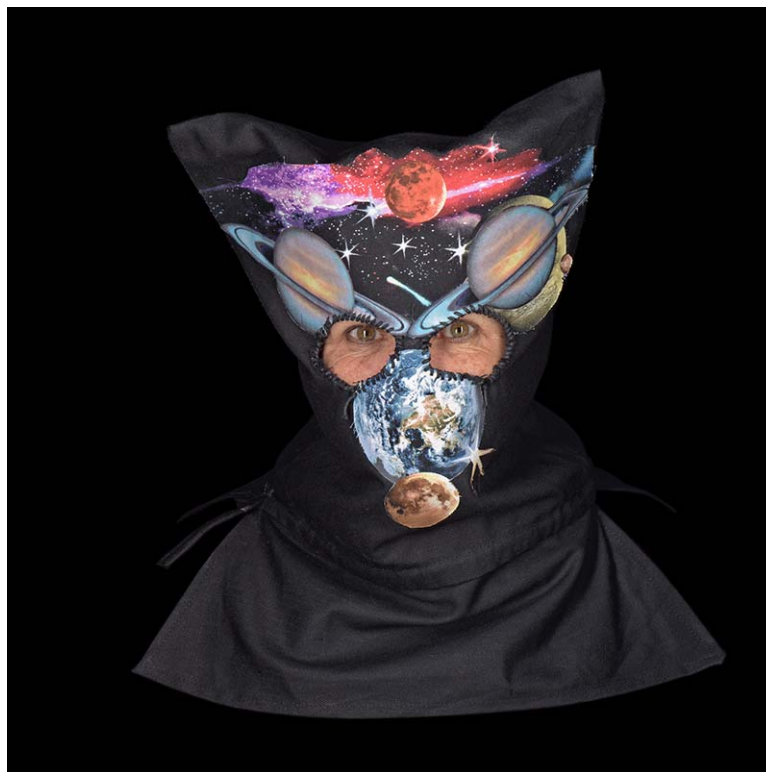
Inkjet print, Edition 7, 60 × 60 cm—\$2,200



LOOKING AT YOU II 2017

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

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



LOOKING AT YOU III 2017

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

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



LOOKING AT YOU IV 2017

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

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



LOOKING AT YOU V 2017

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

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



LOOKING AT YOU VI 2017

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

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



LOOKING AT YOU VII 2017

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

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



LOOKING AT YOU VIII 2017

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

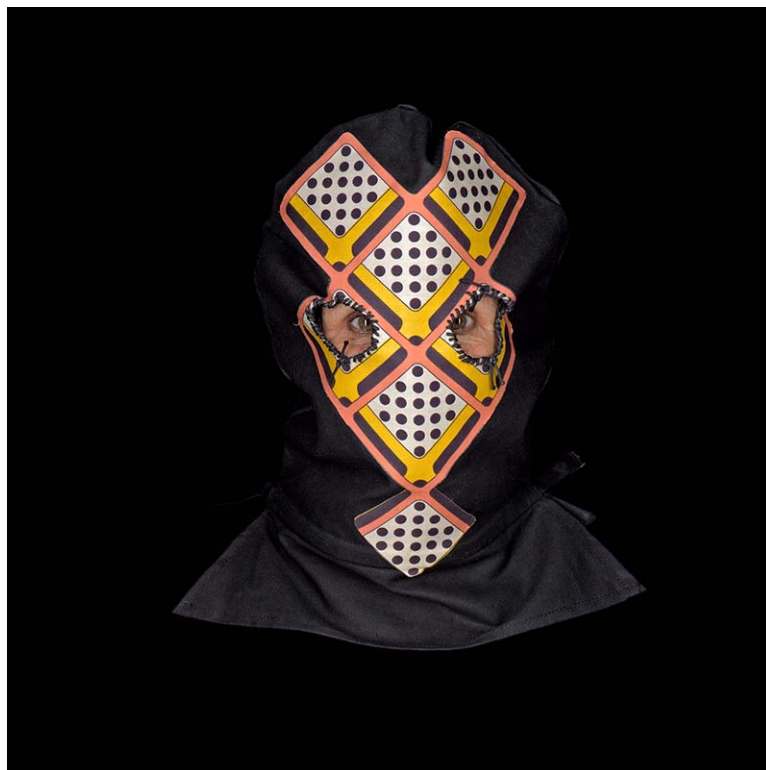
Inkjet print, Edition 7, 60 × 60 cm—\$2,200



LOOKING AT YOU IX 2017

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

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



LOOKING AT YOU X 2017

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

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

KARLA DICKENS

BIOGRAPHY

Born 1967, Sydney
Heritage Wiradjuri

EDUCATION

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

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

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
Urban Aboriginals, Black Fellas Dreaming, Bangalow, New South Wales
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

- 2017 *Defying Empire: 3rd National Indigenous Art Triennial*, National Gallery of Australia, Canberra
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, Lismore Regional Art Gallery, New South Wales
National Self-Portrait Prize 2017: Looking at me looking at you, UQ Art Museum, Brisbane
- 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, NSW
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), Collorodo Mansfeld Palace, Prague, Czech Republic
Bungaree's Farm, The Tanks/Mosman Art Gallery, Sydney
Blak Nite Screen 2015, City of Melbourne, Treasury Gardens, Melbourne
Cementa 15: Biennial 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	<i>Bungaree: The First Australian</i> , Mosman Art Gallery, Sydney; Lake Macquarie City Art Gallery, New South Wales; The Glasshouse, Port Macquarie, New South Wales
2012	<i>Home</i> , Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney <i>Feminage: The Logic of Feminist Collage</i> , The Cross Art Projects, Sydney
2011	<i>People We Know—Places We’ve Been</i> , Goulburn Regional Gallery, New South Wales <i>Thank you for the days: My Teenage Years</i> , Lismore Regional Gallery, New South Wales <i>Pink Sunrise</i> , Boomalli Aboriginal Artists Co-operative, Sydney <i>Freedom Riders</i> , University Art Gallery, The University of Sydney, New South Wales <i>Fairytales in Fairyland</i> , Grafton Regional Gallery, New South Wales
2010	<i>Safari: Biennale of Sydney Fringe</i> , MOP, Sydney <i>Parliament of New South Wales Indigenous Art Award</i> , Parliament House, Sydney <i>Articles of Interest</i> , SCI Next Art Gallery, Lismore, New South Wales <i>Lest We Forget</i> , Dacou, Alstonville, New South Wales
2009	<i>Parliament of New South Wales Indigenous Art Award</i> , Parliament House, Sydney (touring New South Wales regional galleries) <i>Connections</i> , NPWS Art, Northern Rivers Community Gallery, Ballina, New South Wales
2008	<i>Messages of Peace</i> , Gallery XX, Settembre, Italy <i>Fisher’s Ghost Art Award</i> , Campbelltown City Art Centre, New South Wales <i>Confidential Business Project</i> , Casula Powerhouse, Sydney <i>Australian Values</i> , Next Art Gallery, Southern Cross University, Lismore, New South Wales <i>Premier State</i> , Campbelltown City Art Centre, New South Wales <i>Identity</i> , Grafton Regional Gallery, New South Wales <i>The Year of the Apology</i> , Northern Rivers Community Gallery, Ballina, New South Wales
2007	<i>Parliament of New South Wales Indigenous Art Award</i> , Parliament House, Sydney (touring New South Wales regional galleries) <i>Past, Present, Future</i> , Grafton Regional Gallery, New South Wales <i>3 in 10</i> , Boomalli Aboriginal Artists Co-operative, Sydney
2006	<i>Chrysalis: The Emergence of Northern Rivers Artists</i> , Lismore Regional Gallery, New South Wales <i>The Pink, The Black and the Beautiful</i> , Boomalli Aboriginal Artists Co-operative, Sydney <i>Our Spirit Our Country</i> , <i>Bungjalung Art Award</i> , Lismore Regional Gallery, New South Wales
2005	<i>Group of Eleven Artists—NAIDOC Week</i> , Waverley Library, Sydney
2004	<i>Nice Coloured Dolls</i> , 24HR Art Northern Territory Centre for Contemporary Art, Darwin
2003	<i>Hung, Drawn and Quartered</i> , Tin Sheds Gallery, University of Sydney, New South Wales
2001	<i>Aboriginal Ways of Knowing</i> , Macy Gallery, Columbia University, New York, NY, USA

- 1999 *Perspecta: Love Magic*, S.H. Ervin Gallery, Sydney
Arone Meeks & Co., Cooe 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

- 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

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Anon. 'Freedom Riders', *Sydney University Museums News*, Art and Aboriginal Rights Special Feature, Sydney, June 2011
- Anon. 'Remembering 'Humanity Lost': Karla Dickens and Aris Prabawa', *Art Monthly Australia*, Issue 244, October 2011, pp. 66–67
- Anon. 'The medicine of creation', *GPSpeak*, October 2011
- Balodis, Janis. 'The healing art of transformation', *Health Speak*, Summer 2015
- 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
- Dow, Steve. 'The National: New Australian Art 2017', *Art Guide Australia*, 30 March 2017
- Encalada, Javier. 'Local artists 'paint' the Opera House with light', *The Northern Star*, 17 March 2016
- Finegan, Ann. 'Retro Black: Interpellating History', *Sturgeon*, Issue 5, 2016
- Flemming, Robyn (editor). *Wiradjuri Ngurambangu* [ex. cat.], Murray Art Museum Albury, New South Wales, 2015

Fraser, Virginia. 'Bungaree, the First Australian interrupted', *Art Monthly Australia*, Issue 262, August 2013, pp. 9–12

Fraser, Virginia. 'Karla Dickens', in French, Blair, et al. *The National: New Australian Art*, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Carriageworks, Museum of Contemporary Art Australia, Sydney, 2017

Geczy, Adam. 'The Native Institute', *Art Monthly Australia*, Issue 263 September 2014, p. 56

Grishin, Sasha. 'The National: New Australian Art in Sydney shows works at three venues', *The Sydney Morning Herald*, 6 April 2017

Hobbs, Harry. *Indigenous Law Bulletin*, July–September 2017, Vol. 8, No. 30, Faculty of Law, University of New South Wales, Sydney

King, Natalie, Mundine, Djon and Cruikshank, Alan. 'Whisper in my mask', *Contemporary Visual Art+Culture Broadsheet*, Issue 43.2, 2014

Leane, Jeanine. 'Karla Dickens: Continuing the Dialogue', *Art and Australia*, May 2104, 51.4

McDonald, John. 'Using art to making sense of the past at MAMA and Bathurst regional galleries', *The Sydney Morning Herald*, 6 November 2015

Mandryk, Chloe. 'Sixth Sense', *Art Almanac*. September 2016

Mundine, Professor Djon OAM (editor). *Bungaree: The First Australian* [ex.cat.], Mosman Art Gallery, Sydney; Lake Macquarie City Art Gallery, New South Wales, 2012, p. 11 and pp. 38–39

Mundine, Professor Djon OAM. 'Conversations with a Crow', *Art Monthly Australia*, Issue 212, August 2008, pp. 40–42

Mundine, Professor Djon OAM, in Poulos, Maria (editor). 'The Wounded – The Scar – The Gifted', *16 Karla Dickens*, Allens, Sydney, 2016

Nahlous, Lena (editor). *Talk the change//Change the talk: An exhibition of Aboriginal self-determination*, Fairfield City Museum & Gallery, Smithfield, 2015

Nicoll, Fiona. 'Comparative Reflections on Indigenous Gambling: Sovereignty, Race and Epistemology', *Aboriginal Policy Studies*, Vol. 6, No. 1, 2016, University of Alberta, Faculty of Native Studies, Edmonton, pp. 63–89

O'Riordan, Maurice. 'Where Eagles Hover', *Artlink*, Volume 18 Number 1, March 1999

O'Riordan, Maurice. 'What's up, Karla', *Karla Dickens: Home is Where the Rabbit Lives* [ex. cat.], Firstdraft/Arts NSW, Sydney, 2011

O'Riordan, Maurice. 'In My Painting, At My Window', *Karla Dickens: Loving Memory* [ex. cat.], Lismore Regional Gallery, 2008

Parker, Luke and Stephen, Ann (editors). *Freedom Riders: Art and Activism 1960s to Now*, University Art Gallery, The University of Sydney, Sydney, 2011

Poulos, Maria. 'King hit by life-like liquid', *16 Karla Dickens*, Allens, Sydney, 2016

Taffel, Jacqui. 'Story of Bungaree explored on the site that was once his', *The Sydney Morning Herald*, 5 February 2015

Taylor, Andrew. 'Wrapped in colours of denial: Finalists in an Aboriginal art prize aren't afraid of controversy', *The Sydney Morning Herald*, 8 October 2013

Zafiriou, Yiorgos. 'Karla Dickens: It's Not Bloody Art—It's Work!', *Artlink*, Issue 35:2 Artlink Indigenous Global, June 2015

COLLECTIONS

National Gallery of Australia, Canberra

National Museum of Australia, Canberra

Australian National Maritime Museum, Sydney

Art Gallery of Western Australia, Perth

Artbank, Sydney

Museum of Applied Arts & Sciences, Sydney

Artspace Mackay, Queensland

Bendigo Art Gallery, Victoria

Black Fellas Dreaming Museum, Sydney

Campbelltown City Art Centre, New South Wales

City of Sydney Civic Collection, New South Wales

Grafton Regional Art Gallery, New South Wales

Griffith University, Queensland

International Education Services Indigenous Art Collection, Brisbane

Lismore Regional Art Gallery, New South Wales

Northern Rivers Performing Arts, Lismore, New South Wales

University of Technology, Sydney

UBS Warburg Collection, Sydney

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