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), Collorado 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  
*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

2011  
*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

2011  
*Thank you for the days: My Teenage Years*, Lismore Regional Gallery, New South Wales

2011  
*Pink Sunrise*, Boomalli Aboriginal Artists Co-operative, Sydney

2011  
*Freedom Riders*, University Art Gallery, The University of Sydney, New South Wales

2011  
*Fairytales in Fairyland*, Grafton Regional Gallery, New South Wales

2010  
*Safari: Biennale of Sydney Fringe*, MOP, Sydney

2010  
*Parliament of New South Wales Indigenous Art Award*, Parliament House, Sydney

2010  
*Articles of Interest*, SCI Next Art Gallery, Lismore, New South Wales

2010  
*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)

2009  
*Connections*, NPWS Art, Northern Rivers Community Gallery, Ballina, New South Wales

2008  
*Messages of Peace*, Gallery XX, Settembre, Italy

2008  
*Fisher’s Ghost Art Award*, Campbelltown City Art Centre, New South Wales

2008  
*Confidential Business Project*, Casula Powerhouse, Sydney

2008  
*Australian Values*, Next Art Gallery, Southern Cross University, Lismore, New South Wales

2008  
*Premier State*, Campbelltown City Art Centre, New South Wales

2008  
*Identity*, Grafton Regional Gallery, New South Wales

2007  
*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)

2007  
*Past, Present, Future*, Grafton Regional Gallery, New South Wales

2006  
*3 in 10*, Boomalli Aboriginal Artists Co-operative, Sydney

2006  
*Chrysalis: The Emergence of Northern Rivers Artists*, Lismore Regional Gallery, New South Wales

2006  
*The Pink, The Black and the Beautiful*, Boomalli Aboriginal Artists Co-operative, Sydney

2006  
*Our Spirit Our Country, Bungalung 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

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.*, Cooee 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  

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. ‘The medicine of creation’, *GPSpeak*, October 2011

Balodis, Janis. ‘The healing art of transformation’, *Health Speak*, Summer 2015


Blackall, Judith. ‘Karla Dickens’, *Grounded: Contemporary Australian Art* [ex. cat.], National Art School, Sydney, 2017


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


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


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. 'Conversations with a Crow', *Art Monthly Australia*, Issue 212, August 2008, pp. 40-42


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


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


**COLLECTIONS**

National Gallery of Australia, Canberra
National Museum of Australia, Canberra
Australian National Maritime Museum, Sydney
Art Gallery of Western Australia, Perth
Artnet, 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