



KARLA DICKENS



WARRIOR WOMAN

Unspoken

You know, we know

We know the pain
feel the pain
see the pain
hear, smell and fear it
live with it
and, at times, have learnt to love it

We follow it as it moves
between those who also see it
and those who don't
yet sense it
like the motionless red eyes
which peer back through the bush
late, late at night

The damage latches onto those
from nowhere near the crime scene
they live with it
whether they speak it, or not
whether they deny, or embrace it
acknowledge, or laugh at it
it lingers for lifetimes
haunting you
early on cold mornings
before the sun rises
while snores still sing

We know those belittling stares
that turn into lustful force
know that your actions run deep
they sleep
in the heart of unborn babies
toddlers who throw tantrums for no
reason
teenagers searching for identity
adults with a burning sense of un-
belonging
old people who have comforted grief
for generations

You flirt, desire, hunt and concur
we bruise, bleed and loathe
some ignore, hide and deny
others break, cry and scream alone
while there are 'the brave'
who take back their power
with grace and beauty
walk tall and never look back

Not white enough
not black enough
yet a perfect brown shade of
dishonour
we are your kin, your family
your sisters, mothers and daughters
we are the storytellers

whether or not the **stories** are told
we carry and protect them
lodge and reference them
better than any hospital or **state**
library
our records need no papers or **seals**
they are forever carved into **flesh**,
rivers and **trees**
the **genes** of families
towns and **cemeteries**
you breed it in your **silence**
nurture it in your entitlement

Sleep with **eyes** wide open
as you learn to look at it
out-loud
hold it **as** it weeps
heal it in loving arms
knowing who owns the **seed**
your **seed**

We know, you know



WORKHORSE II 2015

Mixed media

86 x 60 x 38 cm

\$13,200



WORKHORSE III 2018

Mixed media

130 x 58 x 28 cm

\$13,200



WORKHORSE IV (NO MAP OF TASSIE) 2018

Mixed media

90 x 61 x 20 cm

\$13,200



WORKHORSE V 2018

Mixed media

106 x 56 x 32 cm

\$13,200

Warrior women

Turning the washing basket
upside down, inside out
looking for Reg Grundies
resilient and well made

No frills
no pastel flowers
nor see-through lace
no crutchless G-strings

Hardened undergarments
big-girls' undies
protective covers
personal security guards

The world needs facing
wearing raw pain, old pain
shared and naked pain
standing up, showing up

Being heard and being counted
holding courage tight
ready to love and be loved
to be real, to be hurt, to be brave

Big-girl underwear
big-girl knickers
tough and ready
until the time allows
then the cheeks will shake

Run, dance, fart and sing
as the nakedness is unleashed
on the darkest of nights
glowing under moons of glory

Warrior women play again
butts blowing in the breeze
gracefully relaxed
in empowered freedom



WARRIOR WOMAN I 2017
Mixed media
30 x 18 x 10 cm (undies)
\$6,600



WARRIOR WOMAN II 2017

Mixed media

30 x 18 x 10 cm (undies)

\$6,600



WARRIOR WOMAN III 2017

Mixed media

30 x 18 x 10 cm (undies)

£6,600



WARRIOR WOMAN IV 2017

Mixed media

30 x 18 x 10 cm (undies)

£6,600



WARRIOR WOMAN V 2017

Mixed media

30 x 18 x 10 cm (undies)

£6,600



WARRIOR WOMAN VI 2017

Mixed media

30 x 18 x 10 cm (undies)

\$6,600



WARRIOR WOMAN VII 2017

Mixed media

30 x 18 x 10 cm (undies)

£6,600



WARRIOR WOMAN VIII 2017

Mixed media

30 x 18 x 10 cm (undies)

£6,600



WARRIOR WOMAN IX 2017

Mixed media

30 x 18 x 10 cm (undies)

£6,600



WARRIOR WOMAN X 2017

Mixed media

30 x 18 x 10 cm (undies)

£6,600



WARRIOR WOMAN XI 2017
Mixed media
30 x 18 x 10 cm (undies)
\$6,600



WARRIOR WOMAN XII 2017

Mixed media

30 x 18 x 10 cm (undies)

₡6,600



WARRIOR WOMAN XIII 2017

Mixed media

30 x 18 x 10 cm (undies)

₱6,600



WARRIOR WOMAN XIV 2017

Mixed media

30 x 18 x 10 cm (undies)

\$6,600



WARRIOR WOMAN XV 2017

Mixed media

30 x 18 x 10 cm (undies)

₺6,600



WARRIOR WOMAN XVI 2017

Mixed media

30 x 18 x 10 cm (undies)

£6,600



WARRIOR WOMAN XVII 2017

Mixed media

30 x 18 x 10 cm (undies)

\$6,600



WARRIOR WOMAN XVIII 2017

Mixed media

30 x 18 x 10 cm (undies)

₱6,600



WARRIOR WOMAN IXX 2017

Mixed media

30 x 18 x 10 cm (undies)

₱6,600



WARRIOR WOMAN XX 2017

Mixed media

30 x 18 x 10 cm (undies)

£6,600

Jack and Jill
(a.k.a. Hung, strung and quartered)

Hold a thought
for the woman
who hid in the long grass
longing to be invisible

With no make-up
to cover the scars
as rivers of grog flowed
she spills an ocean of blood

A workhorse by day
and endless dark nights
an animal for the taking
some called it "assimilation"

There was warmth
on occasion
glimpses of kindness
confusion of lust for love

Babies to kiss
until the eyes turn
his fists flew
the bottle was empty

No flowers
no silk scarves
sinking into deep grooves of grief
Houdini would find it hard to escape

One may have a paddle
occasionally a boat
yet the water still smells
up Shit Creek

Staining her heart
bruising her cheeks
wounding her
knowing "until death do us part"



JACK AND JILL (A.K.A. HUNG, STRUNG AND QUARTERED) 2016
Mixed media
240 x 15 x 10 cm (oars) / 87 x 175 cm (flag)
\$22,000



WITHOUT A PADDLE II 2017 (DETAILS)



MRS WOODS 2013
Inkjet print, Edition 10
66 x 100 cm
\$4,400 (unframed)



MRS WOODS AND 'ERE 2013

Inkjet print, Edition 10

66 x 100 cm

\$4,400 (unframed)

To see or not 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



IN THE 'HOOD #1 2017

Mixed media

47 x 31 cm

£3,300



IN THE 'HOOD #2 2017

Mixed media

46 x 41 cm

£3,300



IN THE 'HOOD #3 2017

Mixed media

49 x 42 cm

£3,300



IN THE 'HOOD #4 2017

Mixed media

47 x 32 cm

\$3,300



IN THE 'HOOD #5 2017

Mixed media

49 x 34 cm

£3,300



IN THE 'HOOD #6 2017

Mixed media

49 x 43 cm

£3,300



IN THE 'HOOD #7 2017

Mixed media

50 x 41 cm

£3,300



IN THE 'HOOD #8 2017

Mixed media

52 x 34 cm

£3,300



IN THE 'HOOD #9 2017

Mixed media

48 x 33 cm

£3,300



IN THE 'HOOD #10 2017

Mixed media

44 x 35 cm

£3,300



IN THE 'HOOD #11 2017

Mixed media

47 x 42 cm

£3,300



IN THE 'HOOD #13 2017

Mixed media

52 x 46 cm

£3,300



IN THE 'HOOD #16 2017

Mixed media

49 x 33 cm

£3,300

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

2018 *Lucky Bastards and Fast Food*, Andrew Baker Art Dealer, Brisbane

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

- 2018 *Let her rip*, Byron School of Art, Mullumbimby, 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
- 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
- Cementa 15: Biennial Contemporary Arts Festival*, Kandıos, New South Wales
- Wirádjuri 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
- 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., Cocee 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
 Dickens, Karla. *Lucky Bastards and Fast Food* (ex. cat.), Andrew Baker Art Dealer, Brisbane, 2018
 Dickens, Karla. *Warrior woman* (ex. cat.), Andrew Baker Art Dealer, Brisbane, 2018
 Dickens, Karla. *Black and Blue*, Andrew Baker Art Dealer (ex. cat.), Brisbane, 2016
 Dickens, Karla. *Black Dogs, Love and Crutches* (ex. cat.), Andrew Baker Art Dealer, Brisbane, 2015
 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

English, Alexandra. 'Follow the leaders', *Harper's Bazaar*, June/July 2018

Finegan, Ann. 'Retro Black: Interpellating History', *Sturgeon*, Issue 5, 2016

Flemming, Robyn (editor). *Wiradjuri Ngurambanggu* (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 2014, 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

Roberts, Katherine. 'Karla Dickens', *North Head Project* (ex. cat.), Northern Beaches Council/Manly Art Gallery and Museum, Sydney, 2017

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

Taylor, Andrew. 'Artists discover history casts a dark shadow over Manly's North Head', *The Sydney Morning Herald*, 10 December 2017

Zafirios, 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

Bundoorra 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

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
University of Wollongong, New South Wales
UBS Warburg Collection, Sydney

Andrew Baker Art Dealer

26 Brookes Street • Bowen Hills Qld 4006
07 3252 2292 • 0412 990 356
info@andrew-baker.com • www.andrew-baker.com

agaa

art galleries association of australia
integrity. diversity. one voice.