

# ELIZABETH BARDEN

ARTIST



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# ELIZABETH BARDEN

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## STATEMENT



It has always been my fascination to paint people.

I am, I confess, a 'people watcher'.

I see people walking by and something in their physicality, something about their expression triggers an artistic curiosity. I am intrigued by the play of light and the shadows, constantly distracted by colours and patterns.

As a figurative artist, I hope that when I paint someone, I can inject a feeling that goes beyond skill or technique, beyond outward appearance to what lies within. It is a somewhat voyeuristic and intimate undertaking, and that is accompanied by a trust and responsibility. I seek to learn from observation, to represent in visual simplicity an emotional complexity – a hint of the inner self in a sincere and sensitive portrayal.

I travel along different tangents, different aspects of everyday life, as life is fragmented, experiences diverse. Peace, love, joy, tension, sadness, resilience – all meaningful in everyday experiences and narratives. I seek to celebrate identity. I draw upon what is familiar to me, aiming to find common human themes, universal qualities, which connect the viewer.

# ELIZABETH BARDEN

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PROFILE



## BIOGRAPHY

Elizabeth Barden is an Australian contemporary figurative artist.

Barden's work is included in public and private collections worldwide.

Career highlights include being represented in the permanent collection of the Australian National Portrait Gallery, Canberra, with the portrait of Indigenous performer Christine Anu - 'Waiting For Zipporah'.

'Waiting for Zipporah' has been featured in many Gallery educational programs and publications, and toured nationally in 'Bare', a curated show presenting states of undress in portraiture.

Exhibiting highlights include two solo exhibitions in a public gallery, and group shows - nationally and internationally.

Elizabeth Barden has been a five times finalist in the Portia Geach Memorial Art Prize, a finalist in the Lethbridge 10,000 Art Award, twice a finalist in the Shirley Hannan National Portrait Prize - in which she was also awarded 'People's Choice'.



# ELIZABETH BARDEN

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TESTIMONIAL



“So that’s what you saw in those hands? The Storyteller! Well you tell a wonderful story yourself, Elizabeth. The idea...that’s what it is...it’s quite brilliant and makes this a very original painting. I can’t say I have ever seen a portrait anything like this one. It is the diffused light, the hint of the mystic and the intensity that for me make this a very authentic rendering of character. You have created a compelling aura. The colour and composition seem to follow the hands which of course follow the story. Although I am way past affectation, having seen myself on film and in photographs for 40 working years, I spend little time thinking about how others perceive me. I usually only think about whether people believe what I am saying. You catch this quality splendidly. The Storyteller is quite unlike your other body of work. It seems to go to a quite different place. While some of your other striking portraits invite people to ponder the beauty or the strength of character, strangely this painting asks people to think about the Story, about the world that I have seen, about the human condition and how some events affect each one of us deeply. That is a brilliant, inspired act of creativity. Thank you for such thoughtfulness in the way you use your great gift.”

Jeffrey McMullen AM – Author, journalist, film-maker

# ELIZABETH BARDEN

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## CURRICULUM VITAE

I am an Australian contemporary figurative artist with an established studio practice. I confess to being 'a people watcher'. It has always been my fascination to paint people, as a figurative artist I hope that when I paint someone I can inject a feeling that goes beyond skill or technique to what lies within, aiming to find common human themes.

## HONOURS & AWARDS

A highlight has been having my portrait of Christine Anu accepted into the permanent collection of the Australian National Portrait Gallery, Canberra.

Featured artist, 2019 Miami Print Edition of international Create Magazine, released in conjunction with Art Fair Miami

Semi-finalist, Darling Portrait Prize, National Portrait Gallery of Australia, 2019

Finalist, Brisbane Portrait Prize 2019

Finalist, Lester Prize 2019

Finalist, Kennedy Art Prize 2019

Winner, Art Shed Brisbane Award, Lethbridge 20,000 2019

Finalist, Portia Geach Memorial Art Award 2019

Finalist, SBS Portrait Prize 2019

Finalist, Contemporary Art Awards, Brisbane 2019

Finalist, Lethbridge 10,000, Brisbane 2018

Finalist, Rotary Art Show Brisbane 2017

Finalist, Portia Geach Memorial Art Award 2016

Finalist, Shirley Hannan National Portrait Prize, Bega 2005

Finalist, Portia Geach Memorial Art Award, Sydney 2004

Finalist, Shirley Hannan National Portrait Prize, Bega 2004

Winner, 'People's Choice Award, Shirley Hannan National Portrait Prize 2004

Finalist, Portia Geach Memorial Art Award, Sydney 2003

Finalist, Portia Geach Memorial Art Award, Sydney 2002

Finalist, Portia Geach Memorial Art Award, Sydney 2001

Best Graduating Art Student, QUT Dip.T 1985

## COLLECTIONS

'Christine Anu - Waiting For Zipporah' 2002, held in permanent Collection of National Portrait Gallery, Canberra

Portrait of Rosella Namok 2003, held in collection of Cairns Regional Art Gallery

'Angus Edmonds' 2005, University of Queensland, Emmanuel College

'Ron Ireland' 2004, held in Cairns City Library

'Sir Sydney Williams' 2000, held in the Cairns City Library

## SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2003 'Seeing Secrets', Cairns Regional Gallery, Australia

1999 'A Shore Thing', Cairns Regional Gallery, Australia



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## CURRICULUM VITAE

### GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- |      |   |      |  |
|------|---|------|--|
| 2019 | 'Difficult Subjects' a juried Poets and Artists show, published on-line and in 'Goss' Magazine<br>'Provocative Patterns' a juried Poets and Artists exclusive issue of 'Goss' Magazine<br>'Adorn Me', a juried show of International artists, a Poets and Artists Publication and on-line exclusive at Artsy through the Zhou B Art Centre, Chicago | 2004 | Portia Geach Memorial S.H.Ervin Gallery, Sydney<br>'Courtroom and Street', Art House Hotel, Sydney<br>Cairns Regional Gallery Postcard Show<br>Shirley Hannan, Bega Valley Regional Art Gallery<br>Annual show, Kickarts, Cairns |
| 2018 | '28 <sup>th</sup> Annual Holiday Miniatures Show'<br>Abend Gallery, Denver, Colorado<br>'8x8 Self-portraits', Zhou B Art Centre, Chicago USA<br>Lethbridge 10,000<br>Portrait Artist Australia Members Exhibitions  | 2003 | Portia Geach Memorial, S.H.Ervin Gallery, Sydney<br>Cairns Regional Gallery Postcard Show<br>'Artist By An Artist', Art House Hotel, Sydney  |
| 2012 | The Blunt, Cairns   | 2002 | Portia Geach Memorial, S.H.Ervin Gallery, Sydney<br>Cairns Regional Gallery Postcard Show  |
| 2008 | 'From the Collection' Cairns Regional Gallery   | 2001 | Portia Geach, S.H.Ervin Gallery, Sydney<br>Art on Aplin, Cairns<br>Northern Interiors Gallery, Cairns  |
| 2007 | 'From The collection' Cairns Regional Gallery   | 2000 | Central Gallery, Cairns<br>Helen Wiltshire Gallery, Port Douglas<br>Annual show, Kickarts, Cairns  |
| 2006 | 'Hidden Treasures' Cairns Regional Gallery<br>'Idols and Icons', Art House Hotel, Sydney  | 1999 | Reef Gallery<br>Helen Wiltshire Gallery, Port Douglas  |
| 2005 | Cairns Regional Gallery Postcard Show<br>Shirley Hannan, Bega Valley Regional Art Gallery   | 1992 | Lake St. Gallery, Cairns   |
|      |   | 1991 | Gallery 912, Brisbane<br>Australian Craftworks, Cairns<br>Palm Court Gallery, Cairns   |

### EDUCATION & MEMBERSHIP

QUT Diploma of Teaching, Secondary Art, Painting and Drawing Major  
Member 'Artists and Poets, International group  
'Associate Living Master' Art Renewal Centre, NJ, USA  
Foundation Member of Portrait Artists Australia  
Foundation Member of Cairns Regional Art Gallery

### PUBLICATIONS

'Jaya-ism' selected for the Variety Issue of the International publication Poets and Artists Magazine 2019  
'Gamechanger' selected for the Variety Issue of the International publication Poets and Artists Magazine 2019  
'Because of Her We Can', Naidoc themed virtual excursions of the National Portrait Gallery, Canberra  
'The Artists Book', Portrait Artists Australia - Ten Years, 2012  
'The Collection', Cairns Regional Gallery Acquisitions from 2006 to 2008  
'Portrait.13', National Portrait Gallery, Spring 2004  
'National Capitol School Excursion Planner - Artistic Expressions, National Portrait Gallery', 2005  
'Portrait' NPG publication, 2009-2011  
'Who Do You Think You Are?' SBS documentary featuring Christine Anu and artwork by Elizabeth Barden

# ELIZABETH BARDEN

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TESTIMONIAL



“As a person who values his time and privacy, I found it difficult to agree to have my portrait painted at first . I had pictured myself sitting with bowls of fruit. The Sydney sun cascading through a well-placed Venetian for hours upon hours, pausing only to invite my blood to circulate to regions that had previously been squashed for the sake of ART. I am happy to inform you that my experience was nothing like what I had imagined. Elizabeth Barden is a whisper of artist, meaning she met me and took photos and sketches of me while introducing herself to me and my family. she then outlined what she hoped to achieve with the portrait and at the end you realised as you shook her hand to leave, that the sitting was done and like a whisper she left you wondering what had just happened and if YOU had done the moment justice. After a while I got a glimpse at the finished painting and I was embarrassed and amazed and flattered at how much I look like my children and my mother. Thank you Elizabeth for an experience that was worth a thousand words.”

Jay Laga'aia – Actor

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GALLERY

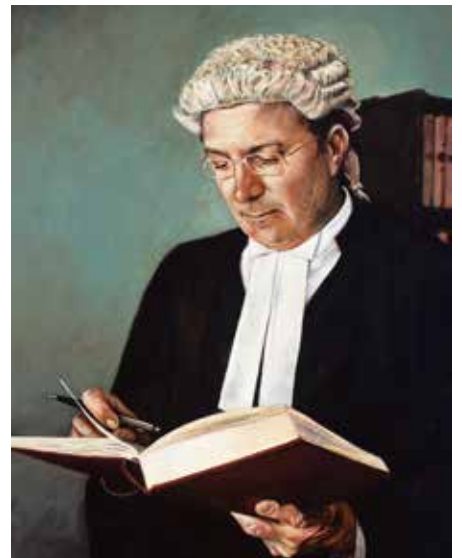
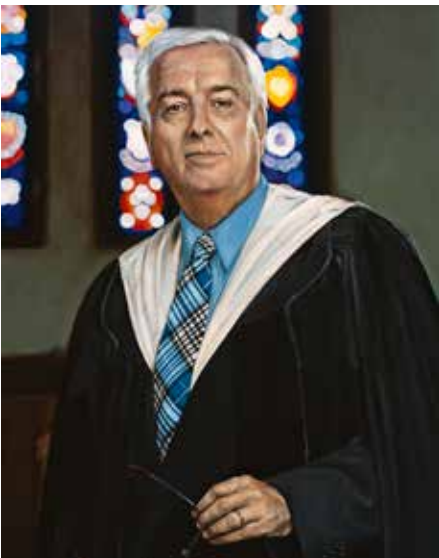




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GALLERY



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“As a storyteller for more than fifty years here and around the world it is this captivating quality I see in all of Elizabeth Barden’s portraiture. Her rare gift, fusing narrative and character into one, is on display in the Australian National Portrait Gallery. The Barden study of Indigenous singer, Christine Anu, is both intimate and at the same time a defiant public statement of cultural pride and voice. Elizabeth Barden has forged a style and created a body of work that celebrates numerous unforgettable strangers. Her genuine interest in diverse human character shares the lives of so many people and draws us into the backgrounds that shaped them. The portrait of Amy Sheppard, ‘Mermaids make Waves’, has that allure, viewed in the gallery and looming above us on a giant poster at the Powerhouse in Brisbane. After visiting Barden’s studio in Far North Queensland, I was impressed by how successfully she has overcome the ‘tyranny of distance’ by painting subjects that cross borders and people of our world with such delicious differences. No doubt she is celebrated as one of Queensland’s and indeed Australia’s finest portrait artists.”

Jeff McMullen AM – Author,  
journalist, film-maker



A portrait of Elizabeth Barden, a woman with dark hair pulled back, wearing a dark blue patterned top and a black headband. She is sitting in a chair with her hands clasped. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

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