

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.

Elizabeth Barden has been a multiple times finalist in many prestigious exhibitions including the Portia Geach Memorial Art Prize, the Lethbridge Art Award, the Shirley Hannan National Portrait Prize - in which she was also awarded 'People's Choice', The Kennedy Art Prize, the Brisbane portrait Prize, the Darling Portrait Prize, and was an award recipient in the 107th Allied Artist of America Annual Juried International Exhibition.

Elizabeth Barden has been a multi-finalist in the Lethbridge 20,000 Small Artwork Award, twice a finalist in the Shirley Hannan National Portrait Prize - in which she was also awarded 'People's Choice', a six times finalist in the Portia Geach Memorial Art Prize, a finalist in the Lester Prize, and a finalist in the inaugural Darling Portrait Prize at the Australian National Portrait Gallery.



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.

Selected as a semi-finalist. Art Renewal Centre NYC 15th Salon, 2020

Selected as one of 70 prominent women artists from around the world to participate in an exhibition celebrating International Womens Day 2021, at the MEAM -Museu Europe d'Art Modern, Barcelona.

Selected - Inaugural Salon De Refuse for the Brisbane Portrait Prize, 2020

Finalist, Brisbane Portrait Prize 2020

Winner of the Florence and Ernest Thorne Thompson Award, Allied Artists of America

107th Annual International Exhibition, Salmagundi Club, 5th Ave, NYC, 2020

Finalist, The Lester Prize, Art Gallery of WA, 2020

Accepted by Jury Selection for the 107th Allied Artists of America Exhibition, Salmagundi Club, 5th Ave, NYC

Finalist Lethbridge 20,000 Art Prize, 2020

Finalist, Darling Portrait Prize, National Portrait Gallery of Australia, 2020

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



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CURRICULUM VITAE

COLLECTIONS

'Kaleidoscope Queen' 2020, Ashley Longshore International Collection
'Angus Edmonds' 2005, University of Queensland, Emmanuel College
'Ron Ireland' 2004, held in Cairns City Library
'Rosella Namok' 2003, held in collection of Cairns Regional Art Gallery
'Christine Anu - Waiting For Zipporah' 2002, held in permanent
Collection of National Portrait Gallery, Canberra
'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

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2020	'Storytellers', Flinders Lane Gallery, Melbourne	2012	The Blunt, Cairns
2019	Brisbane Portrait Prize, Powerhouse Museum, Brisbane SBS Portrait Prize, Mornington Peninsula Lethbridge 20,000, Brisbane Lester Prize, Art Gallery of WA, Perth 'Difficult Subjects' a juried Poets and Artists show, published on-line and in 'Goss' Magazine 'Provocative Patterns' a juried Poets and Artists exclusive issue of 'Goss' Magazine '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	2008	'From the Collection' Cairns Regional Gallery
2018	'28 th Annual Holiday Miniatures Show', Abend Gallery, Denver, Colorado '8x8 Self-portraits', Zhou B Art Centre, Chicago USA Lethbridge 10,000, Brisbane Portrait Artist Australia Members Exhibitions	2007	'From The collection' Cairns Regional Gallery
2017	Rotary Art Show, Brisbane	2006	'Hidden Treasures' Cairns Regional Gallery 'Idols and Icons', Art House Hotel, Sydney
2016	Portia Geach Memorial, S.H.Ervin Gallery, Sydney	2005	Cairns Regional Gallery Postcard Show Shirley Hannan, Bega Valley Regional Art Gallery
2015	'Bare-Degrees of undress' a curated and touring exhibition by the National portrait Gallery of Australia	2004	Portia Geach Memorial S.H.Ervin Gallery, Sydney 'Courtroom and Street', Art House Hotel, Sydney Cairns Regional Gallery Postcard Show Shirley Hannan, Bega Valley Regional Art Gallery Annual show, Kickarts, Cairns
		2003	Portia Geach Memorial, S.H.Ervin Gallery, Sydney Cairns Regional Gallery Postcard Show 'Artist By An Artist', Art House Hotel, Sydney
		2002	Portia Geach Memorial, S.H.Ervin Gallery, Sydney Cairns Regional Gallery Postcard Show
		2001	Portia Geach, S.H.Ervin Gallery, Sydney Art on Aplin, Cairns Northern Interiors Gallery, Cairns

PUBLICATIONS

Featured Artist ArtMoire International Publication 2020
Featured Artist, Realism Today International Magazine 2020
Featured Artist, ArtZine Australia, 2020
Featured Artist Create International Art Magazine, Miami Art Basel Issue, 2019
'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
'Portrait' NPG publication, 2009-2011
'The Collection', Cairns Regional Gallery Acquisitions from 2006 to 2008
'National Capitol School Excursion Planner - Artistic Expressions, National Portrait Gallery', 2005
'Portrait.13', National Portrait Gallery, Spring 2004
'Who Do You Think You Are?' SBS documentary featuring Christine Anu and artwork by 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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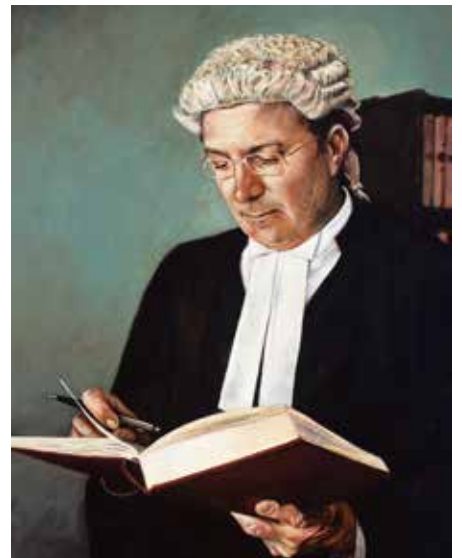
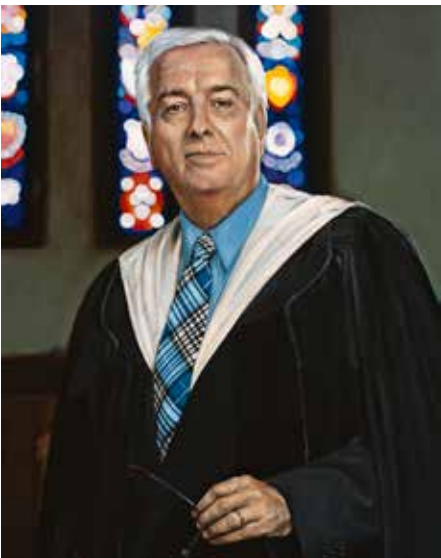
GALLERY



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“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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