

# NIAGARA

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## HELEN WRIGHT

Born in Sydney in 1956, Helen completed a Bachelor of Fine Arts at the Tasmanian School of Art between 1977 and 1979. The following year she undertook a Post Graduate Diploma of Visual Arts at the Alexander Mackie School, Sydney and in 1986 began a Master of Fine Arts at the University of Tasmania, Hobart. Wright holds a PhD from the School of Creative Arts and Media at University of Tasmania and she has tutored at several tertiary education institutions. A founding member of the Chameleon Studios and Contemporary Art Space, Hobart; in 1989 she was artist in residence at the Verdaccio Studio, Italy. Wright's work is included in numerous public and private collections including the National Gallery of Australia, National Gallery of Victoria and the Art Gallery of South Australia. Helen currently lives and works in Tasmania.

## SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2022 *Some things I know about birds*, Niagara Galleries, Melbourne
- 2019 *Shimmering in the age of stupid*, Bett Gallery, Hobart
- 2017 *Competing Interests*, Niagara Galleries, Melbourne
- 2016 *The Edge of Reason*, Gippsland Art Gallery, Victoria
- 2013 *Stop Making Sense*, Bett Gallery, Hobart
- 2011 *Wonderland*, Bett Gallery, Hobart
- 2009 *More Signs of Life*, Bett Gallery, Hobart
- 2007 *Survival of the Cutest*, Niagara Galleries, Melbourne
- 2005 *Nobody Knows Anything*, Dick Bett Gallery, Hobart
- 2004 *White (Light)*, Niagara Galleries, Melbourne
- 2003 *Untouchable Face*, Helen Maxwell Gallery, Canberra  
*Know Body Knows Anything*, Dick Bett Gallery, Hobart
- 2002 *Future Perfect*, Niagara Galleries, Melbourne
- 2000 *Future Perfect*, Helen Maxwell Gallery, Canberra  
*Frankenflower*, Dick Bett Gallery, Hobart
- 1999 Niagara Galleries, Melbourne
- 1998 *Helen Wright - Almost familiar*, Dick Bett Gallery, Hobart
- 1997 *Helen Wright - A 'taxonomy' of symbols*, Niagara Galleries, Melbourne
- 1996 *Helen Wright - A symptom of beauty - Drawings*, Dick Bett Gallery, Hobart
- 1995 *Helen Wright - The perfume factory and other drawings*, Niagara Galleries, Melbourne
- 1993 *Helen Wright - Recent work*, Australian Girls Own Gallery (aGOG.), Canberra  
*Helen Wright - Villa of mysteries*, Dick Bett Gallery, Hobart
- 1992 *Helen Wright - Recent works*, Niagara Galleries, Melbourne
- 1991 *Science Lessons and Other Mysteries*, Dick Bett Gallery, Hobart
- 1990 *Helen Wright; prints and drawings*, Australian Girls Own Gallery, Canberra
- 1989 *Helen Wright - Recent work*, Cockatoo Gallery, Launceston  
*Short Stories*, Salamanca Place Gallery, Hobart
- 1987 *Helen Wright; prints and drawings*, Reconnaissance Gallery, Melbourne  
*Avago*, Tasmania School of Art, University of Tasmania

## SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2024 *Hair Pieces*, Heide Museum of Modern Art, Melbourne
- 2021 *Disappearing: painters and writers exhibition*, Bett Gallery, Hobart
- 2020 *Real Worlds: Dobell Drawing Biennial*, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
- 2020 *Demain (Tomorrow)*, Bett Gallery, Hobart
- 2018 *Paul Guest Prize*, Bendigo Art Gallery, Bendigo, VIC  
*SPEED: Mobility & exchange*, MONA FOMA, Academy Gallery, University of Tasmania, Launceston, TAS
- 2017 *Sydney Contemporary*, Niagara Galleries, Carriageworks, Sydney  
*Sydney Contemporary*, Bett Gallery, Carriageworks, Sydney  
*Ten Thousand Hours*, Art KDS, The King David School, Melbourne
- 2014 *Melbourne Art Fair*, Royal Exhibition Building, Melbourne  
*The Waterhouse Natural Science Art Prize 2014*, South Australian Museum, Adelaide
- 2013 *Tasmania Today: An Island State*, Tasmanian College of the Arts Academy Gallery, Launceston
- 2011 *The Hutchins Art Prize exhibition*, The Long Gallery, Hobart
- 2010 *The Catalano Collection*, Art Gallery of Ballarat, Victoria  
*Rick Amor Drawing Prize Finalists' Exhibition*, Art Gallery of Ballarat, Victoria  
*Melbourne Art Fair*, Royal Exhibition Building, Melbourne
- 2009 *The Geelong Acquisitive Print Awards Finalists' Exhibition*, Geelong Gallery, Victoria  
*Niagara Presents...*, Niagara Galleries, Melbourne  
Burnie Print Prize Finalists' Exhibition, Burnie Regional Art Gallery, Tasmania
- 2006 *Salon*, Dick Bett Gallery, Hobart  
*Melbourne Art Fair*, Royal Exhibition Building, Melbourne
- 2005 *Rhapsody: Tasmanian Contemporary Art*, Academy Gallery, Hobart
- 2003 *Love Letter to China: Drawings by 35 Australian Artists*, International Drawing Research Institution, Ivan Dougherty Gallery, Sydney and touring China  
*Travelling The Roundabout*, University of Tasmania, Launceston  
*Future Perfect*, Dick Bett Gallery, Hobart  
*The Robert Jacks Drawing Prize*, Bendigo Art Gallery, Victoria
- 2001 *Survey of Recent Tasmanian Art*, Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery, Launceston
- 1998 *Look again: Contemporary Works on Paper from the Collection*, National Gallery of Victoria
- 1997 *Hobart Art Prize*, Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, Hobart
- 1996 *Brushing the Dark*, curator: Victoria Hammond, Tasmanian Museum & Art Gallery and touring
- 1995 *City of Hobart Invitation Art Prize*, Tasmania  
*Poets and painters exhibition*, Salamanca Writers Festival, Dick Bett Gallery, Hobart  
*The Derwent Collection, Australian Art of the 1980's & 1990's*, Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, Hobart
- 1994 *Artists for Mt Wellington*, Long Gallery, Salamanca Arts Centre, Hobart  
*A Celebration of Women's Suffrage*, Central Gallery, Adelaide  
*Focus*, Celebration, Adelaide  
*Artist's choice*, Curated by Noel McKenna, Rex Irwin, Sydney  
*Fourth Australian Contemporary Art Fair*, Melbourne
- 1993 *Recent Acquisitions*, Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, Hobart  
*Recent Acquisitions*, Devonport Gallery and Art Centre, Tasmania  
*To the Surface*, Curator: Ray Arnold, University of Tasmania, Hobart.
- 1992 *Barcelona: Rick Amor, Angela Brennan & Helen Wright*, Niagara Galleries in conjunction with the Melbourne International Festival  
*Rediscovery - Australian artists in Europe 1982-1992*, Curator: Jonathan Holmes, Seville Universal Expo, Spain and touring  
*My Head Is A Map*, Curator: Roger Butler, Australian National Gallery, Canberra
- 1991 *South of No North*, Curator: Richard Flanagan, Dick Bett Gallery, Hobart  
*Invitation Print Prize*, Melbourne Savage Club, Bendigo  
*Six Tasmanian Printmakers*, Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, Hobart  
*One*, Niagara Galleries, Melbourne

- 1991 Dick Bett Gallery, Hobart
- 1990 *The Summer Show*, Chameleon Gallery, Hobart  
*Tasmanian Printmakers*, Gallery Cimitiere, Launceston  
*Michelton Print Exhibition - Where Have All the Gum Trees Gone?*, Curator: Janie Gillespie (Assistant Curator of Australian Prints, Australian National Gallery)
- 1989 *Australian prints now*, Curator: Roger Butler, Australian National Gallery  
*Island*, Tasmanian Printmakers, Print Council of Australia  
*Paradise Lost: Tasmanian prints, Regionalism, Postmodernity*, curator: Ian McLean, Print Council of Australia, Melbourne and touring  
*Genius Loci: Spirit of place*, Contemporary Tasmanian painting, curator: Nick Waterlow, Tasmanian School of Art, Plimsol Gallery, Tasmania, and RMIT Gallery, Melbourne.  
*The October Show*, curator: Diane Dunbar, Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery, Launceston
- 1988 *Landfall*, curator: Sean Kelly, Chameleon Gallery, Hobart  
*3 x 15*, Sculpture Exhibition, curator: Finola Jones, Chameleon Gallery, Hobart  
*Selected works*, Fine Arts Gallery, University of Tasmania, Hobart  
*Diversities*, curator: Mary Scott, Fine Arts Gallery, University of Tasmania, Hobart
- 1987 *M.F.A. Graduate Exhibition*, Centre for the Arts Gallery, University of Tasmania
- 1986 *Post Lintel Design - David Keeling, Helen Wright & Wayne Malm*, Handmark Gallery, Hobart  
*Six Tasmanian Artists*, Rhumbarallas Gallery, Melbourne  
*Prints from the Collection*, Fine Arts Gallery, University of Tasmania, Hobart
- 1985 *Three Tasmanians in Print*, curator: Kay Francis, Burnie Art Gallery, and touring
- 1984 *The Chameleon Print Show*, Chameleon Gallery, Hobart  
*Works on paper*, Chameleon Gallery, Hobart
- 1983 *Helen Wright and David Keeling*, Memorial Fine Arts Gallery, University of Sydney  
*Henri Worland Print Prize*, Warrnambool Art Gallery, Warrnambool, Victoria
- 1981 *Student Printmakers*, Ivan Dougherty Gallery, Sydney

## COLLECTIONS

Artbank, Sydney  
 Art Gallery of Western Australia, Perth  
 Art in Public Places Scheme, Tasmania  
 Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide  
 Burnie Art Gallery, Tasmania  
 Derwent Collection, Tasmania  
 Devonport Art Gallery, Tasmania  
 Geeveston Print Collection, Tasmania  
 Joseph Brown Collection, Melbourne  
 Macquarie Bank, Sydney  
 Monash University Collection, Melbourne  
 National Gallery of Australia, Canberra  
 National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne  
 Queen Victoria Museum & Art Gallery, Launceston  
 Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane  
 Rockhampton Regional Art Gallery, Queensland  
 Tamar Collection, Tasmania  
 Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, Hobart  
 University of Tasmania, Hobart  
 University of Tasmania, Launceston  
 Corporate and Private Collections, Australia

## GRANTS AND AWARDS

- 2023 Shortlisted in the Geelong Acquisitive Print Awards, Geelong Gallery, Victoria
- 2014 Finalist in *The Waterhouse Natural Science Art Prize 2014*, South Australian Museum, Adelaide
- 2011 Winner of the Hutchins Art Prize, The Long Gallery, Hobart

- 2010 Shortlisted in the Rick Amor Drawing Prize, Art Gallery of Ballarat, Victoria
- 2009 Winner Burnie Print Prize, Burnie Regional Art Gallery, Tasmania
- 2000 Australia Council New Work Grant
- 1999 Tasmanian Art in Public Buildings Grant
- 1998 Arts Tasmania Professional Development Grant
- 1997 Arts Tasmania Professional Development Grant
- 1994 Visual Arts Board, Australia Council, Project Grant  
Arts Tasmania Project Funding
- 1991 Visual Arts Board, Australia Council, Overseas Studio - Barcelona  
Arts Tasmania
- 1989 Travel/Development Grant, Tasmanian Arts Advisory Board
- 1988 Workshop Development Grant, Tasmanian Arts Advisory Board
- 1987 Commonwealth Postgraduate Scholarship, Masters, Hobart
- 1985 Visual Arts Board Australia Council
- 1982 Visual Arts Board Australia Council

## PUBLICATIONS

- Some things I know about birds*, exhibition catalogue, Niagara Publishing, Melbourne, 2022
- Competing Interests*, exhibition catalogue, Niagara Publishing, Melbourne, 2017
- 'Helen Wright: Rise and Fall', *Assemble Papers*, no. 7, 2017, pp. 94-95
- Lucy Stranger, 'Helen Wright: The Edge of Reason', *Artist Profile*, 22 March 2016
- Wonderland*, exhibition catalogue, Bett Gallery, Hobart, 2011
- 'Process: Helen Wright', *Artist Profile*, no. 11, 2010
- Daniel Thomas, 'Ten Days on the Island', *Art Monthly Australia*, no. 220, June 2009
- 'Artnotes: Wright honour', *Art Monthly Australia*, no. 219, May 2009
- White (Light)*, exhibition catalogue, Niagara Publishing, Melbourne, 2004
- Anna Gray, *Australian Art in the National Gallery Collection*, National Gallery of Australia, Canberra, 2002
- Future Perfect*, exhibition catalogue, Dick Bett Gallery, Hobart, 2003
- Future Perfect*, exhibition catalogue, Niagara Publishing, Melbourne, 2002
- Victoria Hammond, 'The night, its volume and what engenders it: Recent pastels by Helen Wright', *Art & Australia*, vol. 36, no.4, 1999, pp. 516-23
- Kirsten Matthews, 'Helen Wright', *Imprint*, vol. 34, no.1, 1999
- 'Helen Wright in interview' *Helen Wright - A 'taxonomy' of symbols*, exhibition catalogue, Niagara Galleries, 1997
- Anna Cladburn, 'Modest views of the world', *Herald Sun*, 9 September 1997
- Victoria Hammond, *Brushing the dark*, exhibition catalogue, CAST, Tasmania, 1996
- John MacDonald, 'Peaks of inspiration', *Sydney Morning Herald*, 1996
- Giles Auty, 'Theories with holes', *The Australian*, 1996
- Susan Faulkner, 'Brushing the dark', *Art Monthly*, June 1996
- Anna King Murdoch, 'The powerful mystique of navels', *The Age*, 6 December 1995
- Alison Barclay, 'Do the strand, girl', *The Herald Sun*, 3 December 1995
- Jennifer Spinks, 'Helen Wright - The perfume factory & other drawings', catalogue essay, Niagara Galleries, 1995
- J. Holmes & E. Colless, *Rediscovery: Australian artists in Europe 1982 - 1992*, 1992
- My head is a map*, catalogue essay, Australian National Gallery and touring Australia, 1992
- What happened to the gum trees?*, Mitchelton Print Exhibition, 1990