

NIAGARA

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DEBORAH HALPERN

Born in Melbourne in 1957, Deborah Halpern explores recurring and new iconography in her distinct style. Since the 1980s, Deborah Halpern has continually embraced and explored new mediums. Her practice continues to expand and now encompasses painting, drawing, sculpting, ceramics, printmaking, glass and bronze.

Halpern redefined the public's relationship with art, particularly in Melbourne, when she completed vibrant, engaging and much-loved public sculptures for the National Gallery of Victoria and the City of Melbourne. *Angel*, 1988, was installed in the moat in front of the National Gallery of Victoria International in 1989, where it remained until it was relocated to Birrarung Marr in 1996. *Angel*'s new location has fostered a renewed appreciation for her work. *Ophelia*, 1992, located on Southbank was chosen as Tourism Victoria's 'Face of Melbourne' in 1996. A large-scale commission for the National Palace Museum in Taibao City, Chiayi, Taiwan was completed in 2020. She was the subject of the survey exhibition *Deborah Halpern: Angel* at Ian Potter Centre: NGV Australia in 2006. Halpern's versatility as an artist can be seen in her work for the Australian Ballet and Victorian Opera and includes set and costume design.

In recognition for her services to the arts, Deborah Halpern was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in 2021.

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

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| 2024 | <i>Defiantly Joyful</i> , Niagara Galleries, Melbourne
<i>A Gathering of Friends</i> , Gullotti Galleries, Perth |
| 2023 | QDOS Fine Art, Lorne, VIC |
| 2019 | <i>Alice</i> , Central Goldfields Art Gallery, Maryborough, VIC |
| 2018 | <i>Deborah Halpern at the Dunolly Courthouse</i> , Dunolly, VIC |
| 2017 | <i>Hug a Tree, Kiss a Dog</i> , Arthouse Gallery, Sydney |
| 2016 | <i>Playing with Light</i> , Mossgreen Gallery, Melbourne |
| 2015 | <i>Strange Creatures From A Phenomenal Planet</i> , Anthea Polson Art, QLD
<i>Through the Forest</i> , Mossgreen Gallery, Melbourne
<i>Duck Duck Goose</i> , Arthouse Gallery, Sydney |
| 2014 | <i>Ghost Worms and Glass Hearts</i> , Mossgreen Gallery, Melbourne |
| 2013 | <i>Creatures from the Studio</i> , Mossgreen Gallery, Melbourne |
| 2012 | Melbourne Art Fair, Exhibited by Mossgreen Gallery, Melbourne |
| 2011 | <i>New Works</i> , Mossgreen Gallery, Melbourne
<i>New Works</i> , Arthouse Gallery, Sydney |
| 2010 | <i>Sydney Beginnings</i> , Arthouse Gallery, Sydney |
| 2009 | Mossgreen Gallery, Melbourne |
| 2008 | Christine Abrahams Gallery, Melbourne |
| 2007 | <i>Weird little things...</i> , Christine Abrahams Gallery, Melbourne |
| 2006 | <i>Deborah Halpern: Angel</i> , Ian Potter Centre: NGV Australia, Melbourne |
| 2004 | Christine Abrahams Gallery, Melbourne |
| 2001 | Christine Abrahams Gallery, Melbourne |
| 1999 | Buschlen Mowatt Fine Art Gallery, Vancouver, Canada
<i>Art's Toys</i> , Christine Abrahams Gallery, Melbourne
Chapman Gallery, Canberra |
| 1997 | Despard Gallery, Hobart |
| 1996 | <i>Small Works</i> , Christine Abrahams Gallery, Melbourne |

- 1995 *Sculptures & Works on Paper*, Christine Abrahams Gallery, Melbourne
 1991 Christine Abrahams Gallery, Melbourne
 1989 Christine Abrahams Gallery, Melbourne
 Irving Sculpture Gallery, Sydney
 Christine Abrahams Gallery, Melbourne
 1985 Christine Abrahams Gallery, Melbourne
 1983 Rosies Gallery, Melbourne
 1981 Blackwood Street Gallery, Meat Market Craft Centre with assistance from Craft Board of Aust Council, Melbourne

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2023 *Paper & Clay*, Arthouse Gallery, Sydney
 2021 *Summer Salon*, Arthouse Gallery, Sydney
 2013 *Fine Australian Sculpture*, Mossgreen Gallery, Melbourne
 2012 *Jing'an Int'l Sculpture Project*, Shanghai, China
 2008 The Dream Festival, Melbourne
The Gathering, Wangaratta Exhibitions Gallery, Wangaratta, VIC
 2005 Helen Lempriere National Sculpture Award, Melbourne
 2004 VIVID, Art Auction for The Greens, Fortyfivedownstairs, Melbourne
 2002 Melbourne Art Fair, Royal Exhibition Building, Melbourne
 1998 *Heartworks*, Sydney Central Mission Auction, Centrepoint Tower, Sydney
Copelen Chairs, Copelen Family Services, Melbourne
 1997 *Then & Now*, Meat Market Craft Centre, Melbourne
Pathways, Manningham Artspace, Melbourne
Bowled Over, Savode Gallery, Brisbane
 1996-97 The National Sculpture Trail, Victoria University, Melbourne
 1996 *Copelen Chairs*, Copelen Family Services Auction, Sotheby's, Melbourne
A Sculpture Walk in the Royal Botanic Gardens, 150th Anniversary, Melbourne
Sculpture 3, Austin & Repatriation Medical Centre, Melbourne
 Univ. of Western Sydney Macarthur National Printmedia Acquisitive, Casula
 Powerhouse Arts Centre, Sydney
The Bowled and the Beautiful, Hewitt's Art Bookshop, Fremantle, WA
 1995 12th Biennial Spring Festival of Drawing, Mornington Peninsula Regional Gallery
Works on Paper - A Selection, Christine Abrahams Gallery, Melbourne
Useless Objects & Real Things, Second National Crafts Conference, Melbourne
Selected Recent Purchases for the QUT Art Collection, QLD Uni of Technology, Brisbane
 1994 Colin and Cecily Rigg Craft Award, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne
Then & Now, Victorian Ceramics Group, Meat Market Craft Centre, Melbourne
 1992-94 *Decorated Clay*, Queensland Art Gallery (touring)
 1992 *Dame Edna Regrets She Is Unable to Attend*, Heide Park & Art Gallery, AETA, Aust Council (touring)
Square Works for Wilderness, The Wilderness Society, Linden Gallery, Melbourne
 Southgate Art Exhibition, Westpac Gallery 3, Victorian Centre
 Third Australian Contemporary Art Fair, Melbourne
 1991 *The Total Look - Locating Furniture*, Plimsoll Gallery, Centre for the Arts, Hobart
 1990-91 *Halpern and Murphy Ceramics Exhibition*, Shepparton Art Gallery (touring)
 1990 *Affiliations*, Monash University Gallery, Melbourne
Tea for Two, Meat Market Craft Centre, Melbourne
 Second Australian Contemporary Art Fair, Exhibition Buildings, Melbourne
Alice 125, Carrol Foundation, Melbourne
 1989 *Decade*, Meat Market Craft Centre, Melbourne
 1988 *50 Fine Artists*, Royal Agricultural Society of Victoria, Showgrounds, Melbourne
Melbourne Common Ground, Fifth National Ceramic Conference, Irving Sculpture Gallery, Sydney, Jewish Festival of the Arts
 Christine Abrahams Gallery, Melbourne

- 1988 *Australian Crafts 1988*, Meat Market Craft Centre, Melbourne
The New Generation 1983 - 1988, Australian National Gallery, Canberra
The Fringe Furniture Show, Spoleto Fringe Festival, Melbourne
- 1987 *Australian Crafts 1987*, Meat Market Craft Centre, Melbourne
- 1986 *A First Look*, Philip Morris Arts Grant Purchases 1983-6 ANG, Canberra
- 1985 *Just for Show*, Shepparton Art Gallery (touring)
Teapot 3, Old Bakery Gallery, Sydney
Australian Crafts 1985, Meat Market Craft Centre, Melbourne
- 1984 *Australian Crafts 1984*, Meat Market Craft Centre, Melbourne
Sheer Madness, 3 Person Exhibition, Gryphon Gallery, Melbourne
Sculptors as Craftsmen, Meat Market Craft Centre, Melbourne
Current Visions in Intimate Sculpture, Profile Gallery, Melbourne
Fifth Annual Craft Award Exhibition, Arts & Crafts Society of Victoria
The First Great Annual Ceramic Show, Ballarat Fine Art Gallery, Ballarat, VIC
Christmas Collections, Craft Council's Centre Gallery, Sydney
The Post Atomic Card Show, Universal Workshop; Sculpture '85, Melbourne
Second Australian Sculpture Triennial, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne
Eight Young Australians, Craftlink, Melbourne
Festival of Jewish Artists, Temple Beth Israel, Melbourne
- 1983 Victorian Ceramic Group, Annual Member's Exhibition
- 1982 *Australian Crafts 1982*, Meat Market Craft Centre, Melbourne
Victorian Ceramics Group Exhibition, Potters Gallery, Sydney
Indulgences, Craft Council's Centre Gallery, Sydney
Mad Hatters' Tea Party, The Australian Craftworks, Sydney
Teapot 1, The Old Bakery Gallery, Sydney
The Christmas Show, Craft Council's Centre Gallery, Sydney
- 1981 Victorian Ceramic Group, Annual Member's Exhibition, Melbourne
- 1980 *Whittles with the Lot*, Last Laugh Theatre Restaurant, Melbourne
- 1979 *Flaming Stars*, Performance, Melbourne
Missing Persons, Performance, Flying Trapeze Cabaret Cafe, Melbourne
- 1978 *Two Person exhibition with Sylvia Halpern*, Potters' Cottage, Melbourne
Santettes, Boxettes, Performance, Melbourne
Fishers Ghost Prize, Campbelltown Regional Gallery, Campbelltown, NSW

GRANTS AND AWARDS

- 2005 The Helen Lempriere National Sculpture Award (Highly Commended)
- 1996 Atom Award for *Angel*
- 1996 *Ophelia*, Southgate, chosen to be the *Face of Melbourne*
- 1994 Golden Threads Award, Australian Wool Board, Sydney
- 1993 Sidney Myer, Australia Day Ceramic Award, Shepparton Art Museum, VIC
- 1990 Japan Association for International Garden & Greenery Exposition, Osaka Expo, Gold Prize for *Double Figure*, Japan
- 1989 Special Projects Grant, Visual Arts/Craft Board, Australia Council
- 1988 The Myer Foundation, The Art Foundation, NGV; The Readymix Group
- 1987 Assistant's Grant, Craft Board, Australia Council
- 1985 Crafts Board, Australia Council Grant to work and research in France
- 1984 Arts and Crafts Society of Victoria's Fifth Annual Award, Joint Winner
Artist in Residence, Narre Warren North Primary, Artists in Schools Program
- 1982 Artist in Residence, Croydon Community School, Artists in Schools Program
- 1981 Professional Development Grant, Crafts Board, Australia Council

COLLECTIONS

- Aichi Arts Centre, Aichi Prefecture, Japan
Art Gallery of Western Australia
Artbank
Australian National University, Canberra
Ballarat Fine Art Gallery

Box Hill College of T.A.F.E. Collection City of Frankston
 City of Manningham
 City of Melbourne
 City of Yarra
 Council of Adult Education Collection
 Diners Club International
 Geelong Art Gallery
 Heide Museum of Modern Art, Melbourne
 Melbourne University Collection
 Metricon Homes
 National Australia Bank
 National Gallery of Victoria
 Osaka Sculpture Park, Japan
 Queensland Art Gallery
 Queensland University of Technology
 Shepparton Art Gallery
 Shire of Nillumbik
 Southgate Collection, Melbourne
 University of New South Wales
 University of Southern Queensland
 Victorian Ceramic Group Collection
 Victorian State Craft Collection
 Visy Packaging
 Numerous Private and Corporate Collections in Australia & USA

COMMISSIONS

2013 *Mermaid with legs and Fish*, Private commission, NSW
 2012 *Water Creature, Big Cat*, MC2, City of Manningham, Doncaster, Victoria
Wayfarer, Council Offices, Shire of Nillumbik, Greensborough, Victoria
Mali, City of Melbourne, Birrarung Marr
 2010 *The Parrot Factory*, set and costume design, Victoria Opera
 2008 *Dream Festival*, inflatable sculpture event, Birrarung Marr, Melbourne
Portal to another Time and Place, Lempriere Award, Werribee Mansion, Melbourne
 2007 *Beautiful Angel*, Urquart Park Primary School, Ballarat, Victoria
 2006 *Alice*, Fintona Girl's School, Balwyn, Victoria
 2002 *Spirit of the Community*', Beauty Park, City of Frankston Numerous Private
 Commissions
 2001 *The Spirit of Enquiry*, Australian National University, Canberra
The Spirit of Nillumbik, Eltham Town Square, Shire of Nillumbik
 1997 *Face Maze*, Bourke Street Mall, Melbourne
 1995 *Family*, Highpoint Project, ceramic tiled sculpture/fountains
 1992 *Ophelia*, Southgate Project, Melbourne
 Designs for Australian Ballet international tour, promotional material
 1991 *Mermaid*, mural fountain, private commission, Melbourne
 Designs for merchandise, The Gallery Shop, NGV
 1990 *Double Figure*, Melbourne City Council for the International Garden and
 Greenery Exposition, Osaka
 1989 Margaret Murphy Memorial Mural, Shepparton, Victoria
 1987- 89 *Angel*, Bicentennial Sculpture, National Gallery of Victoria
 1987 Fitzroy Nursery, iron entrance gates, Brunswick St. Fitzroy, Victoria
 1986 *Farmer*, Art Gallery of Swan Hill

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Linda Morris, 'Eye Candy for Sale as Sculptors Try to Break Even', *Sydney Morning Herald*, 26 October 2018
Meghan Lehmann, 'Quiet Billionaire's Next Move', *The Australian*, 13 October 2017
Anna Chisholm, 'Deborah Halpern's Mosaic Sculpture on Show in Warrandyte', *Herald Sun*, 21 May 2015
'Sculpture Finds New Street Cred', *The Age*, 7 January 2006
James Cockington, 'Sculpture Shapes a Revival', *The Sydney Morning Herald & The Age*, 20 March 2013
'Gallery: Sculptures by the Sea', *ABC News*, 11 November 2011
Deborah Stone, 'Deborah Halpern: The Work of Arts', *The Age*, 18 May 1997
Diana Bagnall, 'Deborah Halpern: Playing with Firing', *Vogue*, September 1988