

## ERICA WAGNER

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### ABOUT

Erica Wagner is a painter, publisher and creative consultant to storytellers. Inspired by the natural world, her paintings and collages appear regularly in solo and group shows. Erica is a finalist in the 2021 VAS Artist of the Year and was the 2017 winner of the inaugural VAS George Hicks Foundation Contemporary Art Prize.

For over three decades, Erica has worked with many of Australia's finest writers and artists for children as an editor and publisher of books for children and young adults. She was awarded the 2020 Pixie O'Harris Award and [the 2017 Dromkeen Medal](#) for her outstanding contribution to Australian children's publishing and in 2019 she co-facilitated the inaugural Octopus Story Camp for Top End artists and writers with Johanna Bell.

Erica is currently illustrating her first picture book, *Hope is the Thing* by Johanna Bell, due to be published in 2023.

### ERICA'S ART PRACTICE

Drawing from life is central to Erica's practice, as is exploring ways to translate the movement and colour of the natural world into collage and paint. Figurative elements sometimes emerge from layers of underpainting and she repurposes discarded drawings and paintings in her mixed media work. She is a member of the Victorian Artists Society, the Melbourne Society of Women Painters and Sculptors and the Hawthorn Artists Society.

### SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2019** *Pop-Up Art*, The Moving Room Yoga Studio, Brunswick, VIC
- 2019** *Outside In*, The Peisley Street Gallery, Orange, NSW
- 2018** *Little Wings*, No Vacancy Project Space, Federation Square, Melbourne
- 2016** *Sanctuary*, No Vacancy Project Space, Federation Square, Melbourne
- 2012** *Retreat*, Decoy Cafe, Melbourne
- 2011** *Dark Horse*, Cambridge Studio Gallery, Collingwood

### SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2021** Artist of the Year Exhibition, Victorian Artists Society, East Melbourne
- 2018** *Floating Stories*, with Lynne Bechervaise & Siegi Edward, BrightSpace, St Kilda
- 2018** *One Man Show*, Hawthorn Artists Society, Hawthorn
- 2017** Artist of the Year Exhibition, Victorian Artists Society, East Melbourne
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- 2017** *Small Works*, Tussock Upstairs Gallery, Point Lonsdale
- 2016** Artist of the Year Exhibition, Victorian Artists Society, East Melbourne
- 2016** *Life that is Still*, Cambridge Studio Gallery, Collingwood
- 2016** *Cast Off*, Resident Artists' Program Exhibition, Nyora Studio Gallery, Eltham
- 2014** Artist of the Year Exhibition, Victorian Artists Society, East Melbourne
- 2013** *Celebration*, Cambridge Studio Gallery, Collingwood
- 2013** Artist of the Year Exhibition, Victorian Artists Society
- 2013** Affordable Xmas Show, Tussock Upstairs Gallery, Point Lonsdale
- 2012** May Exhibition, Tussock Upstairs Gallery, Point Lonsdale
- 2012** *Selected Works*, Cambridge Studio Gallery, Collingwood
- 2011** Melbourne Studio School, Bright Space, St Kilda
- 2010** *Paint Speak 2010*, Cambridge Studio Gallery, Collingwood
- 2010** *A Brush with Reality*, Cambridge Studio Gallery, Collingwood
- 2009** *Paintings and Drawings of the Melbourne Studio School*, Glen Eira Gallery
- 2007** *Paint Speak*, Melbourne Studio School, Manningham Gallery
- 2002** *A Master Artist and his Protégées*, Spectrum Gallery, Balwyn

## **AWARDS**

- 2021** Highly Commended: Victorian Artists Society Autumn Exhibition
- 2021** Highly Commended: Victorian Artists Society Summer Exhibition
- 2020** Highly Commended: MSWPS Annual Exhibition, Changing Perspectives
- 2017** Highly Commended: Victorian Artists Society Spring Exhibition
- 2017** Winner: The George Hicks Foundation VAS Contemporary Exhibition
- 2016** Highly Commended: Victorian Artists Society Winter Exhibition
- 2014** Deans Award, Acrylic Prize: Camberwell Art Show
- 2013** Highly Commended: St Kevin's College Art Show
- 2012** Highly Commended: St Kevin's College Art Show
- 2011** Winner: Contemporary Art Society of Victoria Annual Exhibition
- 2011** Highly Commended: Contemporary Art Society of Victoria Annual Exhibition
- 2011** Highly Commended: Victorian Artists Society Winter Exhibition
- 2009** Winner: Best Abstract/Contemporary, Pastel Society of Victoria
- 2005** Winner: Best Non Traditional/Other, Pastel Society of Victoria)
- 2005** Winner: Victorian Artists Society Winter Exhibition

## **RESIDENCIES and WORKSHOPS**

- 2019** Collage workshops, Hawthorn Artists Society and the Peisley Street Gallery
- 2019** Octopus Residency and Story Camp, Darwin
- 2018** Collage workshops, Cambridge Studio Gallery
- 2017** Lightning Ridge, Sunsiz Media
- 2017** Paperclay workshop, Koala Kids, Royal Children's Hospital
- 2017** Collage workshop, No Vacancy Gallery School Holiday Program
- 2014/16** Resident Artists' Program, Nyora Studio Gallery, Eltham

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY and TALKS**

- 2016** Art Diary, The Art and the Curious blog by Celeste Hawkins  
<http://www.theartandthecurious.com.au/art-diary-10-erica-wagner/>
- 2015** Artist Talk, Hawthorn Artist Society <http://hawthornartistsociety.org/erica-wagner/>
- 2014** Erica Wagner Profile, *Outline*, Issue 1, 2014, Illustrators Australia