

ERICA WAGNER

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ABOUT

Erica Wagner is an artist, publisher and creative consultant to storytellers. She exhibits regularly in solo and group shows and was the 2017 winner of the inaugural VAS George Hicks Foundation Contemporary Art Prize. For over three decades, Erica has edited and published many ground-breaking and award-winning books for children and young adults. In 2015 she founded the graphic novel publisher [Twelve Panels Press](#) with Bernard Caleo and Elizabeth MacFarlane. The first children's book editor to receive the [Beatrice Davis Editorial Fellowship](#) in 1999, Erica was awarded the [Dromkeen Medal](#) in 2017, the [Australian Book Industry's Pixie O'Harris Award](#) in 2021 and the [Australian Publishers Association's George Robertson Award](#) in 2022. Passionate about illustrated storytelling in particular, Erica and Johanna Bell co-facilitated the inaugural [Octopus Story Camp](#) for Top End writers and artists in 2019. Her first picture book, *Hope is the Thing* written by [Johanna Bell](#), was published in February 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 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 Artist Society.

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2023** *Hope is the Thing*, Cato Gallery, VAS, East Melbourne, VIC
- 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
- 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

- 2023** Highly Commended: Victorian Artists Society Autumn Exhibition
- 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