

**ESTHER ERLICH** is a Melbourne based artist celebrated for over three decades for her distinctive portraits. Expressive and alluring, Erlich's figures demand attention from their viewers. Her provocatively beautiful faces are vivid apparitions above abstracted bodies that exist in no space or time. Framed at an intimate distance, and locking eyes with their viewer, they seem to capture the visual experience of beholding the person you are falling in love with. Delightful contrasts in light, colour and detail only deepen the fantasy, inviting us to playfully wonder what we can know about another person, simply by looking at them.

Esther Erlich has had over 51 solo and 72 group exhibitions since 1983. She won the prestigious Doug Moran Portrait Prize (1998), the People's Choice Award, Archibald Prize (2000) and has been a finalist in the Archibald Prize and the Portia Geach Memorial Award multiple times. She is represented in both public and private collections nationally and abroad, including the CAE Victoria, Performing Arts Museum, National Portrait Gallery, ALP Building A.C.T., and the National Library Canberra.

## PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

National Portrait Gallery, Tweed Valley Regional Art Gallery, National Library ACT, Hutchins Foundation Collection, Holocaust Museum Victoria, ALP Building Canberra, Royal Overseas League - Australian Collection, Performing Arts Museum - Victorian Arts Centre, Council for Adult Education, MacRobertson Girls High School, Mentone Girls High School, St Catherine's School

## AWARDS

- 2020 Finalist, Kilgour Prize, Newcastle Art Gallery, NSW
- 2020 Finalist, The Percival Portrait Painting Prize, Perc Tucker Regional Gallery, QLD
- 2019 Finalist, Portia Geach Memorial Award, National Trust S.H.Ervin Gallery, Sydney
- 2018 Finalist Jacaranda Acquisitive Drawing Award, Grafton regional Gallery  
Finalist Black Swan Prize AGWA (Perth)  
Finalist Portia Geach Memorial Award (Sydney)  
Finalist, Percival Portrait Painting Prize, Townsville City, QLD
- 2017 Finalist, Portia Geach Award, National Trust S.H.Ervin Gallery, Sydney  
Semi Finalist, Doug Moran National Portrait Prize, Moran Arts Foundation, Sydney
- 2016 Finalist, Kilgour Prize, Newcastle Art Gallery, Newcastle, NSW  
Finalist, Paul Guest Drawing Prize, Bendigo Art Gallery, Bendigo VIC  
Finalist, Percival Portrait Painting Prize, Perc Tucker Regional Gallery, QLD
- 2015 Finalist, Hobart City Art Prize, Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, Hobart
- 2014 Finalist, Portia Geach Award, National Trust S.H.Ervin Gallery, Sydney  
Finalist, Paul Guest Drawing Prize, Bendigo Art Gallery, Bendigo VIC  
Finalist, Adelaide Perry Prize for Drawing, The Croydon' Centre for Art, Design & Technology, Sydney  
Finalist, Rick Amor Drawing Prize, Art Gallery of Ballarat, Ballarat, VIC
- 2012 Finalist, Black Swan Prize, WA
- 2011 Finalist, Charlatan Ink Art Prize, New York, USA  
Finalist, Black Swan Prize, WA
- 2009 Finalist, Banyule Works on Paper Award, Banyule Art Space, Ivanhoe, VIC  
Finalist, Black Swan Prize, WA  
*Salon des Refusés*, Archibald Prize, National Trust S.H.Ervin Gallery
- 2008 Finalist, Black Swan Prize, WA  
Finalist, Shirley Hannan Art Prize, Bega Valley Regional Gallery, Bega, NSW  
*Salon des Refusés*, Archibald Prize, National Trust S.H.Ervin Gallery & Tweed River Art Gallery, South Murwillumbah, NSW
- 2007 Finalist, Archibald Prize  
Finalist, Dobell Prize, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney  
Finalist, Hutchins Art Prize, The Long Gallery, TAS  
Finalist, Whyalla Art Prize, SA  
Finalist, Portia Geach Award, National Trust S.H.Ervin Gallery, Sydney
- 2006 Finalist, Doug Moran National Portrait Prize, Moran Arts Foundation, Sydney
- 2005 Finalist, Archibald Prize  
Finalist, National Small Sculpture Prize, Woollahra Municipal Council, Sydney  
Finalist, Banyule Works on Paper, Banyule Art Space, Ivanhoe, VIC
- 2002 Finalist, Portia Geach Award, National Trust S.H.Ervin Gallery, Sydney
- 2001 Finalist, Portia Geach Award, National Trust S.H.Ervin Gallery, Sydney
- 2000 Winner, People's Choice Award, Archibald Prize, Art Gallery of New South Wales; George Adams Gallery, Melbourne and Regional galleries tour  
Finalist, Portia Geach Award, National Trust S.H.Ervin Gallery, Sydney

- 1999 Finalist, Portia Geach Award, National Trust S.H.Ervin Gallery, Sydney  
 1998 Winner, Doug Moran National Portrait Prize, Moran Arts Foundation, Sydney  
 Finalist, Portia Geach Award, National Trust S.H.Ervin Gallery, Sydney  
 1996 Finalist, Portia Geach Award, National Trust S.H.Ervin Gallery, Sydney  
 1995 Finalist, Portia Geach Award, National Trust S.H.Ervin Gallery, Sydney  
 1993 *Salon des Refusés*, Archibald Prize, National Trust S.H.Ervin Gallery, Sydney  
 1990 Finalist, Doug Moran National Portrait Prize, Moran Arts Foundation, Sydney  
 1989 Finalist, Winsor Newton Prize, Sydney  
 Finalist, Portia Geach Award, National Trust S.H.Ervin Gallery, Sydney  
 1987 Second prize, VTU Art Prize

#### SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2020 *An Intimate Distance*, Fox Galleries, Melbourne  
 2019 *Audacious*, Fox Galleries, Melbourne  
 2018 Esther Erlich, Fox Galleries, Melbourne  
 2016 *Esther Erlich: New Work*, Frances Keevil Gallery, Sydney  
 2015 Frances Keevil Gallery, Sydney  
 2014 *Invisible*, Libby Edwards Galleries, Melbourne  
 2013 Perth Concert Hall in conjunction with Gadfly Gallery, Perth  
 2012 *Rapscallions*, Libby Edwards Galleries, Melbourne  
*Sirens Ablazing*, Gadfly Gallery, Perth  
*Traffic Jam*, Richard Martin Art, Sydney  
 2011 *Curiouser*, Libby Edwards Galleries, Melbourne  
 2010 *Animal Instinct*, Richard Martin Art, Sydney  
*Menagerie*, Gadfly Gallery, Perth  
*You Know You Want To*, Libby Edwards Galleries, Melbourne  
 2009 *Hand in Glove*, Gadfly Gallery, Perth  
 2008 *Subtext*, Libby Edwards Galleries, Brisbane  
*Tiaras and Boxing Gloves*, Libby Edwards Galleries, Sydney  
 2007 *Works on Paper*, Libby Edwards Galleries, Brisbane  
*Encore*, Perth Concert Hall, Perth  
*Human Kinds*, Gadfly Gallery, Perth  
*Ties that Bind*, Libby Edwards Galleries, Melbourne  
 2006 *Modest*, Libby Edwards Galleries, Brisbane  
*Emancipated*, Libby Edwards Galleries, Sydney  
 2005 *Go Figure*, Gadfly Gallery, Perth  
 Perth Concert Hall, Perth  
 2004 *Rumors*, Libby Edwards Galleries, Melbourne  
*Confection*, Barry Newton Gallery, Adelaide  
 2003 *Wall Flowers*, Libby Edwards Galleries, Sydney  
 Portraits Retrospective, Libby Edwards Galleries, Melbourne  
*Hairspray*, Bark Modern Art, Hong Kong  
 2002 Barry Newton Gallery, Adelaide  
*Basic Black*, Libby Edwards Galleries, Melbourne  
*Pick-up Lines*, Libby Edwards Galleries, Sydney  
 2001 *Hoopla*, Libby Edwards Galleries, Sydney  
 2000 *Miniatures*, Libby Edwards Galleries, Sydney  
*No Standing*, Libby Edwards Galleries, Melbourne  
 1999 Libby Edwards Galleries, Sydney  
*Suburban Spectacles*, Libby Edwards Galleries, Melbourne  
 1996 *Realm of the Knave*, Convent Gallery, Daylesford, VIC  
 1994 *The Joker is Wild*, Libby Edwards Galleries, Melbourne  
 1993 New Robin Group, Japan  
 Barry Newton Gallery, Adelaide  
 1992 Barry Newton Gallery, Adelaide  
 1991 Libby Edwards Galleries, Melbourne  
 1990 Libby Edwards Galleries, Melbourne  
 1989 Weather Vane Gallery, Melbourne  
 1988 Toorak Library, Melbourne

#### SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2021 *These Days*, Fox Galleries, Melbourne  
 2020 L.A. Art Show, USA - represented by Panter and Hall, London  
 2019 *Party of Special Things*, Fox Galleries

- 2016 *Trailblazing Women*, The Global Women's Project, Neospace Gallery
- 2015 *Pain/ting*, Open Walls Gallery, Berlin
- 2014 Panter and Hall, London, UK  
Adelaide Perry Prize for Drawing, The Croydon' Centre for Art, Design & Technology, Sydney  
Rick Amor Drawing Prize, Art Gallery of Ballarat, Ballarat, VIC
- 2011 *Plain*, 240 international artists in a touring exhibition throughout Israel, Curator Dr Guy Morag
- 2010 *Hang Your Doodle*, Australian Centre for Contemporary Art, Melbourne  
Richard Martin Art, Sydney
- 2009 Hill Smith Gallery, Adelaide  
Banyule Works on Paper Award, Banyule Art Space, Ivanhoe, VIC  
J. F. Invitation Self Portrait Award, Castlemaine Art Gallery, Castlemaine, VIC  
*Salon des Refusés*, Archibald Prize, National Trust, S.H.Ervin Gallery, Sydney
- 2008 Bega Valley Regional Gallery, Bega, NSW  
*Salon des Refusés*, Archibald Prize, National Trust S.H.Ervin Gallery, Sydney & Tweed River Regional Gallery, South Murwillumbah, NSW
- 2007 Hutchins Art Prize, The Long Gallery, TAS  
Chairs for Charity, Flemington Atrium, Melbourne  
Portia Geach Award, National Trust S.H.Ervin Gallery, Sydney  
Dobell Prize for Drawing, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney  
Archibald Prize, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney; Mural Hall, Melbourne; Manning, Grafton, Bega Valley and Broken Hill Regional Galleries
- 2006 Artwork for Baby Proms, Sydney Opera House, Sydney  
Art Singapore, Stand AP03, Suntec Singapore  
Art and Design Fair, Australian High Commission, New Delhi, India  
*Moments in Art*, Chapel Galleries, Chapel off Chapel, Melbourne  
Doug Moran National Portrait Prize, State Library of New South Wales, Sydney
- 2005 Banyule Works on Paper Award, Banyule Art Space, Ivanhoe, VIC  
*The Body in Question*, G.W.Bot, Esther Erlich, Barbie Kjar at Gadfly Gallery, Perth  
Archibald Prize at Art Gallery of New South Wales; Newcastle & Albury Regional Art Galleries; Moree Plains Gallery; Cowra Art Gallery & Victoria Arts Centre  
National Small Sculpture Prize, Woollahra Municipal Council, Sydney  
*Lost and Found, Curators & Artists*, digital sequences of images and text creating double narratives for 3 artists; Olive Cotton, Rosalie Cogan and Esther Erlich, out of the Archives of the Women's Art Register. Displayed at Federation Square Melbourne, Gertrude St Contemporary Art Spaces, RMIT Gallery, Melbourne
- 2004 *Precious Platters*, Jewish Museum of Australia at Sotheby's, Melbourne
- 2003 *Kosher Culture*, The Jewish Museum, Melbourne  
*Superstars Unzipped, Jeans for Genes* Retrospective, Sydney Town Hall, Sydney
- 2002 Portia Geach Award, National Trust S.H.Ervin Gallery, Sydney  
Gadfly Gallery, Perth  
*Generations, Jeans for Genes*, Art, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney  
Archibald Prize, Art Gallery of New South Wales; George Adams Gallery, Melbourne & Regional galleries tour  
*Salon des Refusés*, Archibald Prize, National Trust S.H.Ervin Gallery, Sydney
- 2001 *Portraits 2001, An Australian Odyssey*, touring Logan, Toowoomba, Shepparton, and Tamworth City Art Galleries and, Dalby, Hervy Bay, Manning, Portr Macquarie-Hastings, Tweed River; Port Pirie, and Albury Regional Art Galleries  
Victorian Arts Centre, Artwork of the month, Melbourne  
Portia Geach Award, National Trust S.H.Ervin Gallery, Sydney  
*Jeans for Genes*, Sydney
- 2000 Portia Geach Award, National Trust S.H.Ervin Gallery, Sydney  
Archibald Prize, Art Gallery of New South Wales; George Adams Gallery, Melbourne and Regional galleries tour
- 1999 Portia Geach Award, National Trust S.H.Ervin Gallery, Sydney  
*Jeans for Genes*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney  
*Marymount Arts Festival*, Featured artist, Gold Coast, Queensland
- 1998 Doug Moran National Portrait Prize, National Gallery Victoria, Melbourne & State Library of New South Wales, Sydney  
Portia Geach Award, National Trust S.H.Ervin Gallery, Sydney  
Mary Place Gallery, Sydney  
*Retrospecta II*, Motorworks Gallery, Featured artist
- 1997 Libby Edwards Galleries, Melbourne
- 1996 Portia Geach Award, National Trust S.H.Ervin Gallery, Sydney  
*World in a Matchbox*, Grand Central Gallery
- 1995 Portia Geach Award, National Trust S.H.Ervin Gallery, Sydney  
*Ten New Artists*, Holdsworth Gallery, Sydney
- 1994 *The Nude in Art*, Barry Newton Gallery, Adelaide
- 1993 Libby Edwards Galleries, Melbourne  
Libby Edwards Galleries, Melbourne

- International Womens Exhibition at the Kyushu Municipal Gallery, Japan  
*Salon des Refusés*, Archibald Prize, National Trust S.H.Ervin Gallery, Sydney  
 Holdsworth Gallery, Sydney  
 1992 Libby Edwards Gallery, Melbourne  
 1990 *Portraits of Australia*, Doug Moran National Portrait Prize, Sydney Opera House, Sydney  
 1989 Portia Geach Award, National Trust S.H.Ervin Gallery, Sydney  
 Figurative Exhibition, Libby Edwards Galleries, Melbourne  
 1988 *On a Clothesline*, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne  
 1986 Freeman Gallery, Hobart  
 1983 Young Originals Gallery

## PUBLICATIONS

- Ross, Peter. *Let's Face It – The History of the Archibald Prize*. Sydney, NSW: Art Gallery of New South Wales, 2013.  
 The National Library of Australia's 38th Annual Report 1997 – 1998, Portrait of Louis Kahan front and back covers  
 Erlich, Esther & Migdalek, Jack. *Making Conversation*. Fukuoka, Japan: Intercom Press, 1996.  
 Thorpe, D. W. *Who's Who of Australian Visual Artists*. Port Melbourne, VIC: D.W. Thorpe in association with National Association for the Visual Arts, 1995.  
 'Generation Journal', Cover, artwork and article featured in November 1993, March 1995 and September 1998 issues  
 Ed. Cunningham, Liz & Melano, Anne. *Marmalade's book of cats: Australian writing and art*. Manly, NSW: Marmalade Press, 1993.  
 'Australian Artist' Cover and article in December 1991 issue  
 'Portraits of Australia : the Doug Moran National Portrait Prize collection'. NSW: Tweed Shire Council, 1990  
 Kelly, Gwen. *Middle-aged Maidens*. Sydney, NSW: Angus & Robertson Childrens, 1989.  
 "Video into Art Series" SAA Painters, Schmelling Artvideo Australia.

## PRESS (SELECTED)

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| The Sydney Morning Herald, Good Weekend (June 2018)                           | Herald Sun (August 19 1999)                    |
| New York Times (July 2011)  | Herald Sun (May 2 1999)                        |
| Brisbane Courier Mail "Eclectic Collective" by Ronnie Girdham (April 24 2010) | Time (April 12 1999)                           |
| The Australian "Heads on a Palette" (February 2 2008)                         | Herald Sun (March 28 1999)                     |
| The Australian, Weekend Arts (February 24 -25 2008)                           | The Sun Herald (March 14 1999)                 |
| Herald Sun, Visual Arts (March 8 2006)  | Sydney Morning Herald (March 10 1999)          |
| Herald Sun, Entertainment (April 29 2005)                                     | The Age (February 6 1999)                      |
| The Australian (April 22 2005)  | Herald Sun (January 30 1999)                   |
| Sydney Morning Herald "Archibald Poser" (March 9 2004)                        | Gold Coast Weekender (December 19-20 1998)     |
| Sydney Morning Herald, Metro back page (June 1 2002)                          | Herald Sun (December 14 1998)                  |
| Sydney Morning Herald (May 30 2002)   | Herald Sun (November 28 1998)                  |
| Herald Sun (May 29 2002)  | The Australian Jewish News (November 20 1998)  |
| Sydney Morning Herald (May 25 2002)   | The Age (November 11 1998)                     |
| The Age, News 5 (May 25 2002)   | The West Australian (November 11 1998)         |
| Sydney Morning Herald (May 15 2002)   | The Australian (November 11 1998)              |
| Sydney Morning Herald (October 26 2001)                                       | Herald Sun (November 11 1998)                  |
| The Southern Peninsula Local (August 16 2001)                                 | The Age (October 10 1998)                      |
| Herald Sun (June 25 2001)   | Herald Sun (October 10 1998)                   |
| Bayside Advertiser (February 19 2001)   | The Australian Jewish News (March 15 1994)     |
| The Australian Jewish News (February 16 2001)                                 | Southern Cross (April 13 1994)                 |
| MX News February 12 2001)   | Australian Artist (December issue 1991)        |
| The Age (February 7 2001)   | The Australian Jewish News (June 1 1990)       |
| Herald Sun (February 2 2001)  | Southern Cross (March 21 1990)                 |
| The Age (January 3 2001)  | New Idea (August 19 1998)                      |
| The Sunday Age (December 3 2000)  | Southern Cross (November 25 1987)              |
| Herald Sun (November 21 2000)   | The Age Good Weekend (November 20 1987)        |
| Herald Sun (September 4 2000)   | The Sun (November 20 1987)                     |
| Herald Sun (September 3 2000)   | The Australian Jewish News (November 20 1987)  |
| The Australian (May 1 2000)   | Southern Cross (March 21 1990)                 |
| The Australian Jewish News, Sydney Edition (April 28 2000)                    | New Idea (August 19 1998)                      |
| The Australian (April 18 2000)  | Southern Cross (November 25 1987)              |
| The Age (April 18 2000)   | The Age Good Weekend (November 20 1987)        |
| The Australian (March 20 2000)  | The Sun (November 20 1987)                     |
| Sydney Morning Herald (March 17 2000)   | The Australian Jewish News (November 20 1987)  |
| Herald Sun (March 17 2000)  | The Herald Tuesday Magazine (November 17 1987) |
| Sydney Morning Herald (March 16 2000)   | The Mercury (March 29 1986)                    |
| The Daily Telegraph (March 16 2000)   | The Australian Jewish News (November 1985)     |
| The Daily Telegraph (March 9 2000)  | The Australian Jewish News (July 13 1984)      |
| Sydney Morning Herald (November 6 1999)                                       | The Sun (January 21 1983)                      |