

LOUISE HEARMAN

18 FEBRUARY – 14 MAY 2017

TARRAWARRA
MUSEUM
OF ART



Image: Louise Hearman, *Untitled #727 1999*, oil on masonite, Collection of the artist, Image courtesy and © the artist, Photograph: Mark Ashkanasy

TarraWarra Museum of Art presents the first survey of Louise Hearman organised and toured by the Museum of Contemporary Art Australia, MCA.

Melbourne-based artist, Louise Hearman, will be featured in a major exhibition at TarraWarra Museum of Art, 18 February – 14 May 2017, with paintings and drawings from across her 25-year practice.

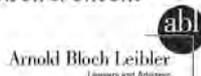
The exhibition, curated by Anna Davis from the Museum of Contemporary Art Australia (MCA), is the first major museum survey of Hearman's work, organised and toured by the MCA. Hearman is best known for her dark dream-like paintings where things may, or may not be, as they seem. It is up to us to imagine what is glimmering in the half-light or lurking deep in the shadows, as the artist offers no written clues to the evocative contents of her works, which are always left untitled.

Working at a small scale, predominantly in oil on masonite, Hearman returns repeatedly to certain motifs; a child's luminous face floating in a sea of darkness; the back of someone's head; a glowing orb; a deserted road; an aeroplane gliding through a gloomy sky; a dog's disembodied head; a phosphorescent sunset; a melancholic cloud; flowers; birds; cats; and perhaps most bizarrely, rows of giant shining teeth, smiling incongruously. Melbourne's bush and suburban landscapes feature prominently in her work; often captured at twilight or at sunset and incorporating otherworldly forms that imbue them with a supernatural quality.

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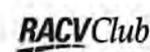
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Hearman collects imagery for her paintings by photographing her everyday experiences. She mentally recombines these photographs with other images, and works in her studio to create unsettling compositions that transform the ordinary into something very strange. With great technical skill and rapid brushwork, she focuses intently on capturing particular qualities of light in her subjects. Her disquieting images are reminiscent of fleeting sensory impressions, like something that is glimpsed but not quite seen, caught at the moment just before conscious apprehension.

MCA Curator Anna Davis said, "Louise Hearman's paintings are often said to have a cinematic quality, and like film stills they capture transient moments of imaginary time.

"By combining commonplace imagery with personal visions of the unknown and the unknowable, Hearman's surreal paintings hint at the compelling nature of our nonverbal thoughts," Ms Davis said.

Hearman won the Archibald Prize 2016 for her portrait of entertainer, satirist, painter and Dadaist, Barry Humphries.

TarraWarra Museum of Art Director, Victoria Lynn, said, "Louise Hearman's work is a feature of our collection. She has made a unique contribution to Australian art, striking an uncanny balance between narrative glimpses and dream-like moments. Her technical skill, and distinctive style, will be fully revealed in this exceptional survey exhibition from the MCA."

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Opening Hours: Tuesday – Sunday, 11am to 5pm

Open all public holidays except Christmas day

Exhibition Admission: \$7.50 Adults; \$5.00 Seniors; pensioners, students & children are free.

Museum of
Contemporary
Art Australia

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