

Making Her Mark: Selected Works from the Collection

29 February – 16 April 2020

Curated by Victoria Lynn



Kate Beynon, *Masks of the Ogre Dancers* 2014–15, synthetic polymer paint on linen,
185 x 165 cm, TarraWarra Museum of Art collection, Acquired 2015,
Courtesy of the artist and Sutton Gallery, Melbourne.

Opening on 29 February, ***Making Her Mark: Selected Works from the Collection*** offers a new appraisal of the work of leading women artists held in the collection of TarraWarra Museum of Art.

Rather than an exhibition that exclusively presents women artists, *Making Her Mark* also includes the work of male artists in the form of unexpected pairings to present a nuanced conversation about image, composition and mark-making where women take centre stage. Taking the themes of works by female artists as its starting point—such as the role of memory, a connection to the Australian landscape and the pursuit of abstraction—art by women is not seen as a category, but as a catalyst.

Presented in thematic clusters, the exhibition includes works by Davida Allen, Yvonne Audette, Kate Beynon, Angela Brennan, Virginia Cuppidge, Janet Dawson, Lesley Dumbrell, Rosalie Gascoigne, Denise Green, Melinda Harper, Louise Hearman, Inge King, Emily Kame Kngwarreye,

Joanna Lamb, Janet Laurence, Hilarie Mais, Rosslynd Piggott, Angelina Pwerle, Norma Redpath, Sally Smart, Ann Thompson, Aida Tomescu, Michelle Ussher, Jenny Watson and Judy Watson.

These works are presented alongside artworks by their male contemporaries, including Howard Arkley, Ralph Balson, Charles Blackman, Robert Klippel, Clifford Last, Godfrey Miller, John Nixon and Lenton Parr, providing the opportunity to make new comparisons across decades: Jenny Watson and Charles Blackman; Louise Hearman and Godfrey Miller; Kate Beynon and Howard Arkley.

Victoria Lynn, Director, TarraWarra Museum of Art and exhibition curator, said, "The title of the exhibition refers to both the fact that women artists have well and truly made their mark on Australian art as well as highlighting the techniques and processes of "mark-making", whereby visitors can engage with the numerous ways in which the artists have incorporated images, gestures, colour and texture in their work."

"*Making Her Mark* recognises the means by which women artists have pioneered certain ways of seeing the world, while the inclusion of men breaks down the dichotomy between women and men in an era where gender is multifaceted and definitions around male and female are fluid and complex," Ms Lynn said.

Highlights include the pairing of Melinda Harper's *Untitled* paintings with the work of John Nixon to acknowledge Harper's role in the pursuit of an everyday interpretation of abstraction, drawing on the colours of our contemporary environment; while works by Lesley Dumbrell, Janet Dawson and Virginia Cuppidge reveal the subtle ways in which these artists interpreted an abstract pulse in the 1970s.

The pairing of Jenny Watson's *He'll Be My Mirror*, 2013, with Charles Blackman's *Christabel and Her Image*, 1966, compares the use of a mirror reflection by both artists, while the placement of sculptural maquettes by Norma Redpath and Inge King in the company of Clifford Last shows the dynamic ways in which these two major modernist artists forged a unique and important sculptural language.

Other juxtapositions include Kate Beynon and Joanna Lamb with the work of Howard Arkley, the metaphysical forests of Godfrey Miller with the equally mysterious landscapes by Louise Hearman, and the dynamic abstract painting of Yvonne Audette with Ralph Balson.

Further highlights include Janet Laurence's work *Sacred Green*, 2018, which underlines her deep engagement with the ecological fragility of our natural environment while works by Angelina Pwerle, Emily Kame Kngwarreye and Judy Watson draw on stories of Country and belonging.

Making Her Mark: Selected Works from the Collection is on display at TarraWarra Museum of Art from 29 February to 16 April 2020. For further information, visit twma.com.au.

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TARRAWARRA
MUSEUM
OF ART

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Opening Hours: Tuesday – Sunday, 11am to 5pm. Open all public holidays except Christmas Day.
Open 7 days a week from Boxing Day to Australia Day.

Museum Admission: \$10 Adults; \$8 Seniors; \$5 Concession; Museum Members and children under 12 free.



Melinda Harper

Untitled 2002

oil on canvas, 182.7 x 151.8 cm

TarraWarra Museum of Art collection, Gift of Eva Besen AO and Marc Besen AO

Donated through the Australian Government's Cultural Gifts Program 2012, Courtesy of the artist

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