

Elizabeth Rankin

Horse Sense is based on a series of drawings made of the anatomical dissection of a horse. These initial drawings were developed as large oil and wax horse heads on 350gsm watercolour paper. The foundation of these works is a loose charcoal drawing transformed by layers of beeswax and oil paint diluted with poppy seed oil. The layers are erased and re-laid with rag application. The results are very visceral creatures.

The study of horse anatomy also inspired a fascination with the muscular horse in motion and the creation of a horse race animation. Two sets of drawings are used in this-the Kentridge inspired charcoal trace drawings on the green screen and the frame by frame drawings of the multi-coloured segment.

The pleasure in Horse Sense for the artist was in recreating the life energy of the horse. The artist confesses to no horse obsessed past or equestrian abilities but an empathy with another sentient being.

## Biography

Elizabeth Rankin is a Sydney based painter, drawer and animator. She is a 2018 doctoral candidate at the National Art School, Sydney. She has exhibited both in artist run spaces and in commercial galleries (Robin Gibson and Dominik Mersch) and last year completed a residency at the BigCI in Bilpin. Her work has been recognised in drawing and painting prizes including the Mosman Art Prize, NSW The Parliament En Plein Air, NSW and the Marie Ellis Drawing Prize, QLD. She has worked as an intern at the National Art School drawing department in both research drawing and animation. She has had several solo exhibitions including Show, Tell 2018 at 220 Creative Space Gallery, Woolloomooloo, Sydney and Did you kiss the dead body? 2017 at ES74 in Alexandria, Sydney which showcased her Master of Fine Art by Research project which she completed at the National Art School, Sydney.

Rankin's abiding concern as an artist has been investigating uncanny true crime tales that emerge from Australian society. Her interest in such stories comes from an awareness of the disjunction between personal and official histories. As a child her life was influenced by her father's post-traumatic reaction to his service in World War Two. His enactment of "his stories" bore little resemblance to official commemorations. The memories her father recalled were in the present rather than the past. In such narratives, time collapsed and the past was not the past. Due to her father's dark stories, her work has focused on the abject and the uncanny. Rankin perceives her drawings to be a sort of visual prose through which she describes Australian criminal mysteries. Broadly speaking, Rankin's work fits the genre of noir.

## CV

### Education

- 2018 DFA candidate (Drawing National Art School)
- 2017 MFA by Research (Drawing), National Art School.
- 2014 BFA Honours (Drawing), National Art School.
- 2013 BFA (Painting), National Art School

### Solo Exhibitions

- 2018 Show, Tell 220 Creative Space, Kings Cross
- 2017 Did You Kiss the Dead Body? ES74 Gallery/Project Space, Alexandria.
- 2017 MFA Final Works Presentation Exhibition, National Art School Project Space
- 2016 Short Stories The Corner Gallery, Stanmore
- 2014 Fugitive, Chrissie Cotter Gallery.
- 2012 Box Brownie, At The Vanishing Point

### Selected Group Exhibitions

- 2018 Ferret Articulate Space Leichhardt  
Pink 220 Creative Space  
A Little Death Chrissie Cotter Gallery
- 2017 Post Grad Show National Art school  
Hidden Articulate Project Space  
Invitational Home@735 Redfern  
3.8. 2017 Home@735 Redfern  
Knocking on the Door Big Ci Bilpin
- 2016 White Barometer Gallery Paddington  
Conversations Rayner Hoff Space National Art School  
Co Lab Dominik Mersch Gallery  
Articulate Space 6<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Exhibition (in collaboration with Kirsten Drewes)
- 2015 4 7 11 Dominick Mersch Summer Group Show Jan 29-Feb 28<sup>th</sup>  
Feral 4 Articulate Space Jan 30-Feb 8<sup>th</sup>  
Nature & Narrative Jean Bellette Gallery Hill End April 4-May  
Have Your Say Articulate Space December 18
- 2014 St George Bank Postgraduate Exhibition  
Crossing Borders, National Art School Drawing Centre
- 2013 New Talent Group Show, Robin Gibson Gallery
- 2013 Vagina Dialogues, Stairwell Gallery, National Art School  
From Fieldwork to Folio, Xavier Gallery, St Vincent's Hospital
- 2012 Graduate Show, National Art School  
Grants + Awards

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# Stanley Street gallery

- 2018 Finalist Marie Ellis Drawing Prize
- 2017 Finalist NSW Parliament En Plein Air
- 2015 Finalist Gallipoli Art Prize
- 2014 Finalist, Mosman Art Prize
- 2013 Awarded Robin Gibson New Talent Exhibition Award
- 2013 Finalist, Mosman Art Prize
- 2012 Finalist, Mosman Art Prize
- 2012 Awarded Solo Grant (Spotlight on Local Artists).

## Internships + Residencies

- 2018 /2015/2014 Drawing Week Intern National Art School
- 2017 The BigCI Residency Bilpin/Wollemi National Park
- 2016 Conversations (speaker) Drawing Symposium National Art School
- 2014 Sydney Students Speak, Art Gallery NSW.

## Collections

Various private collections.

Selected for the National Art School permanent collection

## Bibliography

- 2018 Why A Ferret Down Your Trousers Might Do You Good Articulate Space Blogspot
- 2017 Vanessa Berry Gentle Power
- 2015 Rochard Street Review Feb 4 Fragments of a Whole Mark Roberts.
- 2014 Art Post, Marrickville Council Tracking fugitives with artist Elizabeth Rankin
- 2014 Art Gallery NSW Website: Sydney Students Speak