

## BARBARA DOVER

Born Bendigo Victoria

Lives and works in Cairns Queensland

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### Selected exhibitions

- 2024 *A Tidy House*, Sixfold Project, Cairns Art Gallery, Cairns
- 2024 *The Break Collection: Sounds of the Tropics* by Luke Aleksandrow, NorthSite CA, Cairns
- 2023 *Accessorise*, Sixfold Project, The Courthouse Gallery, Cairns
- 2023 *Leftover Love: New Directions*, Pinnacles Gallery, Townsville
- 2022 *Meanwhile*, Sixfold Project, NorthSite Contemporary Arts, Cairns
- 2022 *Fumble & Fold in Black & White*, Sixfold Project, The Art Room Vivo, Palm Cove
- 2022 *Out of the Box*, Sixfold Project, Kite Gallery, Cairns
- 2022 *Libris Awards 2022*, Artspace Mackay (finalist)
- 2021 *Call of the Running Tide Multimedia and Sculpture Event*, Port Douglas
- 2021 *Six + Six: Mixed Messages*, Sixfold Project, The Art Room Vivo, Palm Cove
- 2021 *Call of the Running Tide*, NorthSite Contemporary Arts, Cairns
- 2021 *Disquiet: Ecological Anxieties and Transformations*, collaborative with Robyn Glade-Wright, Artspace Mackay, NorthSite Contemporary Arts, Cairns, Umbrella Studio Contemporary Arts, Townsville, Gatakers Artspace, Maryborough
- 2020 *Blistering*, The Art Room Vivo, Palm Cove
- 2020 *Disquiet: Ecological Anxieties and Transformations*, Artspace Mackay, NorthSite Cairns (upcoming), Umbrella Studio Contemporary Arts, Townsville (upcoming), Gatakers Artspace, Maryborough (upcoming)
- 2019 *Call of the Running Tide: Environmental Sculpture and Multimedia Event*, Port Douglas
- 2019 *Sharing the Passion*, Banggu Minjaany Art Gallery, Cairns
- 2019 *Compassion, an exhibition of artist's book*, Old Ambulance Station Galleries, Nambour
- 2018 *Entropy*, Tanks Art Centre, Cairns
- 2018 *Visions*, Lux Gallery, JCU, Cairns
- 2018 *Plasticene Marine*, The Cairns Institute, Cairns
- 2018 *Remembering Animals: Rituals, Artifacts and Narratives*, CSUN Art Galleries Northridge, CA, USA
- 2017 *The Torrid Zone – Celebrating 25 Years*, KickArts Contemporary Arts, Cairns
- 2016 *Arcade*, Canopy Art Centre, Cairns
- 2016 *eight-by-ten*, KickArts Contemporary Arts, Cairns
- 2015 *Get Kickin'*, KickArts Contemporary Arts, Cairns
- 2015 *Tropic > Tropics*, Johor Bahru, Malaysia
- 2015 *4by4 Book Artists*, Cairns Regional Gallery, Brisbane Square Library
- 2014 *Women in the Arts: Of Sense & Sensibilities*, Canopy Artspace Cairns
- 2014 *Women in the Arts: Booked*, KickArts Contemporary Arts, Cairns
- 2013 *Start Collecting Art*, Cairns Regional Gallery, Cairns
- 2013 *SUB 150 The Affordable Art Show*, c.1907 Contemporary Artspace, Cairns
- 2013 *States of Play, Contemporary Australian Women in Regional Art Practice*, Canopy Artspace, Cairns
- 2013 *One, Two, Four and More*, KickArts Contemporary Arts, Cairns
- 2012 *Sub150, Circa 1907 Art Space*, Cairns
- 2012 *Linden Postcard Show*, Linden Centre for Contemporary Art, Melbourne
- 2012 *That's Life*, JCU, Cairns

- 2012 *A common thread: a collaborative artists' book*, Cairns
- 2012 *The Bag: Object or Obsession?* Circa. 1907 Art space, Cairns
- 2011 *Sub-150*, Circa 1907, Circa 1907 Art space, Cairns
- 2011 *The Black Pram Project*, KickArts Contemporary Arts, Cairns
- 2010 *Circa 1907*, Cairns
- 2010 *Momentum*, KickArts Contemporary Arts Gallery, Cairns
- 2010 *Undercurrent*, Vivo, Palm Cove
- 2009 *Realm of Myth*, Cairns Regional Gallery, Cairns
- 2009 *Line*, KickArts Contemporary Arts Gallery, Cairns
- 2009 *This is Cassowary Country*, Cairns Regional Gallery, Cairns
- 2009 *Lunch Box*, Vivo, Palm Cove
- 2008 *Pelagic Traces*, Cairns Regional Gallery window installation
- 2008 *Blunt Edge Portraiture*, Pink Phoenix Gallery, Cairns
- 2008 *Hidden Treasures*, Cairns Regional Gallery, Cairns
- 2008 *Big*, KickArts Contemporary Arts Gallery, Cairns
- 2007 *Interrogating Gaze*, Pinnacles Gallery, Thuringowa
- 2007 *Face to Face*, KickArts Contemporary Arts Gallery, Cairns
- 2007 *Eye to Eye*, Dubbo Regional Gallery, Dubbo
- 2007 *Flight*, KickArts Contemporary Arts Gallery, Cairns
- 2007 *Hidden Treasure*, Cairns Regional Gallery, Cairns
- 2007 *Blunt Edge Portraiture*, Pink Phoenix Gallery, Cairns
- 2006 *Idea of the Animal*, RMIT Gallery, Melbourne
- 2007 *Fuel*, CoCA, KickArts, Cairns
- 2007 *Hidden Treasure*, Cairns Regional Gallery Cairns
- 2005 *Skin Deep*, UWA, Perth
- 2005 *Animal Matters*, SoapBox Gallery, Brisbane
- 2005 *Rush*, Sofitel Reef Hotel Casino, Cairns
- 2005 *MacDonnells Solicitors*, Group Show, Cairns
- 2005 *Photographic Skin*, SoapBox Gallery, Cairns
- 2004 *Glare*, CoCA, KickArts, Cairns
- 2004 *Postcard Exhibition*, Cairns Regional Gallery, Cairns
- 2004 *JCU Arts Loan Scheme*, James Cook University
- 2004 *No Boundaries*, James Cook University, Cairns
- 2003 *Animal Matters*, Cairns Regional Gallery, Cairns
- 2002 *Postcard Exhibition*, Cairns Regional Gallery, Cairns
- 2001 *Connect*, Cairns Regional Gallery, Cairns
- 2001 *Postcard Exhibition*, Cairns Regional Gallery, Cairns
- 2000 *Take 4*, Vincent Gallery, Townsville.
- 1999 *Betwixt & Between*, Cairns
- 1998 *4870*, Cairns Regional Gallery,
- 1981 *Spring Festival of Drawing*, Mornington Peninsula Arts Centre, Victoria
- 1981 *Drawings & Sculptures* (with Noelene Lucas), Gryphon Gallery, Melbourne

### **Collections**

Department of Primary Industries Qld

Works in private collections in Australia and overseas

### **Awards**

- 2011 *RADF grant for community partnerships*

- 2004 APA (Australian Post-graduate Award)  
 2003 Innovations 2003 Regional Art Awards  
 1997 The Arts 21 Leadership Awards for 1997, Arts Victoria/Deakin University

### Education

- 2008 PhD, James Cook University, Townsville  
 2004 Master of Creative Arts (*cum laude*), James Cook University, Townsville  
 1997 Graduate Diploma Arts and Entertainment Management, Deakin University, Melbourne  
 1979 Diploma of Art and Design (Drawing), Prahran College of Advanced Education

### Publications

- Schlosser J. "Contacting the Other: Animal Minds Revealed Through Photographic Representations of Touch" in Smith J.A. and Mitchell R. W. (eds) (2012), *Experiencing Animals: Encounters between Animal and Human Minds*, USA, Columbia University Press
- Carless, V. (2010), New Perspectives on an old country, *Art Monthly Australia*, #220 April 2010, 40-42
- Victoire, S. (2009) Carved it like a Cassowary, *Art Monthly Australia*, #220 June 2009, 40-42
- Reid, S. (2009) *Beside Us*, This is Cassowary Country, This is Cassowary Country Collective, L. McKenzie (Ed), 2 images.
- Leece, B (2007) Eye to Eye, 2 images.
- Van Harskamp, K. (2007) Primal Power. *The Cairns Post*. 17 May 2007. 14.
- Victoire, S. (2007) Face to Face: New Work by Barbara Dover. *Arts Nexus*. 63. 38.
- Daniel, C, *Eyeline*, "Animal Matters", 2003, p. 49.
- Doyle, L. Curator's statement, *No Boundaries* catalogue, 2003
- Lord, A. Curator's statement, *Animal Matters* catalogue, 2003
- Daniel, C. *Arts Nexus*, 2003, "Animal matters: solo exhibition by Barbara Dover", July-Sept, p25
- Art Dekko*, 2003, "Barbara Dover explores animal matters", Issue No. 14, April, May June, p 13.
- Arts Nexus*, 2003, Preview, "Animal Matters", April- June, p. 10.
- Art Nexus*, 2001, "Connect: collaborative exhibition by five female artists of FNQ", October – December.
- Maynard, M, 2001, *Connect Catalogue*, "Empathetic Art – Its Poetic Possibilities".
- Mulley K, 2000, "Take 4", *Umbrella Studio Newsletter*, p.2.
- "Artists of Far North Queensland: Barbara Dover", 1999, *The Cairns Post*, November 26, p36.

### Writings

- All that Remains*, Jill Chism, *Remnants*, catalogue essay, NorthSite Contemporary Arts, Cairns 2024
- The Cry of Beauty: Ethics and Aesthetics in a Contemporary Art Context*, co-authored with Dr Robyn Glade-Wright, *The International Journal of Arts Theory and History*, Volume 11, Issue 1, Common Ground Publishing LLC, 2015.
- An Unbearable Beauty: The Call of Beauty and the Sublime*, co-authored with Dr Robyn Glade-Wright, *Studio Research*, Issue #3, April 2015, pp. 52-60
- Unspoken*, catalogue essay, Rose Rigley, *Letters to a Father*, Cairns Regional Gallery, Oct 2014
- Germinating, wilting, growing - Claudine Marzik and Tijn Meulendijks*, catalogue essay, 2010
- Eye to Eye, catalogue essay, Dubbo Regional Gallery, Sept. 2007
- Yvette Watt, catalogue essay, Criterion Gallery, Hobart, July 2007
- Anna Holan, *About Anna*, catalogue essay, Jan – Feb 2004
- Art Nexus*, 2003, Review, Prue Crome: Metaphysical Musings, April- June, p. 24
- Animal Liberation Magazine*, "Animals for Art's Sake: Art for Animal's Sake", Oct, 1985, p14-16

**Curatorial**

- 2010 *Tablelands: Perimeters and Parameters*, Tablelands Regional Gallery, Atherton
- 2009 *Queensland Dragon: Chinese in the North*, Chinese touring exhibition, Cooktown, Croydon, Atherton, Innisfail, Cairns
- 2007 *Eye to Eye*, Dubbo Regional Gallery, Dubbo
- 2004 *Not Just Paint*, Cairns Central, Cairns

## Extended bio

### **Barbara Dover**

Barbara Dover's work grapples with the representation of the experiences, sensitivities and understandings of animals. In doing so, Dover is among a growing number of contemporary artists who are seriously interrogating and discarding the established hierarchies in the portrayal of animals in visual art. The challenge arises for Dover in confronting, as Schlosser (2012) remarks, "... the dilemma of understanding animal minds through the vehicle of the body"<sup>1</sup>. Dover's work touches upon our ethical and moral responsibility towards animals where animals' lives and needs are important. Questions and conundrums are raised about the moral and physical boundaries of our relationship with animals. She is concerned with visualising animal-human encounters within the consideration of the sentience of animals and the rich complexity of their lives.

Drawing from her continuing and predominant interest in our attitudes to and treatment of non-human animals, Dover probes the familiarities, experiences and intricacies of relations between humans and animals. Looking both in the past and present, at the variety of perspectives and complex ways in which we interact with animals, leads to the questions: what, essentially, is an animal and what, in fact, is a human? These questions carry us into areas, as philosopher Mary Midgley states, of "moral and emotional meaning which are both vast and, by their nature, threatening, so they are hard to explore". The relationship of humans and animals is a paradoxical and vexed one. We have made gods of animals, yet we destroy them. We make pets of some animals and food from others. We look to animals in both science and art; animals are the source of both knowledge and poetry; and animals inhabit our physical world and our imaginative world. Our connection with them has indelibly formed our thought and language about ourselves and our environment.

In these investigations, she works across various media and forms including photography, installation, assemblage, video and drawing while connecting with the knowledge of other fields including philosophy and ethology among others. Dover is among an increasing number of contemporary artists who are seriously interrogating and discarding the established hierarchies in the portrayal of animals in visual art and demonstrating contemporary art's important contribution to current questioning of the moral, ethical and physical boundaries of our relationship with animals within the emerging cross-disciplinary area of animal studies.

Born in Bendigo, Victoria, Dover lived and worked in Melbourne before moving to Cairns. While continuing her art practice, she has taught visual arts at TAFE in Cairns.

Dover gained a Graduate Diploma in Arts and Education from Deakin University and a Master of Creative Arts and PhD from James Cook University. Her earlier qualifications include secondary art teacher training and Diploma of Art and Design (Drawing). Dover exhibits regularly in group exhibitions and collaborations including the touring exhibition, *Disquiet: Ecological Anxieties and Transformations* in 2020-2021, *Call of the Running Tide*, a sculpture event in Port Douglas in 2019, and her solo exhibitions include *Face to Face*, KickArts Contemporary Arts Gallery, Cairns and *Interrogating Gaze*, Pinnacles Gallery, Thuringowa, both in 2007; *Animal Matters II* at SoapBox Gallery, Brisbane, 2005; and *Animal Matters*, Cairns Regional Gallery in 2003.

<sup>1</sup> Schlosser, J. (2012) *Tangible Affiliations: Photographic Representations of Touch Between Human and Animal Companions* in Experiencing Animals Minds: An Anthology of Animal-Human Encounters, Smith J.A. & Mitchell R.W. (ed) 2012, pp 43-44, Columbia University Press, New York.