

Jennie Pry – Art CV

Jennie has recently returned to creative work after far too many years of avoiding her own potential. As Pablo Picasso said "Every child is an artist. The problem is how to remain an artist once he grows up."

In between careers in the health and community sectors, Jennie went back to Art College (C.O.F.A) in the late 1980s to major in photography. While the experience was invaluable, she thinks she may have missed the point of art being one of the most authentic forms of human expression to help us to explore life's truths and process our experiences. It may explain why she went back to community work and became a parent in the years that followed her formal art training. Jennie thinks she may be finally getting 'the point' and has recently returned to creative practice focusing on drawing, painting and photography. She works out of small studio at the Lennox Street Studios in Newtown and has been rekindling her painting, drawing and photo-media skills at the Sydney Gallery School (TAFE). In March 2008, Jennie started studying with Charlie Sheard at his Studio School for Historical Oil Painting.

Artist Statement

Since my return to painting and drawing in 2004, I have experimented with still life and the theatre of objects, portraiture and narrative work. I have pushed myself in new directions and enjoyed seeing my work change and come back to teach me something new. Most significantly, I have rediscovered my passion for drawing and have embarked on an ink wash and charcoal journey filled with vintage bathing suits, personal possessions and stories (real or imagined) of the women who filled them. Memory, nostalgia and the transitional phases of womanhood are themes that appear to be drifting through my current work.

Exhibitions and Awards

- Finalist. Kedumba Drawing Award and Exhibition. October 2008.
- Finalist. Waverly Art Prize & Exhibition. July 2008.
- Winner. Nora Heyson memorial award Hunters Hill Art Prize Exhibition, May 2008
- Finalist. Adelaide Perry Prize for Drawing: March 2008
- Finalist. (*Highly Commended*) Sydney, City of Villages Art Exhibition 2007. City of Sydney & JC Decaux
- Winner. Newtown Community Art Prize. 2007
- Finalist. Hunters Hill Annual Art Prize Exhibition 2006 & 2007
- Lennox Street Studios Annual Exhibition, Newtown. 2005, 2006 & 2007
- Group show 'Surface Tension'. Sydney Gallery School, 3rd yr painting. May Street Gallery, St.Peters. Nov 2007
- Group show 'Figures of Eight'. Global Gallery. 30th August – 10th September 2006.
- Finalist. Inaugural Olive Cotton Award for Photographic Portraiture. The Tweed River Art Gallery, Murwillumbah November 2005.
- *The State of Women's Health Down Under*. Contributing photographer. Exhibition at the Women's Health Nurse Conference, 1992.
- *Reaching Forward , Looking Back*. Portraits of women in a multicultural society. Photographic survey. Exhibited NSW Ethnic Health Conference, 1991. Purchased by the Southern Sydney Area Health Service.
- Kodak Award for Excellence, November 1991 for Graduating Students Exhibition, COFA 1991
- *How did I ever find time to work?* Portraits of healthy older people in St George. Commissioned by the Southern Sydney Area Health Service. Community Exhibition. 1991.
- Second prize, Waverly Municipal Arts Photographic Competition, 1988. For *Bronte Barnacles* series.

Education and Training

- Oil Painting. Technique & Historical Principles The Charlie Sheard Studio School 2008 – in progress
- Advanced Diploma Fine Arts Painting & Drawing Sydney Gallery School Meadowbank TAFE
In progress 2006 -
- Master of Public Health (Hons) University of Sydney 1998 - 2003
- Bachelor of Fine Arts (Photography major) University of NSW, COFA 1988 -1991
- Assoc. Diploma Rehabilitation Counselling University of Sydney, 1985 & 1986
- General Nursing Certificate NSW Nurses Registration Board, 1983