



**Diploma Lecture Series 2011
Art and Australia II: European Preludes and Parallels**

20th century Australian portraiture

Sarah Engledow

17 / 18 August

Lecture summary:

A great variety of art works and objects can be - and often have been - characterised as portraits by artists and curators, in response to their own particular needs and interests. Focusing, in this lecture, on conventional painted and sculpted portraits by non-Indigenous artists, Sarah Engledow will begin a discussion of twentieth-century Australian portraits with the glamorous London-inspired portraits of artists of the pre-war expatriate set, Hugh Ramsay and Rupert Bunny; the prolonged death by portraiture of George Lambert; and the effect of a particular portrait on Thea Proctor, herself a lifelong professional in the genre. The decades around the Second World War are represented in works by Nora Heysen and Barbara Tribe; the small body of anxious, penetrating portraits by Arthur Boyd; and the tonal realist Max Meldrum and works by his students Percy Leason and William Dargie. A distinctively Australian style is introduced in the work of William Dobell and Russell Drysdale, with Joshua Smith and Eric Wilson furnishing some fascinating anomalies. European post-war immigrant artists such as Reinis Zusters detonate an explosion of colour; Judy Cassab, Clifton Pugh and Eric Smith add all-over decorative pattern and abstract elements. In his hard-edged, austere portraits, John Brack confines riotous pattern to the carpet; his sitter, Fred Williams, paints his academic and artist friends in corduroy and mohair against monochrome backgrounds. In the last decade of the century, the sombrely traditional, dignified works of Rick Amor stand as complement and contrast to the scratchy self-representational gestures of Mike Parr and Jenny Watson. As the millennium comes and goes, a helter-skelter dash through a hundred years of Australian portraiture ends in the quiet, contemplative space evoked by works of Jude Rae and Ah Xian.

Slide list:

Please note titles are listed first, then artist

1. Title page

2. **Portrait of Iris Clert** 1961, Robert Rauschenberg

3. **I lived at Berowra (Berowra)** 1941, Margaret Preston, oil on canvas, 56.5 x 56.4 x 8 cm (frame). Art Gallery of New South Wales. Purchased 1941

4. **Henry Lawson** 1900, John Longstaff (1862–1941), 110 x 89.7 x 6.5 cm (frame). Art Gallery of New South Wales. Purchased 1901

5. **Henry Lawson** 1919, Lionel Lindsay (1874-1961), pencil, charcoal, pen and ink on paper, 35 x 24.4 cm. National Portrait Gallery, Canberra. Purchased 2010

6. **Opening of the First Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia, H.R.H. The Duke of Cornwall and York, May 9, 1901** 1901-1903, Tom Roberts (1856 - 1931), oil on canvas, 304.5 x 509.2 cm. On permanent loan to the Parliament of Australia from the British Royal Collection, Parliament House Art Collection, Department of Parliamentary Services, Canberra ACT

7. **Portrait of Ambrose Patterson** 1901-02, Hugh Ramsay (1877-1906), oil on canvas, 51 x 86 cm. National Portrait Gallery, Canberra. Gift of the estate of John Oswald Wicking 2003

7. **A student of the Latin Quarter** 1901, Hugh Ramsay (1877-1906), oil on canvas on board, 111.6 x 96.6 cm. National Gallery of Victoria, Gift of Miss ED Ramsay 1943

8. **Hugh Ramsay** (circa 1902), George Lambert (1873-1930), oil on canvas, 54.6 x 46.4 x 6.3 cm (frame). Art Gallery of New South Wales. Gift of the Lambert Memorial Fund 1931

9. **Hugh Ramsay in London [Portrait of Hugh Ramsay in London]** January 1901, George Lambert (1873-1930), brush and ink, grey wash, with opaque white highlights, 25.9 x 32.6 cm (sheet). National Gallery of Australia, Canberra. Purchased 1959

* 10. **Self-portrait (full length in front of easel)** 1901-02, Hugh Ramsay (1877-1906), oil on canvas, 102 x 63 cm. National Portrait Gallery, Canberra. Gift of the estate of John Oswald Wicking 2003

- 11. Madame Melba** (c. 1902), Rupert Bunny, oil on canvas, 245.5 x 153 cm. National Gallery of Victoria. Purchased through The Art Foundation of Victoria with the assistance of Dinah and Henry Krongold CBE, Founder Benefactors, 1980
- 12. Portrait of the artist's wife** (c. 1902), Rupert Bunny, oil on canvas, 81.5 x 65.7 cm. National Gallery of Victoria. Felton Bequest 1946
- 13. The sisters (Two girls in white)** 1904, Hugh Ramsay (1877-1906), oil on canvas on hardboard, 156 x 176.5 x 10.5 cm (frame). Art Gallery of New South Wales. Purchased 1921
- 14. Ena and Betty Wertheimer** 1901, John Singer Sargent (1856-1925), oil on canvas, 185.4 x 130.8 cm, Tate Gallery, London. Presented the widow and family of Asher Wertheimer in accordance with his wishes 1922
- 15. Miss Nellie Patterson** 1903, Hugh Ramsay (1877-1906), oil on canvas, 122.3 x 92.2 cm. National Gallery of Australia, purchased 1966
- 16. Miss Helen Beauclerk** 1914, George Lambert (1873-1930), oil on canvas, 76.5 x 61 cm. Art Gallery of New South Wales. Purchased 1921
- 17. Chesham Street** 1910, George Lambert (1873-1930), oil on canvas, 62 x 51.5 cm. National Gallery of Australia. Purchased 1993
- 17. The official artist** 1921, George W. Lambert (1873-1930), oil on canvas, 91.7 x 71.5 cm. National Gallery of Victoria. Felton Bequest 1921
- 18. Self-portrait with gladioli** 1922, George Lambert (1873-1930), oil on canvas, 159 x 132.5 cm. National Portrait Gallery, Canberra. Gift of John Schaeffer AO 2003. Donated through the Australian Government's Cultural gifts Program
- 19. Henry Lawson Memorial** 1927-1931, George Lambert (1879-1930), bronze, New South Wales Government, the Domain, Sydney
- 20. Miss Thea Proctor** 1903, George Lambert (1879-1930), oil on canvas, 91.5 x 71 cm. Art Gallery of New South Wales. Purchased under the terms of the Florence Turner Blake Bequest 1961
- 21. Portrait of Thea Proctor** 1905, George Lambert (1873-1930), charcoal on paper, 36 x 25.7 cm (sheet). Art Gallery of New South Wales. Gift of Thea Waddell 2005
- 22. Woman in White** c. 1942, Thea Proctor (1879-1966), watercolour and pencil on paper, 42.2 x 30.2 cm. Private collection
- 23. The white glove** 1921, George Lambert (1873-1930), oil on canvas, 106 x 78 cm. Art Gallery of New South Wales. Purchased 1922
- 23. Miss Collins** 1924, WB McInnes (1889–1939), 91.4 x 73.6 cm. Art Gallery of South Australia. Morgan Thomas Bequest Fund 1930
- 24. Portrait of Gertrude Sanford** 1922, William Orpen (1878-1931), oil on canvas, 91.5 x 76.2 cm. Private collection
- 25. Mrs EP Reed** 1917, George Lambert (1879-1930), oil on canvas, 76.6 x 64.5 cm. National Gallery of Victoria. Gift of Mrs EP Reed 1951
- 26. Hera** 1924, George Lambert (1879-1930), oil on canvas, frame 148.2 x 122.2 cm (frame). National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne. Purchased through the Felton Bequest, 1925
- 27. Meditation** 1928, Thea Proctor (1879-1966), pencil on wove paper on cardboard, 50.6 x 67.2 cm. Queensland Art Gallery. Gift of Miss Maria Therese Treweeke 1938
- 28. Sheila Graham** 1924, Thea Proctor (1879-1966), pencil on paper, 13.3 x 11.3 cm. Private collection
- 29. Mrs Annie Murdoch** 1927, George Lambert (1873-1930), oil on canvas, 59.6 x 49.5 cm. The Murdoch Collection
- 30. Mary Gilmore** 1934, Rayner Hoff (1894–1937), bronze, 48.5 x 22.6 x 25 cm overall. Gift of Dame Mary Gilmore, DH Souter and the artist 1936
- 31. Self-portrait in plus fours** c.1939, Lyndon Dadswell (1908-1996), bronze, 89 x 33 x 25 cm. National Portrait Gallery, Canberra, purchased 2004
- 32. Stanley Bruce** 1937, Barbara Tribe (1913-2000), bronze, 36 x 19.4 x 23.5 cm. National Portrait Gallery, Canberra. Gift of the artist 2000
- 33. Field Marshal the Lord Birdwood** 1938, Barbara Tribe (1913-2000), patinated plaster, 57.5 x 46 x 28 cm. National Portrait Gallery, Canberra. Gift of the Estate of the late Barbara Tribe 2009
- 33. Frank McIlwraith** 1937, Barbara Tribe (1913-2000), bronze, 46 x 31.5 x 23.5 cm. National Portrait Gallery, Canberra. Gift of the Estate of the late Barbara Tribe
- 34. Wing Commander Charles Martin** 1943, Barbara Tribe (1913-2000), plaster, cast in bronze by John Galizia and Sons 1968, 40.5 x 52.5 x 38.5 cm. Australian War Memorial, Canberra
- 35. Self portrait** 1934, Nora Heysen (1911-2003), oil on canvas, 60.8 x 53.5 cm. National Portrait Gallery, Canberra. Purchased 1999
- 36. AAMWS (Private Gwynneth Patterson)** 1944, Nora Heysen, oil on canvas, 56.2 x 41 cm (frame). Australian War Memorial
- 36. The needle sharpener (Private Rosalin Dallas)** 1944, Nora Heysen, oil on canvas on wood panel, 58.4 cm x 63.5 cm x 7 cm (frame). Australian War Memorial
- 36. Theatre Sister Margaret Sullivan** 1944, Nora Heysen, oil on canvas, 114.4 x 89.4 cm (frame). Australian War Memorial
- 37. Transport driver (Aircraftwoman Florence Miles)** 1945, Nora Heysen, oil on canvas, 66.6 x 81.8 cm. Australian War Memorial, Canberra

- 38. The billy boy 1943, William Dobell** (1899–1970), oil on cardboard on hardboard, 70.2 x 53.4 cm. Australian War Memorial, Canberra
- 39. William Dobell** 1960, William Pidgeon, oil on canvas on hardboard, 127.7 x 101.4 cm (frame). Art Gallery of New South Wales. Charles Lloyd Jones Bequest Fund 1966
- 40. Portrait group** 1942, Joshua Smith (1905– 1995), oil on canvas, 109.2 x 88.9 cm. Art Gallery of New South Wales. Marshall Bequest Fund 1943
- 40. Florence Broadhurst** 1968, Joshua Smith (1905-1995), oil on canvas, 89.5 x 70.2 cm. National Portrait Gallery, Canberra. Purchased 2007
- 41. The artist's mother** 1937, Eric Wilson (1911-1946), oil on canvas, 95 h x 71.6 w cm. National Gallery of Australia. Purchased 1975
- * **42. Sir Hudson Fysh KBE DFC** 1950, William Dobell (1899-1970), oil on hardboard, 133.5 x 113 cm (frame). National Portrait Gallery, Canberra. Gift of the Australian War Memorial, in association with the Fysh family 2008
- 43. Sir Charles Lloyd Jones** 1951, William Dobell (1899-1970), oil on composition board, 134 x 114.5 cm. National Portrait Gallery, Canberra. Gift of the Simpson family, in memory of Caroline Simpson OAM 2008 . Donated through the Australian Government's Cultural gifts Program
- 44. The mask of Barry Humphries** c 1972, William Dargie (1912-2003), oil on composition board, 64.5 x 53.2 cm (frame). National Portrait Gallery, Canberra. Gift of Marlene McCarthy 2006. Donated through the Australian Government's Cultural gifts Program
- 44. Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II** 1954, William Dargie (1912-2003), oil on canvas. National Museum of Australia. Purchased 2009
- 45. Portrait of Albert Namatjira** 1956, William Dargie (1912-2003), oil on canvas, 102.1 x 76.4 cm, Queensland Art Gallery. Purchased 1957
- 45. Essington Lewis** 1952, William Dargie (1912-2003), oil on canvas. National Portrait Gallery, Canberra, gift of BHP Billiton 2003. Donated through the Australian Government's Cultural gifts Program
- 46. Self portrait** 1949, Max Meldrum (1875-1955), oil on hardboard, 105.4 x 87.5 cm. Art Gallery of New South Wales, purchased 1977
- 47. Mrs Clara Hunt** 1934, Percy Leason (1889-1959), oil on canvas, 76.1 x 61 cm, La Trobe Picture Collection, State Library of Victoria, gift of Mrs Isabella Leason 1969
- 47. Clive Hood** 1934, Percy Leason (1889-1959), oil on canvas, 76.7 x 61.6 cm, private collection
- 48. The drover's wife** c.1945, Russell Drysdale (1912-1981), oil on canvas, 51.5 h x 61.5 w cm. National Gallery of Australia. Gift of American Friends of the National Gallery of Australia, Inc., New York, NY, USA, made possible with the generous support of Mr and Mrs Benno Schmidt of New York and Esperance, Western Australia, 1987
- 49. Margaret Olley** 1948, Russell Drysdale (1912-1981), oil on canvas, 61.6 h x 51.2 w cm. National Gallery of Australia. Gift of American Friends of the National Gallery of Australia, Inc., New York, NY, USA, made possible with the generous support of Mr and Mrs Benno Schmidt of New York and Esperance, Western Australia, 1987
- 50. Picture of Donald Friend (Portrait of Donald Friend)** (1948), Russell Drysdale, oil on hardboard, 140.3 x 110.3 x 6 cm (frame). Art Gallery of New South Wales. Purchased 1949
- 51. Self portrait** 1945-1946, Arthur Boyd, oil on canvas, 71.5 x 61.5 cm. Private collection, Melbourne. On long-term loan to the National Portrait Gallery
- 52. Betty Burstall** 1945, Arthur Boyd (1920-1999), oil on canvas, 80 x 64 cm. National Portrait Gallery, Canberra. Purchased 1998
- 52. Polly Boyd** 1949-1950, Arthur Boyd (1920-1999), oil on canvas, 87 x 79 cm, Bundanon Trust
- 53. Terry Clune** 1960, Reinis Zusters, oil on masonite, 109 x 89.5 cm. National Portrait Gallery. Gift of Doreen and Ted Euers 2011
- 54. Portrait of Georges Mora** 1956, Charles Blackman, oil on paper on board. National Portrait Gallery, Canberra. Purchased 2011
- 55. Mervyn Horton** 1964, Judy Cassab, synthetic polymer and oil on canvas, 90 x 69.7cm. National Portrait Gallery, Canberra, gift of the artist 2003. Donated through the Australian Government's Cultural gifts Program
- 55. Stanislaus Rapotec** 1960, Judy Cassab, oil on hardboard, 169.3 x 108 x 4 cm frame. Art Gallery of New South Wales, purchased 1961
- 56. Portrait of Margo Lewers** 1967, Judy Cassab (b. 1920), oil on canvas, 111 x 111 x 4 cm (frame). Art Gallery of New South Wales, purchased 1968
- 56. Marea Gazzard** 1966, Judy Cassab (b. 1920), oil on canvas, 144.5 x 109 cm (frame). National Portrait Gallery, Canberra. Gift of Marea Gazzard 2005. Donated through the Australian Government's Cultural gifts Program
- 57. Barry Humphries** 1958, Clifton Pugh, self portrait, Clifton Pugh
- 58. Self portrait** 1954, Clifton Pugh (1924-1990), oil on masonite, dimensions unknown. Private collection
- 59. Tom Sanders** 1957, Clifton Pugh (1924-1990), oil on composition board, 122.4 x 92.8 cm. National Gallery of Victoria. Purchased from funds provided the Estate of Mrs Irma Friedlander 1988
- * **60. Kate Hattam** 1956, Clifton Pugh (1924-1990), oil on board, 135.5 x 107 cm. National Portrait Gallery, Canberra. Purchased 2006
- 60. The Rt Hon Harold Holt** 1967, Clifton Pugh (1924-1990), dimensions unknown. Collection of Rig Cooke Lawyers

- 61. Peter Sculthorpe** 1982, Eric Smith (b. 1919), oil on canvas, 150 x 215 cm. National Portrait Gallery, Canberra. Purchased with funds from the Basil Bressler Bequest 2004
- 62. Portrait of Brian Dunlop** c 1972, Bryan Westwood (1930-2000), oil on canvas laid on cardboard, 90.3 x 74.7 cm. National Portrait Gallery, Canberra. Gift of Dr Joseph Brown AO OBE 2006. Donated through the Australian Government's Cultural gifts Program
- 63. Professor Manning Clark, at Wapengo NSW** 1972, Arthur Boyd (1920-1999), oil on canvas, 101.5 x 92.5 cm (frame). Collection of the Clark family
- 64. Sketch portrait of David Aspden** 1976, Fred Williams, oil on canvas, 109.5 x 94.7 cm (frame). National Portrait Gallery, Canberra. Gift of Lyn Williams AM 2011. Donated through the Australian Government's Cultural gifts Program
- 64. Stephen Murray-Smith** 1975, Fred Williams, oil on canvas, 94 x 78.5 cm (frame). National Portrait Gallery, Canberra. Gift of Lyn Williams AM 2011. Donated through the Australian Government's Cultural gifts Program
- 65. Self-portrait at easel** 1960-1, Fred Williams (1927-1982), oil on composition board, 100.8 x 72.6 cm. National Portrait Gallery, Canberra. Gift of Lyn Williams 1998. Donated through the Australian Government's Cultural gifts Program
- 65. Murray Bail** 1980-81, Fred Williams (1927-1982), oil on canvas, 182 x 121.8 cm. National Portrait Gallery, Canberra. Gift of an anonymous donor 1999. Donated through the Australian Government's Cultural gifts Program
- 66. Portrait of Fred Williams** 1979-1980, John Brack (1920-1999), oil on canvas, 142 x 163 cm. Art Gallery of New South Wales
- 67. Joan Croll** 1976, John Brack (1920-1999), oil on canvas, 165.5 x 119.5 cm. National Portrait Gallery, Canberra, gift of Frank and Joan Croll 2001. Donated through the Australian Government's Cultural gifts Program
- 68. Double portrait of Sir Garfield Barwick and Professor AG Mitchell** 1977-1978, John Brack (1920-1999), oil on canvas, 150 x 180 cm. Macquarie University, Sydney
- 69. Self-portrait** 1955, John Brack (1920-1999), oil on canvas, 81.5 x 48.3 cm. National Gallery of Victoria, purchased with the assistance of the National Gallery Women's Association
- 70. Self portrait** 1974, Rick Amor (b. 1948), oil on canvas, 41 x 51 cm. Private collection
- 70. Portrait of the art dealer Joseph Brown** 1972, Rick Amor (b. 1948), oil on canvas, 145.2 x 107 cm. Private collection
71. Self portrait with a postcard, of a Greco Roman bust 2003, Rick Amor (b. 1948), oil on canvas, 97 x 130 cm. Collection of the University of Queensland, purchased 2005
- 72. Australian artist of the future picking up glasses at the Crystal Ballroom** 1987, Jenny Watson (b. 1951), oil, gouache, acrylic, silk cut-outs on duck, 152.5 x 152.5 cm. Private collection
- 73. Three works from the series Untitled** 1990, Mike Parr (b. 1945), etchings, 107.5 x 78 cm. National Portrait Gallery, Canberra. Gift of Sara Kelly 2010. Donated through the Australian Government's Cultural gifts Program
- 74. Bronze liars (minus 1 to minus 16)** 1996, Mike Parr (b. 1945), 16 bronze and beeswax sculptures, dimensions variable. Art Gallery of New South Wales, purchased 1996
- 75. Peter Doherty** 2002, Rick Amor (b. 1948), oil on linen, 92.4 x 77.8 cm. National Portrait Gallery, Canberra. Commissioned with funds provided Marilyn Darling 2002
- 75. Gary Catalano** 1994, Rick Amor (b. 1948), oil on canvas, 46 x 46 cm. Private collection
- 76. Dorothy Porter** 2001-2002, Rick Amor (b. 1948), oil on canvas, 39.5 x 34.5 cm. National Portrait Gallery, Canberra. Gift of Andrea Goldsmith 2011. Donated through the Australian Government's Cultural gifts Program
- * **76. Paul Boston** 1995, Rick Amor (b. 1948), 96.5 x 56 cm. Private collection
- 77. Large interior** 173 – Micky Allan/Nada 2005, Jude Rae (b. 1956), oil on linen, 180 x 120 cm. Collection of The Northern Club, Auckland, New Zealand
- 78. Interior (Derek)** 2005, Jude Rae (b. 1956), oil on linen, 38 x 41 cm. Private collection
- 78. Large interior 175 – Richard** 2005, Jude Rae (b. 1956), oil on linen, 180 x 120 cm. Private collection
- 79. Frank Fenner** 2007, Jude Rae (b. 1956), oil on canvas, 106.7 x 101 cm. National Portrait Gallery, Canberra. Commissioned with funds provided Mr Anthony Adair and Ms Karen MacLeod
- 80. John Yu** 2003-4, Ah Xian (b. 1960), glazed ceramic, 42 x 42 x 31 cm. National Portrait Gallery, Canberra. Commissioned with funds provided Marilyn Darling 2004



Self-portrait (full length in front of easel) 1901-02, Hugh Ramsay (1877-1906), oil on canvas, 102 x 63 cm. National Portrait Gallery, Canberra. Gift of the estate of John Oswald Wicking 2003



Sir Hudson Fysh KBE DFC 1950, William Dobell (1899-1970), oil on hardboard, 133.5 x 113 cm (frame). National Portrait Gallery, Canberra. Gift of the Australian War Memorial, in association with the Fysh family 2008



Kate Hattam 1956, Clifton Pugh (1924-1990), oil on board, 135.5 x 107 cm. National Portrait Gallery, Canberra. Purchased 2006



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