

MIKALA DWYER

Biography

Mikala Dwyer was born in Sydney in 1959 and studied sculpture and sound art at Sydney College of the Arts from 1981 to 1983. In 1984 she travelled to London, where she lived for almost three years, undertaking study at Middlesex Polytechnic from 1985 to 1986. In 2000 she completed a Master of Fine Arts at the College of Fine Art, University of New South Wales. Twice recipient of an Australia Council development grant, she has also been artist-in-residence at 200 Gertrude Street, Melbourne (1990-91), Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane (1995), Dunedin Public Art Gallery, New Zealand (1995), Tasmanian School of Art, Hobart (1998), and Chapter Arts Centre, Cardiff (2000). Dwyer has worked at two artist-run spaces: as co-director of First Draft in 1988-89 and director of BLACK Gallery in 1992-93, and curated two exhibitions of work by her contemporaries: *Road to Love* at Sarah Cottier Gallery (1996) and *Soft Panic* at 200 Gertrude St (2000). Since 1992, Dwyer has regularly lectured at art schools in Sydney, Canberra and Hobart. She currently lives in Sydney.

Solo Exhibitions

- 2005** *Superstitious Scaffolding*, Hamish McKay Gallery, Wellington
- 2004** *Some More Recent Old Work*, Darren Knight Gallery, Sydney
Flowers, Flies and someone else, Anna Schwartz Gallery, Melbourne
- 2002** Uplands Gallery, Melbourne
Art Lifts, National Gallery of Australia, Canberra
Sarah Cottier Gallery, Sydney
Hamish McKay Gallery, Wellington
Mikala Dwyer: An Australian artist's project, City Gallery Wellington
- 2001** Sarah Cottier Gallery, Sydney
Hamish McKay Gallery, Wellington, New Zealand
- 2000** *Indefinitely Maybe, I Care Because You Do, The Loozer Plant, Sweetpotatosexpet Antenna, Hanging Eyes, I. O. U. (a title), My Home is Your Home, Floating Old Man, Selfshelf*, Chapter Arts Centre, Cardiff
Iffytown, Hamish McKay Gallery, Wellington
- 1999** *Uniform*, Sarah Cottier Gallery, Sydney
- 1998** *I.O.U.*, CBD Gallery, Sydney
Addons (Clothing Plan) (Closing Plan), Hamish McKay Gallery, Wellington
Untitled, someone else's studio, Fortitude Valley, Brisbane
- 1996** *Recent Old Work*, Sarah Cottier Gallery, Sydney
New Work, Hamish McKay Gallery, Wellington
Tubeweight, C.B.D. Gallery, Sydney
Mikala Dwyer, Sarah Cottier Gallery, Art 27 '96, Basel
- 1995** *Hollowware & A Few Solids*, Sarah Cottier Gallery, Sydney; Australian Centre of Contemporary Art, Melbourne
Sad Songs, Artspace, Sydney
Voodoo Lambchop, Teststrip, Auckland

Solo Exhibitions – continued

- 1995** *Vincent (Aries)*, Dunedin Public Art Gallery, Dunedin
- 1994** *Whoops*, Sarah Cottier Gallery, Sydney
Jean's OK, Room 32, Regent's Court Hotel, Sydney
CBD Gallery, Sydney (collaboration with Gail Hastings)
- 1993** *Henle's Loop*, Institute of Modern Art, Brisbane
- 1992** *Untitled installation*, BLACK, Sydney.
- 1991** *Untitled installation*, First Draft West, Sydney
Untitled installation, 200 Gertrude Street, Melbourne
- 1990** *Untitled installation*, First Draft West, Sydney
Wall to wall: ceiling to floor, 200 Gertrude Street, Melbourne
- 1989** *Ringing*, First Draft, Sydney
- 1987** *Untitled installation*, 1 x 12 one-day exhibitions, First Draft, Sydney
- 1986** *Becalmed*, City Artists Gallery, London
- 1985** *Poor Bare Forked Animal*, Chelsea School of Art, London; Avago, Sydney
- 1983** *Drumheart*, performance, ANZART, Old Mail Exchange, Hobart
- 1982** *In the Manger*, Chapel of Love, Sydney

Selected Group Exhibitions

- 2005** *Salvage*, Clubs Projects Inc., Fitzroy
- 2004** *Unpacked II*, Bendigo Art Gallery
Three-way Abstraction: Works from the Monash University Collection, Monash University Museum of Art, Melbourne
- 2003** *Face Up: Contemporary Art from Australia*, Nationalgalerie im Hamburger Bahnhof, Berlin, Germany, curator: Dr. Britta Schmitz
Unpacked II, The Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney
This was the Future... Australian Sculpture of the 1950s, 60s, 70s + Today, Heide Museum of Modern Art, Melbourne
The Shangri-La Collective, Artspace, Sydney
Armoury Show 2003, Sarah Cottier Gallery, New York
Still Life, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
Afterlife, Sarah Cottier Gallery, Sydney
- 2002** *Fieldwork: Australian Art 1968-2002*, The Ian Potter Centre, NGV Australia, Melbourne
Helen Lempriere National Sculpture Award, Werribee Park, Melbourne
- 2001** *Artful Park*, Centennial park, Sydney
Good Work: The Jim Barr and Mary Barr Collection, Dunedin Public Art Gallery, Dunedin; City Gallery, Wellington
Necessary Invention, Artspace, Sydney
Objection, The Physics Room, Christchurch

Selected Group Exhibitions – continued

- 2000** *Verso Sud*, Palazzo Doria Pamphilj, Valmonte, Italy
Sarah Cottier Gallery, ARCO art fair, Madrid
Sarah Cottier Gallery, Art 31 Basel
plastika, Govett-Brewster Art Gallery, New Plymouth
Bonheurs des Antipodes, Musée de Picardie, Amiens
- 1999** *Contempora5*, The Ian Potter Museum of Art, The University of Melbourne
Brainland – The Believers: Mana Cruz, Mikala Dwyer, Anne Ooms, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
Sarah Cottier Gallery, Art 30 Basel
The Organic and the Artificial: reinventing modernist design, Plimsoll Gallery, Centre for the Arts, Hobart, touring exhibition
9 Lives, Casula Powerhouse, Sydney
Avant-gardism for children, University of Queensland, Brisbane; Monash University Gallery, Melbourne
Home and away: Contemporary Australian and New Zealand art from the Chartwell Collection, Auckland Art Gallery; Govett-Brewster Art Gallery, New Plymouth; Manawatu Art Gallery, Palmerston North; City Gallery, Wellington; Dunedin Public Art Gallery
Nostalgia for the Future, Artspace, Auckland
- 1998** *Opening exhibition*, Sarah Cottier Gallery, Sydney
Body Suits, Perth Institute of Contemporary Art, Perth
The Infinite Space: Women, minimalism and the sculptural object, The Ian Potter Museum of Art, The University of Melbourne
Close Quarters: Contemporary art from Australia and New Zealand, Monash University Gallery and Australian Centre for Contemporary Art, Melbourne; Institute of Modern Art, Brisbane; Canberra School of Arts Gallery, Canberra; Govett-Brewster Art Gallery, New Plymouth; Auckland Art Gallery, Auckland
Verve: An exhibition of visual poetry & poetic visuals, S. H. Ervin Gallery, Sydney
beauty 2000, Institute of Modern Art, Brisbane
Sarah Cottier Gallery, Art 29 '98, Basel
- 1997** *The Believers: Mana Cruz, Mikala Dwyer, Anne Oorns*, CBD Gallery, Sydney
The Believers: Mana Cruz, Mikala Dwyer, Anne Ooms, Artspace, Auckland
Objects and ideas: revisiting minimalism, Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney
Sarah Cottier Gallery, Art 28 '97, Basel
- 1996** *Nostalgic*, Monash University Gallery, Melbourne
Aerphost: an exhibition of contemporary Australian art, The Debtors' Prison, Dublin
Raindrops on Roses, Sarah Cottier Gallery, Sydney
The Chartwell Collection: A Selection, Auckland Art Gallery, Auckland
- 1995** *OrientATION*, 4th International Istanbul Biennale, Istanbul
A Night at the Show, Field, Zurich
De Huid van der Witte Dame (The White Lady's Skin), De Witte Dame, Eindhoven
Monash University Art Prize, Monash University Gallery, Melbourne
Sarah Cottier Gallery, San Francisco Art Fair 95

Selected Group Exhibitions – continued

- 1995** *Please nota bene the other rules on the following page*, David Pestorius Gallery, Brisbane
Octette, Eva Breuer Gallery, Sydney
Sarah Cottier Gallery, Art 26 '95, Basel
- 1994** *Paperwork*, Sarah Cottier Gallery, Sydney
True Stories, Artspace, Sydney
The Aberrant Object: Women, Dada and Surrealism, Heide Museum of Modern Art, Melbourne
Aussemblage! Everyday Objects Transformed, Auckland City Gallery, Auckland
White, Sarah Cottier Gallery, Sydney
Familiarity? Re-examining Australian Suburbia, Plimsoll Gallery, Hobart
- 1993** *Family Portrait (with Stephanie Dwyer)*, Software project series, Selenium, Sydney
Australian Perspecta 1993, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
Purl, The Fifth Melbourne Sculpture Triennial, Eades Place Children's Centre, West Melbourne
Decor, Peppers Bistro, Canberra
Residence #3, home of Vincent Butron and Janet Shanks, Sydney
Rad Scunge, Karen Lovegrove Gallery, Melbourne
Residence #1, home of Vincent Butron and Janet Shanks, Sydney
Naked, BLACK Gallery, Sydney
Monster Field, Ivan Dougherty Gallery, Sydney
Shirthead, Mori Gallery Annexe, Sydney
- 1992** *Primavera: The Belinda Jackson exhibition of young artists*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney
Wish Hard, 9th Biennale of Sydney satellite exhibition, Wollongong City Gallery, Woollongong
- 1991** *Collaborative installation with Mana Cruz*, First Draft, Sydney
Frames of Reference: Aspects of Feminism and Art, Pier 4/5, Walsh Bay, Sydney
Discrete Entity, Canberra School of Art Gallery, Canberra
Microcosm, Garry Anderson Gallery, Sydney
Group show, First Draft, Sydney
- 1990** *Installed and Temporal Works*, Tin Sheds Gallery, Sydney
- 1989** *Fresh Art*, S.H. Ervin Gallery, Sydney
Victory over the Sun, First Draft, Sydney
Exploring Drawing, Ivan Dougherty Gallery, Sydney
- 1988** *Evy, Ivy, Over* (with Belinda Holland), First Draft, Sydney
- 1986** *Certain Versions*, City Artist Gallery, London
- 1983** *ANZART (performance in Hardened Arteries)*, Old Mail Exchange, Hobart

Selected Bibliography

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Best, Sue, 'Purl & plane geometry', *Fifth Australian Sculpture Triennial* vol. 2, Melbourne, 1993

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- Broker, David, *Beauty 2000*, Institute of Modern Art, Brisbane, 1998
- Butler, Rex, 'Radical revisionism', *Eyeline*, no. 33, 1997
- Butler, Rex, 'White', *Art and Australia*, vol. 32, no. 1, 1994
- Caddick, Stephan, 'Mikala Dwyer' *AN magazine*, March, 2000
- Chapman, Christopher, 'Discrete entity: the accomplice and installation', *Eyeline*, Summer, 1991
- Clark-Cooler, Bronwyn, 'Holy hell!', *Brainland*, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney, 1999
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- Colless, Edward, *Sad songs*, Artspace, Sydney, 1995; reprinted in *Midwest*, no. 8, 1995
- Couderc, Sylvie, 'Recent contemporary art in Australia: from the interpretation of origins to the bias of the diverse', *Bonheurs des Antipodes*, Musee de Picardie, Amiens, 2000
- Cross, David, 'Fifth Australian Sculpture Triennale', *Art & Text*, no. 47, 1994
- Eagle, Mary, 'Discrete entity', *Art & Text*, no. 41, 1992
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- Forsyth, Graham, 'Monster field', *Art & Text*, no. 46, 1993
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- Gibson, Jeff, 'Avant-Grunge', *Art & Text*, no. 45, 1993
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- Hastings, Gail, *Wall to wall: ceiling to floor*, 200 Gertrude St, Melbourne, 1991
- Holder, Jo, *Wish hard*, Wollongong City Gallery, Wollongong, 1993
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- Kent, Rachel, *The infinite space: women, minimalism and the sculptural object*, The Ian Potter Museum of Art, The University of Melbourne, Melbourne, 1998
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- Linda Michael, et al., *Mikala Dwyer: holloware and a few solids*, BARBERism, Sydney and Australian Centre for Contemporary Art, Melbourne, 1996
- Lonie, Bridie, 'Exhibitions: Dunedin', *Art New Zealand*, no. 76, 1995
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- Michael, Linda, ed., *Mikala Dwyer*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney, 2000
- Michael, Linda, *No, not ever: the nail polish series*, BARBERism, Sydney, 1994
- Michael, Linda, *Primavera: The Belinda Jackson exhibition of young artists*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney, 1992
- Moore, Catriona, 'Museum hygiene', *Photofile*, no. 41, 1994
- Nicholson, Helen, *Avant-gardism for children*, University Art Museum, University of Queensland, Brisbane, 1999
- Rankin-Reid, Jane, 'Shirthead', *Art & Text*, no. 46, 1993
- Ross, Toni, 'Mikala Dwyer', *Contemporas*, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, 1999
- Ross, Toni, 'The trouble with spectator-centred criticism: Encountering Mikala Dwyer's art with Eva Hesse and Minimalism', *Eyeline*, no. 35, 1997
- Schubert, Robert, 'Restaging abstraction', *Art & Text*, no. 49, 1994
- Sierra-Hughes, Mana, 'Wall to wall, ceiling to floor: Mikala Dwyer' *Agenda*, no. 17, 1991

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- Stanhope, Zara, *Nostalgic*, Monash University Gallery, Melbourne, 1996
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- Sullivan, Eve, 'Wish hard', *Art Monthly Australia*, no. 57, 1993
- 'Twinkle twinkle little star: *Midwest* talks to Mikala Dwyer', *Midwest*, no. 8, 1995
- Williams, Linda, 'Little theatres of excess', *Fifth Australian Sculpture Triennial*, vol. 2, Melbourne, 1992
- Williams, Linda, 'The aberrant object', *Art & Text*, no. 48, 1994

Public Collections

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- Chartwell Collection, New Zealand
- Monash University, Melbourne
- Museum of Contemporary of Art, Sydney
- National Gallery of Australia, Canberra