

Leila Jeffreys is an Australian photographic and video artist.

She is represented in Sydney by the Olsen Gallery, in New York by the Olsen Gruin Gallery and in London by the Purdy Hicks Gallery.

Leila Jeffreys' work is inspired by nature. She began documenting birds by way of photographic portraiture in 2008, working alongside conservationists, ornithologists and bird sanctuaries. Her works are difficult to achieve; they involve travel, long periods of waiting on her subjects, and many hours in post-production. Through her own patience, Leila is able to separate these wonderful creatures from their natural surroundings and photograph them with the highest degree of technical skill.

"(Leila's) images are simultaneously serious and witty, gentle and impactful; technically, they are quite miraculous. Her rapport with her subjects, her technical ingenuity, her eye for colour, form and composition and her expertise in the processes of fine art photography combine to create singular works that have often – alas – been imitated but have never come close to being equalled."

Dr Sarah Engledow, Historian and Curator - National Portrait Gallery of Australia

Leila has exhibited four major bodies of work. The first in 2010 featured budgerigars ('Portrait of a Budgerigar'), followed in 2012 by cockatoos ('Bioela Wild Cockatoo'), 2014 bird of prey ('Prey') and 2017 featured cockatoos, doves and pigeons as well as budgerigars in trees and her first video art ('Ornithurae').

In addition to her solo exhibitions, Leila Jeffreys has exhibited her work in public art displays at Sydney's Taronga Zoo and the iconic Bergdorf Goodman department stores in New York City. In 2018 she was invited to attend and include her work in the prestigious Time Bomb - the 25th Annual Watermill Benefit in South Hampton NY which included performances from and works by international artists and was curated by Noah Khoshbin and Ivan Cheng.

After self-publishing her award-winning book Interview With A Cockatoo (or Two) in 2012, Leila Jeffreys went on to publish hardcover books of her works: Birdland through Hatchette in Australia & New Zealand and the same work under the title Bird Love through Abrams Books in North America and the United Kingdom. In Australia the book was shortlisted in the 'Fully Illustrated' category of the 2016 Australian Book Designers Association Awards and was Highly Commended in Photobook Melbourne's Australian Photobook of the Year category for 2016. In the US, Bird Love received an Award of Excellence in the Photography Books category of the 57th Communication Arts Photography Annual.

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Birdland was launched at Australia's National Portrait Gallery in Canberra with an introduction by Dr Sarah Engledow - historian and curator.

Included in the broad list of titles that have profiled Leila and her artworks are publications such as The Guardian, The Financial Times and The Times (UK), Zeit Wissen, Die Ziet and Das Kunstmagazin (Germany), Colossal, Wall Street Magazine and The Sunday Times (US) as well as The Weekend Australian, Sydney Morning Herald, Vogue Living, Vogue, Australian Geographic, Belle, Harpers Bazaar, Elle Decoration, The Design Files, Yellowtrace and the fine art quarterly and monthly publications such as Portrait in Australia, Art Alamanac and Art Edit.

2019 saw Leila undertake her first expedition to the Arctic Circle with Poseidon Expeditions at the invitation of British historian and explorer Dr Huw Lewis-Jones. While in the field, Leila experienced firsthand one of the most untouched parts of the world and also one of the most vulnerable, where nature still dominates. Such opportunities to travel and experience wildlife in their natural habitat fuel both her creativity and her sense of urgency to protect it.

Leila Jeffreys has also accepted an invitation from the Harewood House Trust UK to be a visiting Artist in Residence in early 2020. While there, Leila will work with the inhabitants of the revered Harewood House Bird Garden to create an exhibition of new work in celebration of the garden's fiftieth anniversary.

In October and November 2019 Leila Jeffreys will present a new solo exhibition called High Society in both Sydney and New York. The exhibition signifies a significant progression for Leila with the inclusion of a three-panel video art piece as well as a series of photographic works featuring flocks of birds. Leila Jeffreys' artworks can be found in private collections both nationally and internationally. She lives in Sydney with her family.

Solo Exhibitions

2025, High Life, Sarasota, Florida, USA

2025, The Memory of The World, Aotearoa Art Fair with Olsen Gallery, Auckland, New Zealand

2022-2025, DES OISEAUX, Hangar Photo Centre, Brussels, Belgium

2024, Nature Is Not a Place to Visit. It is Home., Western Plains Cultural Centre, Dubbo, Australia

2024, Hermès windows, Chadstone – Melbourne, Brisbane and Gold Coast windows

2024, Temple, Collaboration with Melvin J. Montalban, National Film and Sound Archive, Canberra, Australia

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2023-2024, Nature Is Not A Place to Visit. It is Home., Art Gallery of Ballarat, Australia
2023, The wound is the place where the light enters, Purdy Hicks Gallery, London, UK
2023, Birds, Picture This Gallery, Stockholm, Sweden
2023, Terre de Plumes, L'Événement Photographique #2, Jardin botanique Jean-Marie Pelt de Villers-les-Nancy, France
2023, The wound is a place where the light enters, MARS Gallery, Melbourne, Australia
2022, The Wound is The Place Where the Light Enters, Olsen Irwin Gallery, Sydney, Australia
2021, Leila Jeffreys: Flock, Western Plains Cultural Centre Gallery, Dubbo, Australia
2021, High Society, Purdy Hicks Gallery, London, UK
2021, Leila Jeffreys: Birdland, Manly Art Gallery & Museum, Sydney, Australia
2021, Leila Jeffreys and Melvin K. Montalban, Shake the Dust Off Your Wings, Artists in Residence, The Galleries and City of Australia
2020, Peel Street Park Projection Program, Yarra City Arts, Melbourne, Australia
2019-2020, High Society, Olsen Gruin, New York City, USA
2019, High Society, Olsen Irwin Gallery, Sydney, Australia
2018, Ornithurae, Purdy Hicks Gallery, London, UK
2018, Garden Party Loft, Exhibition, Bergdorf Goodman, New York City, USA
2018, Linda Fargo's Shop, Bergdorf Goodman, New York City, USA
2018, Private Exhibition, The Hamptons, New York City, USA
2017-2018, Muse, Taronga Zoo, Sydney, Australia
2017, Ornithurae, Olsen Gruin Gallery, New York City, USA
2017, Australians in Film, Black Tie Dinner, Los Angeles, USA
2017, Private Exhibition, Los Angeles, USA
2016, Bird Love, Purdy Hicks Gallery, London, UK
2016, Bird Love Book Launch, Purdy Hicks Gallery, London, UK
2015, Wild Cockatoos, Purdy Hicks Gallery, London, UK
2014, Prey, Olsen Irwin Gallery, Sydney, Australia
2012, Biolela Wild Cockatoos, Tim Olsen Gallery, Sydney, Australia
2011, Portrait of a Budgerigar, Jonathan Adler, Soho, New York City, USA
2011, Portrait of a Budgerigar, Jonathan Adler, Sloane Ave, London, UK
2010, Portrait of a Budgerigar, Iain Dawson Gallery, Paddington, Sydney, Australia

Select Group Exhibitions

2025, Olsen Gallery Stand, Sydney Contemporary, Sydney
2025, Des Oiseaux, Hôtel Fontfreyde Centre photographique de Clermont-Ferrand, France

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2024-2025, Best in Show – Pets Contemporary Photography, The Momentary, Bentonville, Arkansas, USA

2024, Photo London, Purdy Hicks Gallery, Somerset House, London, UK

2024, Art of Music for Noro Music Therapy Charity Gala, Art Gallery of NSW, Sydney, Australia

2024, Stillness, Olsen Gallery Stand, Sydney Contemporary, Sydney

2024, Nest, Vivid Sydney, Sydney

2024, Stargazer Lawn, Sydney, Australia

2024, London Art Fair, Purdy Hicks Gallery, London, UK

2024, Feathered, Erin Cluley Gallery, Dallas, Texas, USA

2023-2024, Best In Show – Pets in Contemporary Photography, Fotografiska New York, USA

2023, Des Oiseaux, Landskrona Foto, Landskrona, Sweden

2023, Photo Paris, FLAT // LAND Amsterdam, at Grand Palais Éphémère, Paris, France 2023, Civilization: The Way We Live Now, Saatchi Gallery, London, UK

2023, Concert Les Chants Du Vivant with L'Orchestre National de Bretagne, Couvent des Jacobins, Rennes, France

2023, Birds - through the lens of international photographers, Breda Photo Festival, Grote Kerk Breda, The Netherlands

2023, Shake the Dust Off Your Wings, The Galleries, Sydney, Australia

2022, Des Oiseaux, Hangar, Brussels, Belgium 2022, Des Oiseaux, Château d'Eau, Toulouse, France

2022, Our Dear Friends, Animals at 212 Photography, Istanbul, Turkey

2021, Northern Beaches Environmental Art and Design Prize, Manly Art Gallery & Museum, Sydney, Australia

2021, Summer Group Show, Olsen Gallery, Sydney, Australia

2021, Group Show, Olsen Gallery, Sydney, Australia

2020, Winter Group Show, Olsen Gallery, New York, USA

2020, William and Winifred Bowness Photography Prize, Monash Gallery of Art, Melbourne, Australia

2020, London Art Fair, London, UK as part of Purdy Hicks Gallery Stand

2020, Collectivus, Olsen Gallery, Sydney, Australia

2019, Sydney Contemporary Art Fair, Carriageworks, Sydney, Australia

2019, Wild Thing, Lion Gate Lodge, Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney, Australia

2019, Creatures group exhibition, Olsen Gruin Gallery, New York, USA

2019, Ravenswood Art Prize (Highly Commended), Ravenswood School For Girls, Sydney, Australia

2019, Antumbra, Olsen Gallery Sydney, Australia

2018, Watermill Benefit, Time Bomb, The Hamptons, NY, USA

2018, Photo London, London, UK

2018, 2 x 2, Olsen Gallery, Woollahra, Sydney, Australia

2017, Sydney Contemporary Art Fair, Carriageworks, Sydney, Australia

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2017, Birds - Flight Paths, Mornington Peninsula Regional Gallery, VIC, Australia
2016, London Art Fair, London, UK
2016, Artist Open House, Fremantle, WA, Australia
2016, Pulse Contemporary Art Fair, Miami, Florida, USA
2016, Summer Exhibition, Royal Academy of Arts, London, UK
2016, Transfer, Australian Centre for Photography, Paddington, Sydney, Australia
2015, A Summer Group Exhibition, Sophie Gannon Gallery, Melbourne, Australia
2015, A Summer Group Exhibition, Olsen Irwin Gallery, Sydney, Australia
2015, Birdland Book Launch, National Portrait Gallery, Canberra, Australia
2015, Sydney Contemporary Art Fair, Olsen Irwin Gallery, Carriage Works, Sydney, Australia
2015, Feathered, Touchstones, Rochdale, UK
2015, Gallery Artist Group Show, Sophie Gannon Gallery, Melbourne, Australia
2015, Important Works on Paper and Sculpture, Olsen Irwin Gallery, Sydney, Australia
2015, Australian and International Contemporary Photography, Olsen Irwin Gallery, Sydney, Australia
2014, Melbourne Art Fair, Olsen Irwin Gallery, Royal exhibition Building, Melbourne, Australia
2013, Sydney Contemporary Art Fair, Olsen Irwin Gallery, Carriage Works, Sydney, Australia
2013, On a Wing and a Prayer, Mars Gallery, Port Melbourne, Melbourne, Australia
2012, Wild Australia, Gallery Reis, Orchard Road, Singapore
2012, Melbourne Art Fair, Carlton Pavilion, Australia
2011, Summer Collection, Studio at the B, Ally's Beach, Florida, USA
2011, Wattle, Contemporary Australian Art, The Cat Street Gallery, Hong Kong
2011, Summer Feast, Iain Dawson Gallery, Paddington, Sydney, Australia
2010, Head On Photo Festival, Iain Dawson Gallery, Paddington, Sydney, Australia

Book Titles

2015, Birdland (Hachette Australia), Shortlisted for Australian Book Design Awards 'Best Designed Fully Illustrated' award, Highly Commended in Photobook Melbourne's 'Australian Photobook of the Year', 2016.

2015, Bird Love (Abrams USA & UK), Winner of an 'Award for Excellence' at the 57th Communication Arts Photography Annual.

2013, Interview With A Cockatoo (or Two) (Independent), Winner of the 'People's Choice Award' for the 2013 Head On Memento Pro Photobook Awards.

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