MICHELLE CAWTHORN

b. Gadigal/Sydney. Lives and works, Dharawal/Sydney

Represented by OLSEN Gallery, Gadigal/Sydney

EDUCATION

2021 PhD Fine Arts, UNSW Art & Design, Sydney
2015 Master of Fine Arts, UNSW Art & Design, Sydney
2012 Bachelor of Fine Arts Honours (Class 1), The College of Fine Arts, UNSW, Sydney
2008 Bachelor of Art Education, The College of Fine Arts, UNSW, Sydney
2006 Bachelor of Fine Arts (Painting), The College of Fine Arts, UNSW, Sydney

AWARDS, GRANTS, SCHOLARSHIPS

2020 HDR Completion Scholarship, UNSW Sydney
2018 Bundanon Fellowship
Highly Commended, Tim Olsen Drawing Prize, AD Space, UNSW Art & Design, Sydney
2017 Finalist, Sir John Sulman Prize, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
Winner, Hazelhurst Art on Paper, Local Artist Award, Hazelhurst Regional Gallery, Sydney
New South Wales Artists' Grant, NAVA and Create NSW
2016 Australian Government Research Training Program Scholarship, UNSW Sydney
New South Wales Artists' Grant, NAVA and Arts NSW
2014 Highly Commended, Tim Olsen Drawing Prize, Kudos Gallery, Sydney
UNSW Art & Design Grant
2013 Winner, Hazelhurst Art on Paper, Local Artist Award, Hazelhurst Regional Gallery, Sydney
2012 Australian Postgraduate Award, UNSW Sydney
Recipient, The College of Fine Arts Dean's Award for Academic Excellence, UNSW, Sydney

COLLECTIONS

Artbank
ANU School of Art and Design
Campbelltown Arts Centre
Gippsland Art Gallery
Shoalhaven Regional Gallery

RESIDENCIES

2026 Bundanon, Bundanon, NSW
Wild Deserts Artist Residency, UNSW Wild Deserts Centre for Ecosystem Science, Cameron Corner, NSW
2025 The Josef and Anni Albers Foundation, Connecticut, USA
2019 Visiting artist, ANU School of Art & Design
2019 Bundanon Trust, Bundanon, NSW
2018 Jamberoo Mountain Road, Jamberoo, NSW

COMMISSIONS

2012 Hazelhurst Regional Gallery and Arts Centre, Sydney

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2026 *Anni's Birds*, OLSEN Gallery, Sydney
2024 *Between Shadows and a Dream,* OLSEN Gallery, Sydney
2023 *A Momentary Lapse in Concentration,* OLSEN Gallery, Sydney
2021 *Beautiful Strange,* OLSEN Gallery, Sydney
2021 *Songbird,* Shoalhaven Regional Gallery, Nowra, NSW
2019 *Manchester Road,* OLSEN Gallery, Sydney
2018 *Miss Pinball,* .M Contemporary, Sydney
2016 *Playpen*, Egg and Dart, Thirroul, NSW
2015 *Bittersweet*, Hazelhurst Regional Gallery and Arts Centre, Sydney
2015 *Birdland,* .M Contemporary, Sydney
2015 *Little Triggers,* AD Space, UNSW Art & Design, Sydney
2014 *Sleeper,* Sheffer Gallery, Sydney
2013 *Idle Thoughts*, Walcha Gallery of Art, Walcha, NSW
2013 *Memorophilia,* Kudos Gallery, Sydney
2012 *a tenuous thing*, At The Vanishing Point, Sydney
2012 *BlueBird,* Community Gallery, Hazelhurst Regional Gallery and Arts Centre, Sydney

JOINT EXHIBITIONS

2027 *This Is Not A Solo Show,* (collaboration with Peter Sharp), Grafton Regional Gallery, Grafton, NSW
2026 *This Is Not A Solo Show,* (collaboration with Peter Sharp), Wollongong Art Gallery, Wollongong, NSW
2024 *This Is Not A Solo Show (v.2),* (collaboration with Peter Sharp) ANCA Gallery, Dickson, ACT
2019 *Two Weeks,* ANU Drawing and Printmedia Studios, Australian National University, Canberra
2016 *This Is Not A Solo Show*, (collaboration with Peter Sharp) Verge Gallery, University of Sydney, Sydney
2015 *Memory Fragments*, Art Space on the Concourse, Sydney

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2026 *Fisher's Ghost Art Award* (Open), Campbelltown Arts Centre, Campbelltown, NSW
Kedumba Drawing Award, Blue Mountains Grammar School, Wentworth Falls, NSW
2025 *A Nest in the Hills: The Symbiosis of Women and Birds in Contemporary Australian Art*, Mudgee Arts Precinct, Mudgee, NSW
Wollongong Art Prize, Wollongong Art Gallery, Wollongong, NSW
21 Years: Shoalhaven Regional Gallery, Nowra, NSW
Fisher's Ghost Art Award (Open), Campbelltown Arts Centre, Campbelltown, NSW
Summer Curated, Olsen Gallery, Sydney, NSW
Works from the Stockroom, Olsen Annexe, Sydney, NSW
2024 *Fisher's Ghost Art Award* (Open), Campbelltown Arts Centre, Campbelltown, NSW
Twitcher, Maitland Regional Art Gallery, Maitland, NSW
Jacaranda Acquisitive Drawing Award, Grafton Regional Gallery, NSW
Hazelhurst Painter Teacher, Broadhurst Gallery, Hazelhurst Arts Centre, Sydney
2023 *30 Year Celebration,* OLSEN Gallery, Sydney
FLOW National Contemporary Watercolour Prize, Wollongong Art Gallery, Wollongong, NSW

Calleen Art Award, Cowra Regional Art Gallery, Cowra, NSW
Hazelhurst Art on Paper Award, Hazelhurst Regional Gallery and Arts Centre, Sydney

2022 *Summer Salon,* OLSEN Gallery, Sydney
Plant Your Feet, (curated by Glenn Barkley), Shoalhaven Regional Gallery, Nowra, NSW
Fisher's Ghost Art Award (Open), Campbelltown Arts Centre, Campbelltown, NSW
Paul Guest Prize, Bendigo Art Gallery, Bendigo, VIC
Ravenswood Art Prize, Ravenswood School for Girls, Sydney
Adelaide Perry Prize for Drawing, Adelaide Perry Gallery, Sydney
Hazelhurst Art on Paper Award, Hazelhurst Regional Gallery and Arts Centre, Sydney

2021 *Summer Exhibition,* OLSEN Gallery, Sydney
Fisher's Ghost Art Award (Open), Campbelltown Arts Centre, Campbelltown, NSW
Splash: McClelland Contemporary Watercolour Award, McClelland Gallery, Langwarrin, VIC
Winter Group Show, OLSEN Gallery, Sydney
Ravenswood Art Prize, Ravenswood School for Girls, Sydney

2020 *Summer Group Show,* OLSEN Gallery, Sydney
20 Artworks in the Garden, Hazelhurst Regional Gallery and Arts Centre, Sydney
Hazelhurst 20|20, Hazelhurst Regional Gallery and Arts Centre, Sydney
Fisher's Ghost Art Award (Open), Campbelltown Arts Centre, Campbelltown, NSW
Ravenswood Art Prize, Ravenswood School for Girls, Sydney

2019 *Collectivus: A Summer Group Show,* OLSEN Gallery, Sydney
Fisher's Ghost Art Award (Open), Campbelltown Arts Centre, Campbelltown, NSW
FLOW National Contemporary Watercolour Prize, Wollongong Art Gallery, Wollongong, NSW
Ravenswood Art Prize, Ravenswood School for Girls, Sydney

2018 *Antumbra,* OLSEN Gallery, Sydney
Splash: McClelland Contemporary Watercolour Award (Inaugural), McClelland Gallery, Langwarrin, VIC
Fisher's Ghost Art Award (Open), Campbelltown Arts Centre, Campbelltown, NSW
Return, AD Space, UNSW Art & Design, Sydney
How We See Ourselves, West End Art Space, Melbourne
Jamberoo Mountain Road, Shoalhaven Regional Gallery, Nowra, NSW
Adelaide Perry Prize for Drawing, Adelaide Perry Gallery, Sydney
Imagine, (curated by Simon Gregg) Gippsland Art Gallery, Sale, Victoria

2017 *Fisher's Ghost Art Award* (Open), Campbelltown Arts Centre, Campbelltown, NSW
Tim Olsen Drawing Prize, AD Space, UNSW Art & Design, Sydney
Sculpture Show, The Broadhurst Gallery, Hazelhurst Regional Gallery and Arts Centre, Sydney
Winter Group Show, .M Contemporary, Sydney
Ravenswood Art Prize (Inaugural), Ravenswood School for Girls, Sydney
Re-Launch, AD Space, UNSW Art & Design, Sydney
Summer Group Show, .M Contemporary, Sydney

2016 *Wollongong Art Gallery Contemporary Watercolour Prize*, Wollongong, NSW
The Charged Object, Gallery Lane Cove, Sydney

2015 *Woollahra Small Sculpture Prize*, Woollahra Council Chambers, Sydney
Hazelhurst Art on Paper Award, Hazelhurst Regional Gallery and Arts Centre, Sydney
The Bird Show, Spot 81, Sydney

Annual Winter Group Show, .M Contemporary, Sydney
Drawing Now 2015, AD Space, UNSW Art & Design, Sydney
Private Lives: The Artist as Collector, SH Ervin Gallery, The National Trust, Sydney

2014 *Summer Group Show,* .M Contemporary, Sydney
Fisher's Ghost Art Award (Drawing, Contemporary), Campbelltown Arts Centre, Campbelltown, NSW
Kudos Award, Kudos Gallery, Sydney

2013 *Drawing Now,* Ivan Dougherty Gallery, University of New South Wales, Sydney
Willoughby Sculpture Prize, Incinerator Art Space, Sydney
Chippendale New World Art Prize, X88 Gallery, Sydney

2012 *Tomorrow, Today,* COFASPACE, University of New South Wales, Sydney
Drawing Show, Walcha Gallery of Art, Walcha, NSW
Half a Desk, Kudos Gallery, Sydney
Alive and Well, First Draft Gallery, Sydney
Half-Way Mark, COFASPACE, University of New South Wales, Sydney

2008 *Jacaranda Acquisitive Drawing Award,* Grafton Regional Gallery (touring) NSW, Queensland, VIC
1200k West- Fowlers Gap, COFASPACE, University of New South Wales, Sydney

2006 *ILIRI Fowlers Gap Field Trip*, COFASPACE, University of New South Wales, Sydney

2005 *COFA Annual: Graduating Students Exhibition,* COFASPACE, University of New South Wales, Sydney
Imaging the Land, COFASPACE, University of New South Wales, Sydney

2003 *TERRORart,* Kudos Gallery, Sydney
Dissonance, COFASPACE, University of New South Wales, Sydney

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Courtney Kidd, 'Michelle Cawthorn', *Artist Profile,* Issue 64, August 26, 2023, pp 104 - 111

Chloé Wolifson, 'Songbird', catalogue essay, June 2021

'Collector and Gallerist Michelle Chanique tells us about how a personal connection with the artist lead to her using Art Money', *Art Money* online, 17 March 2021

Annie Tonkin, 'New Reps at Olsen', *Art Collector* online*,* 24 July 2019

Richard Morecroft, 'Capturing the Coast', *South Coast Style,* No. 70, Winter 2019, pp 50 – 51

Jamberoo Mountain Road, exhibition catalogue, Shoalhaven Regional Gallery, NSW, 2018. pp. 17 – 19

Michelle Cawthorn | Sensuous Symbolism, exhibition catalogue, .M Contemporary, Sydney, 2018

Andrew Frost, 'Flipper Bumper High Scores: Michelle Cawthorn's Sensuous Symbolism', catalogue essay, May 2018

Chloé Wolifson, 'Michelle Cawthorn – *Miss Pinball,* .M Contemporary', catalogue essay, May 2018

Gregg, Simon and Scott, Lesley 2017, *Imagine,* exhibition publication, Gippsland Art Gallery, Victoria, pp. 12, 14, 17, 18, 76, 110-111, 136

Hazelhurst Art on Paper Award 2017, exhibition catalogue, Hazelhurst Regional Gallery and Arts Centre, pp. 5, 32 - 33

Andrew Frost, 'Archibald, Wynne & Sulman 2017: A cup of tea and a lie down', *The Art Life,* online, 2 August 2017

Andrew Frost, 'Archibald 2017: objections to winning work are merely whinges over style', *The Guardian* (Australian edition), 29 July 2017

Jim Gainsford, 'Self-taught artist an Archibald finalist for the third time', *St George and Sutherland Shire Leader,* online 22 July and in print 26 July 2017

Denene Keegan, 'Profile on local artist Michelle Cawthorn,' *Friends of Hazelhurst Regional Gallery and Arts Centre,* newsletter, July – September 2017, p. 4,

Jo Bosben, 'Playpen – Michelle Cawthorn', *What's On: Art & Deign UNSW*, September 2016
'Michelle Cawthorn: Playpen', *Artist Profile online,* 10 September 2016
'Michelle Cawthorn: Playpen', *Art Almanac online,* 30 August 2016
Jo Bosben, 'This is Not A Solo Show – Sharp and Cawthorn', *What's On: Art & Design UNSW*, June 2016
Rebecca Gallo, 'This is Not a Solo Show. A Concept Album', catalogue essay, June 2016
Monica Heary, 'Exhibition of solo works at Hazelhurst features personal concepts of time', *St George and Sutherland Shire Leader,* 8 November 2015
Gina Fairley, '4 Solos', *Visual Arts Hub,* 2 November 2015
Stella Rosa McDonald, '4 Solos', *The Art Life,* 19 October 2015
Monica Heary, 'Artist makes her mark with sculpture', *St George and Sutherland Shire Leader,* 9 October 2015
Katrina Arent, 'Out/About: Michelle Cawthorn "Birdland"', *In/Out Design Blog*, 7 October 2015
'4 Solos', *ARTAND online,* October 2015
Kibbler, Carrie (Ed.) 2015, *4 Solos. Michelle Cawthorn, Marc Etherington, Leahlani Johnson, Paul Williams*, exhibition publication, Hazelhurst Regional Gallery and Arts Centre, Sydney, pp. 4 – 7
Andrew Frost, 'Michelle Cawthorn: Aide Mémoire', catalogue essay, October 2015
Rebecca Gallo, 'a bird in the hand', catalogue essay, May 2015
'4 Solos: Contemporary Artists from Southern Sydney', *Art Collector online,* November 2015
'Discovery: Michelle Cawthorn', *Artist Profile,* Issue 28, 2014, p. 146
Andrew Frost, 'Sleeper', *The Art Life,* online 11 April 2014
Monica Heary, 'Photographer scales the heights to capture prize', *St George and Sutherland Shire Leader,* 25 July 2013, p. 41 and online 29 July 2013
Michael Fitzgerald, 'Open Gallery', Spectrum, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 16-17 February 2013, p. 13
Liz Nowell, 'There is a crack in everything. That's how the light gets in', exhibition essay, February 2013
Barilo v. Reisberg, Eugene; "Current exhibitions @ Latrobe Regional Gallery', *Arts Diary 365* (blog), 14 February 2010

YOUTUBE

Exhibition – with Richard Morecroft, 'Michelle Cawthorn's exhibition "Songbird" July 2021', YouTube, 1 July 2021
Hazelhurst Arts Centre, 'Hazelhurst 20 Years', YouTube, 14 December 2020
Hazelhurst Arts Centre, 'Hazelhurst At Home: Artist Michelle Cawthorn in her studio', YouTube, 4 May 2020
Olsen Gallery, 'Michelle Cawthorn: Manchester Road – artist talk', YouTube, 10 August 2019
Hazelhurst Arts Centre, '4 Solos: In Conversation with Marc Etherington, Michelle Cawthorn, Paul Williams, Leahlani Johnson', YouTube, 24 October 2015

PODCASTS

Art Wank, Episode 233, 'From Colour Theory to Creative Practice – Inside the Albers Foundation with Peter Sharp and Michelle Cawthorn', 29 October 2025, <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/episode-233-from-colour-theory-to-creative-practice/id1503610662?i=1000733900760>
Art Wank, Episode 165, 'Michelle Cawthorn, multidisciplinary artist working with memory, 27 September 2023, <https://podcasts.apple.com/au/podcast/art-w-k/id1503610662?i=1000629236073>
FavourEconomy, Vol 2, 2016-2017, 'Michelle Cawthorn', <https://soundcloud.com/user-46190087/michellecawthorn?utm_source=clipboard&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=social_sharing>

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