

CREATIVE SELECTION

Australian artists in the round



1 *Are You Okay?* acrylic, ink and oil pastel on wooden board, 90cm round

BRIAN CONNOLLY

1/ Brian says he was always very hands on as a child, wanting to use every coloured crayon in the box! As a highly sensitive person, he feels things very deeply; painting and creating help him to become completely immersed in his expressions, providing meditation and grounding.

He loves the beauty in the vulnerability of sharing his art, and how, through his works, he can transform the way someone is feeling.

Brian's artworks are shaped by a diarist approach and an inquiry into the human psyche. Centred around personal growth of the spiritual self, subjects of light and dark flow through his practice. The flowers represent a bridge between the natural world and human life and the idea that we all have an internal garden that we must continuously nourish. He feels complete soul expansion sitting in a quiet corner of nature.

Leaning into a wabi-sabi approach, he depicts ethereal and fluid figures with elements of naivety, which reinforces the idea of finding the true beauty in the imperfect. brianconnollyart.com



Daisy, acrylic paint on canvas, 153cm x 102cm

SOPHIE LAWRENCE

2/ Sophie's art is a kaleidoscope of colour and energy that she finds intoxicating. She hopes those who view her art feel a sense of wonder when they look at her pictures, taking in their depth of colour, intricate patterns and joyfulness. Her father and mother are both artists, so art was everyday life for Sophie.

Her paintings start with her seeing a colour in the paint shop and thinking, "That's it — that's the one." She says nature is so much more exhilarating and surprising in its colour schemes and combinations than anything she can create. She always tries to be bold; she believes staying safe doesn't change what you're doing. Sophie says she has a butterfly mind and has five or six canvases on the go all the time. Being surrounded by beautiful things is important to her — a great painting, a good meal, great decor and, above all else, a fine bottle of wine. bluethumb.com.au/sophie-lawrence



This seat's taken, 54cm x 76.5cm, graphite and black pencil on watercolour paper

CANDACE SLAGER

3/ Candace is a drawing artist living on the Gold Coast. She is best known for her diverse subjects and detailed works that are captivating in their intricate details. She works primarily with colour pencil and graphite, and specialises in expressing realism through her technique.

Candace's work is often inspired by something offbeat, moments from everyday life or from her travels. Some pieces tell a clear story, others allow the viewer to derive their own meaning and connection. Being unencumbered by set themes and subjects allows her to create something truly unique to the occasion. "I choose my subjects like I choose my food: I'll have a little of everything." artloversaustralia.com.au



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Abyss, mixed media (ink, pastel, oil stick, gold leaf, rope and varnish) on canvas, 91cm x 183cm

LARA SCOLARI

4/ Named one of Australia's most exciting emerging contemporary visual artists, Lara Scolari creates gestural paintings that have made a serious splash on the international art scene. Each of her distinctively unique works features a beautiful translucent veiled colour palette achieved by adding up to 40 layers of mixed mediums.

Lara's art explores multilayered organic forms, lines, shapes and compositions that create an enlivening space for contemplation and a resting place for thoughts. "I have learnt not to get too caught up in the outcomes, to just let the process happen and allow magic to come!" says Lara.

She worked with Designer Rugs Australia as well as Luxe Walls to release a Lara Scolari Collection, showcasing her exquisite designs on luxury rugs and wallpaper.

From North America to Europe, Asia and Australia, Lara's award-winning artwork is represented in public and private collections. [Instagram @larascolarigallery](https://www.instagram.com/larascolarigallery); larascolari.com



New Wave, acrylic paint on canvas, 84.5cm x 59.5cm

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ELLEN MCKENNA

5/ Ellen is an artist and designer living in Melbourne who loves to play with colour, balance and movement in her creative process. Ellen would describe herself as a colour maximalist, creating art to evoke emotions like joy and happiness. She loves the interpretative nature of abstract painting styles because it can be enjoyed and embraced by many different people.

Ellen's process is largely instinctive and she draws inspiration from all artistic disciplines including art, interior design, architecture, and fashion of the 20th century.

As an artist and designer, Ellen believes it's important to plan and "plant seeds". She says you never know where opportunities will come from so it's important to keep an open mind, to keep pushing your comfort zones and to not fear failure. bluethumb.com.au/ellen-mckenna

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The Promise, acrylic, ink, enamel, satin finish, 2m x 80cm

CHRISTOPHER DE LISLE

6/ Christopher has been immersed in the world of art for most of his life. He is the son of flamboyant photographer Gordon De Lisle, who, along with his wife Cynthia, opened the De Lisle Gallery of Fine Art in Montville, Queensland, more than 40 years ago.

Christopher says his art is contemporary, with links to traditional subjects. He enjoys the natural world and endeavours to capture the spirit of what is around him in large panoramic artworks. The work is abstracted for atmospheric effect.

Chris's style is fresh, vibrant and dynamic. He prefers mixed media, using mainly acrylics, inks and art products that create unique touches. For Chris it's not just about the journey to create each piece of art; the finish is the key to the overall presentation. He uses satin or gloss finishes to enhance and deepen the delicate colour harmonies. delislegallery.com