

# The Central Art Gallery

Old Library Building  
The Arts Centre  
2 Worcester Boulevard  
Christchurch

Tuesday-Sunday  
10am-5pm  
Phone 03 366 3318  
[www.thecentral.co.nz](http://www.thecentral.co.nz)



Born in Auckland, Straka studied sculpture at Elam Art School but has largely made paintings since graduating. She looks from a different point of view. Her second major body of paintings were of old fashioned mens urinals, their cracked creamy porcelain surfaces evocatively stained, damaged even. A secular Pakeha, she has made paintings of Lindauer inspired Maori chiefs with bleeding hearts and Catholic imagery, in finely brushed paintings on cotton stretched over board. As the figure began to dominate Straka's practice, the photography of models has assumed more importance. Photographs become the starting points for paintings - be Burqa clad, jacketed, variously tattooed, or painted simply from the back. Increasingly too, the body feminine has become her milieu. Sometimes tough, sometimes provocative and sometimes downright sexy.

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HEATHER STRAKA

## EDUCATION

- 2000 MFA, Ilam School of Fine Art, Canterbury University
- 1994 BFA, Elam School of Fine Arts, Auckland University

## AWARDS & RESIDENCIES

- 2012 William Hodges Fellowship, Invercargill, NZ
- 2009 Wallace Arts Trust / Altes Spital Residency, Solothurn, Switzerland
- 2008 Frances Hodgkins Fellowship, Otago University, Dunedin, NZ
- 2002 Pierce Lowe Award, Royal Overseas League, London, UK
- 2001 Royal Overseas League Commonwealth Scholarship, London, UK
- 2001 Ethel Susan Jones Travelling Scholarship, University of Canterbury, NZ
- 2000 Ethel Rose Overton Scholarship, University of Canterbury, NZ

## SELECTED SOLO SHOWS

- 2017 THE STRANGERS ROOM, Trish Clarke Gallery, Auckland
- 2016 X MARKS THE SPOT, Nadine Milne Gallery, Arrowtown
- 2016 THE HONEYTRAP RETURNS, Pageblackie Gallery, Wellington, NZ
- 2015 THE HONEYTRAP, Jonathan Smart Gallery, Christchurch, NZ
- 2015 SOMEBODIES EYES, Trish Clark Gallery, Auckland, NZ
- 2014 THE CREATOR, Page Blackie Gallery, Wellington, NZ
- 2013 BURQABABE, Page Blackie Gallery & Auckland Art Fair, NZ
- 2013 BLOOD LUST, Jonathan Smart Gallery, Christchurch, NZ
- 2012 BLOOD LUST, Southland Art Gallery & Museum, Invercargill, NZ
- 2012 THE NOBLE SAVAGE, Jonathan Smart Gallery, Christchurch, NZ
- 2012 BURQABABE, Nadene Milne Gallery, Arrowtown, NZ
- 2012 PLAYDATE, Page Blackie Gallery, Wellington, NZ
- 2011 THE ASIAN, Te Tuhi Centre for the Arts, Auckland, NZ
- 2011 THE ASIAN, Rotorua Museum, Rotorua, NZ
- 2010 THE ASIAN, Dunedin Public Art Gallery, Dunedin, NZ
- 2010 THE ATTENDANTS, Page Blackie Gallery, Wellington, NZ
- 2009 DO NOT RESUSCITATE, Blue Oyster Gallery, Dunedin, NZ
- 2009 LOST IN TRANSLATION, Kunstlerhaus, Solothurn, Switzerland
- 2009 THE SLEEPING ROOM, Hocken Gallery, Dunedin, NZ
- 2009 HEATHER STRAKA, Nadene Milne Gallery, Arrowtown, NZ
- 2008 DONOR, Jonathan Smart Gallery, Christchurch, NZ
- 2008 LIFE (STILL), Anna Bibby Gallery, Auckland, NZ

- 2007 THE BANQUET, Anna Bibby Gallery, Auckland, NZ
- 2006 SELLING HAPPYNESS, Jonathan Smart Gallery, Christchurch, NZ
- 2006 THE AFTER LIFE, Janne Land Gallery, Wellington, NZ
- 2005 PARADISE LOST, Jonathan Smart Gallery, Christchurch, NZ
- 2005 PARADISE GAINED, Janne Land Gallery, Wellington, NZ
- 2005 PARADISE RE-VISITED, Anna Bibby Gallery, Auckland, NZ
- 2004 FIRST IMPRESSIONS, Milford Gallery, Dunedin, NZ
- 2003 JOKER, Janne Land Gallery, Wellington, NZ
- 2003 THE GAME, Anna Bibby Gallery, Auckland, NZ
- 2003 STAIN / SKVRNA, Gallery Via, Prague, Czech Republic
- 2002 ROXBURGH CLASSICS, Jonathan Smart Gallery, Christchurch, NZ
- 2001 NO SUBJECT SPECIFIED, Anna Bibby Gallery, Auckland, NZ
- 2001 WALLFLOWER, Jonathan Smart Gallery, Christchurch, NZ
- 2001 MANUFACTURING ROXBURGH, Janne Land Gallery, Wellington NZ
- 2001 NOT SEEN TO BE STARING (Madame & The Bastard), Janne Land Gallery, Wellington, NZ
- 2000 PUBLIC & PRIVATE, Jonathan Smart Gallery, Christchurch, NZ
- 2000 IMPORTED WHITEWARE, Anna Bibby Gallery, Auckland, NZ
- 1999 STAIN, Anna Bibby Gallery, Auckland, NZ
- 1999 NOT SEEN TO BE STARING, (Madame & The Bastard) Jonathan Smart Gallery, CHCH, NZ
- 1998 COURTESY OF DOCTEUR L. GUYOT, Anna Bibby Gallery, Auckland, NZ
- 1996 ROOM 101, Teststrip Gallery, Auckland, NZ

#### SELECTED GROUP SHOWS

- 2016 BAD HAIR, Christchurch City Ary Gallery, Christchurch, NZ
- 2014 BOYS DON'T CRY, Tim Melville Gallery, Auckland, NZ
- 2010 FOREVER AFTER: CONVERSATIONS WITH THE PAST, Hocken Gallery, Dunedin, NZ
- 2009 STILL LIFE: THE ART OF ANATOMY, Dunedin Public Art Gallery, Dunedin, NZ
- 2009 BELOVED: works from Dunedin Public Art Gallery, DPAG, Dunedin, NZ
- 2009 LANDSCAPES, Page Blackie Gallery, Wellington, NZ
- 2008 WALLACE ART AWARDS Finalist Touring Exhibition, NZ
- 2008 STRAKA AND POPPELWELL, Nadene Milne Gallery, Arrowtown, NZ
- 2007 PAKEHA NOW, Suter Gallery, Nelson, NZ
- 2002 TOURING SCHOLARS EXHIBITION, Royal Overseas League, London & Edinburgh, UK
- 2001 RECENT ACQUISITIONS, Robert McDougall Gallery, Christchurch, NZ
- 2001 RECENT ACQUISITIONS, University of Canterbury, Christchurch, NZ
- 1999 VISA GOLD ART AWARD Touring Exhibition, NZ
- 1997 LAYING IT ON THICK ARTSPACE, Auckland, NZ
- 1995 150 WAYS OF LOVING ARTSPACE, Auckland, NZ
- 1993 AGENDA ARTSPACE, Auckland, NZ

#### COLLECTIONS

Christchurch Art Gallery Te Puna o Waiwhetu  
Dunedin Public Art Gallery  
Southland Museum & Art Gallery  
James Wallace Art Trust