SANDERSON

NATASHA WRIGHT

Natasha Wright (b. 1987 Aotearoa, New Zealand) is a New Zealand born artist based in New York. Wright's practice explores and redresses the depiction of woman-as-subject throughout history. Her large-scale paintings fuse figuration and abstraction in intricately layered compositions; referencing traditional modes of portraiture within contemporary contexts.

Drawing from portrayals of women throughout antiquity to modern day advertising campaigns and fashion shoots, Wright's works are grounded in the history of our image making; whilst presenting something instinctively unique.

Blurring the boundaries between the internal self and the externally built personas we create, Wright's paintings explore concepts of gender and sexuality. Her figures emerge as powerful beings that subvert performed and projected ideas of womanhood.

Utilising neo-expressionism, vivid colour and a bold use of line Wright's depiction of the female form is that of strength and virtue. Her figures are sensual but never passive - Her subjects are central, confident and determined.

'Each artwork has been built-up in layers with flat brushes, used to apply broad swathes of thick oil paint that deliver a captivating tactility. Bright pops of colour feel urgent and impactful against the paintings' dark backgrounds, while the female figures seem to inhabit an in-between space that links past and present; existing within a kind of classical painting canon while simultaneously expressing something that feels anchored in a contemporary context.'[1]

Wright studied at the Central Saint Martins School of Art in London in 2013 and received her MFA from The New York Studio School in 2017. She was awarded The New York Studio School Scholarship, The Jane Chace Carroll Merit Award and the LCU Award. Her work has been featured in Art Critical, ArtZone, Denizen, The New Zealand Artist Magazine and The New Zealand Herald. In 2018, Wright's solo show at SFA Projects, New York, was named one of the five best female art exhibitions in New York City by Harper's Bazaar.

Wright has exhibited in New Zealand, the United States and Australia. Solo shows include: What's a Nice Girl Like You Doing in a Place Like This (M Contemporary, Sydney, Australia, 2023) After Party (Sanderson Contemporary, Auckland, 2022), Sista Grotto (Spring Break Art Fair, New York 2020), When Black Swallows Red (John Davis Gallery, New York, 2019), Sista Chapel (SFA Projects, New York, 2019) and Angels and Icons (Parlour Projects, Hawkes Bay, 2019).

BIOGRAPHY

BORN: Aotearoa New Zealand

LIVES: New York

EDUCATION: 2017- Masters in Fine Arts - The New York Studio School, New York. 2013- Central St Martins – Visual Arts, Foundation Course – London. 2010- Bachelor of Design (Honors), Massey University, Poneke Wellington. 2008- Design and Management - Parsons, The New School, New York

AWARDS / AFFILIATIONS: 2021 – Diocesan Women to Watch Award – Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland, Aotearoa New Zealand. 2019– NYFA Artist / Entrepreneur, Saratoga Springs. 2016– Jane Chace Carroll Merit Award. 2016 – New York Studio School Scholarship. 2016 – LCU Award (New York Studio School). 2010– Honors Award – Massey University, Poneke Wellington, Aotearoa New Zealand. 2007 - Young Inspiring New Zealanders Award

SELECTED SOLO SHOWS: 2024 - "Les Biches" Sanderson Contemporary (Upcoming); "Briefly Gorgeous" - M Contemporary, Sydney, Australia. 2023 - "What's a Nice Girl Like You Doing in a Place Like This" - M Contemporary, Sydney, Australia. 2022 - "She, Her, Hers" - Curated by Emily McElwreath, New York, United States. 2022– "After Party"- Sanderson Contemporary, Auckland, New Zealand; "Because the Night"- M Contemporary, Sydney, Australia. 2021– "A Place to Stand" – Sanderson Contemporary, Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland, Aotearoa New Zealand. 2020– "Sista Grotto" – Spring Break Art Fair, New York. 2019- "Sista Chapel", SFA Projects - New York; "Angels and Icons", Parlor Projects - Hawkes Bay, New Zealand; "When Black Swallows Red", John Davis Gallery – New York. 2018- "Les Biches", curated by JMN Artists, 61 Hester St - New York. 2017- "Tabula Rasa" - The New York Studio School, Thesis show, New York, United States. 2016 - "Masculin Féminin" - Solo show - MFA Thesis show, NYSS Gallery, NYC, United States

SELECTED GROUP SHOWS: 2025 - "Together One World" - representing Aoteaora New Zealand at the United Nations Headquarters in celebration of the UN's 80th Anniversary, New York City, USA, curated by Ann-Marie Richard. 2021– "Leaving the Body" – Curated by Morgan Everhart - The Yard, City Hall – New York. 2020– "It's Complicated" – Two Person show - Spring Break Art Show – Los Angeles. 2019- "I Don't Go By That" - Curated by Joachim Pissarro, Steven Harvey – New York; Holiday Benefit in partnership with Solace House - M David & Co, New York; "Body Beautiful" – Curated by Indira Ceserine, The Untitled Space, New York; "Thuderdome"– Curated by Becky Yazden, Ridgewood Open Studios, New York; The New York Studio School Alumni Invitational, Curated by Claire Sherman; "New Narrative Now" – M David & Co, Brooklyn, New York; "Origins" – The Art Vacancy, Bowery, Lower East Side, New York; Winter juried exhibition – Curated by Elisa Jensen, Blue Mountain Gallery, NY. 2018- "Borderwalls" - The Border Gallery, 56 Bogart St, New York, United States; "27th Annual Juried Show" - Curated by Karen Wilkin, Bowery Gallery, New York; "X Marks The Spot" - NYSS Alumni invitational show, New York, United States; "Missed Connections" - Curated by JMN Artists, 137 Eldridge St, New York, United States. 2017 - "Small Works" - Vivid Space, San Diego, United States; "Material Matters" - Curated by JMN Artists, Peninsula Gallery, Brook-

lyn, New York; “Secret Garden” - The Untitled Space, New York, United States; Hohenberg Travel Award show - NYSS Gallery, New York, United States. 2013 - “Dysmorphia” - Central Saint Martins - London, UK. 2009 - Massey University BDes (Honors) exhibition show - Massey University, New Zealand. 2008 - Summer invitational show - Parsons, The New School, New York, United States

RESIDENCIES: 2019- 2020 -DNA Residency, Visiting Artists Collection. 2019- 2020 - DNA Residency, Cape Cod, United States. 2018- L´Appartamento Residency, Naples, Italy

PRESS: 2022- Spring / Summer feature - Remix Magazine (print); Everhat, Morgan. “Natasha Wright Explores the female Body as Icon” A Woman’s Thing. 2021–The Denizen Magazine, Fashion Quarterly. 2019 – Femme Art Review - “Dark Angels and Amazons” , Two Coats of Paint – “Benjamin Pritchard and Natasha Wright: Dark, Murky and Subterranean” , White Hot Magazine – “Noah Becker talks to Painter Natasha Wright” , Fashion Quarterly – “Get to Know New Zealand Artist Before Her Homecoming Exhibition”, The Denizen -“Prominent Kiwi Artist Tells Us About Her Upcoming Exhibition, Angels and Icons” . 2018 – Whitehot Magazine – “Les Biches by Natasha Wright”, Art Critical – “Moments of Heightened Sensation – Natasha Wright Discusses Her Work with Nancy Elsamanoudi” , Harper’s Bazaar – “The Best Female Art Exhibitions To See This Fall”, The Denizen – “Four Upcoming Exhibits That Are Worth Booking A Plane Ticket For” . 2017- The New Zealand Artist Magazine - “Tabula Rasa”, The Denizen Magazine - “ Girl Uninterrupted “, Harper’s Bazaar - “How Feminist Artists Are Staging Their Own Protests with Paint”; “A New Zealand artist explores how women are, in fact, extremely complicated” Feature + interview in Denizen Magazine; 2014 - The New Zealand Herald – Viva “ Drawing the runway in New York City”, Feature; The Daily Telegraph, Australia - “Drawing a line in the Sand on her career” – Feature. 2015- NZ Edge - “Drawing the runway in New York City” Feature. 2008- The New Zealand Herald - Viva Magazine “One to Watch”- Feature profile