

Media Information – New Exhibition

## JENNY SAGES: *Paths to Portraiture*

MOSMAN ART GALLERY  
16 March – 19 May 2013



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*Paths to Portraiture* explores the process of portrait-making by acclaimed Australian artist Jenny Sages. The exhibition launches Mosman Art Gallery's Autumn season for 2013. Developed and toured by the National Portrait Gallery, Canberra, Mosman Art Gallery is its only Sydney venue.

Jenny Sages is well known for her abstract landscapes, scratched and gouged from encaustic wax and delicately coloured with powdered pigments. Along with her abstract works, Sages has also had a long practice in painting portraits. Since 1989 she has been an Archibald finalist twenty times and won the Portia Geach Memorial Award for portraiture twice. Jenny won the prestigious Mosman Art Prize in 1994. She has been a finalist in the Wynne Prize for landscape thirteen times, winning in 2005 with a perspective work titled *Road to Utopia*. In 2012, Jenny Sages won 'People's Choice' at the Archibald Prize with her haunting self-portrait, *After Jack*.

Featured portraits in this exhibition include strong women influential in their fields of endeavour: **painter Emily Kngwarreye, author Helen Garner, dancer Irina Baronova and fashion designers Heide Middleton and Sarah-Jane Clarke** alongside Jenny's own self-portrait, *Each Morning when I wake up I put on my mother's face*, from 2000.

The large-scale portraits are displayed with drawings that the artist made in preparation for them, as well as other artworks, objects and materials that inspired and relate to the finished paintings. Most works in the exhibition are drawn from the collection of the National Portrait Gallery. The drawings have not been on display before this tour.

Jenny Sages was born in 1933 to Russian Jewish parents in Shanghai, and grew up amidst the city's European expatriates. In her mid-teens she relocated with her parents to Sydney, but soon left art school there to study in New York. Having returned to Australia, for three decades she worked as an illustrator and writer of fashion, travel and lifestyle features for numerous magazines, including Vogue. In 1983 after a decisive trip to the Kimberley, Sages gave up commercial art and began to focus on her visual arts practice full-time concentrating on both abstract and landscape works. She paints a portrait perhaps once a year, but never on commission, Sages seeks out her portrait subjects and invites them to sit for her.

**JENNY SAGES: *Paths to Portraiture*** runs concurrent with the survey exhibition, Ruth Burgess: *From the Forest*, presented at Mosman Art Gallery, 16 March – 19 May 2013.

A colour catalogue accompanies the exhibition.

National Portrait Gallery travelling exhibition. Curator, Dr Sarah Engledow

**Special events for both exhibitions include:**

An artists' lunch hosted by 702 ABC's Simon Marnie, curator talks & artists' workshops.

> **Media opportunities: Jenny Sages available for comment.**

> **Media requests & images: Leah Haynes – [leahmhaynes@gmail.com](mailto:leahmhaynes@gmail.com) M:0408 419 463**

**JENNY SAGES: *Paths to Portraiture***  
**16 March – 19 May 2013**

**MOSMAN ART GALLERY**

**cnr Art Gallery Way & Myahgah Road, MOSMAN, NSW 2088**

**Admission: Free / Gallery Hours: 7 days, 10am-5pm**

**PH: 02 9978 4178 / [www.mosmanartgallery.org.au](http://www.mosmanartgallery.org.au)**



## MOSMAN ART GALLERY SPECIAL EVENT:

### AN ARTFUL AFFAIR - LUNCH WITH JENNY SAGES AND RUTH BURGESS IN CONVERSATION WITH 702 ABC'S SIMON MARNIE Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> April at 12 noon

Join legendary and much loved Australian artists, Jenny Sages and Ruth Burgess in conversation with 702 ABC radio presenter, Simon Marnie. Be part of the conversation over a delicious two-course luncheon, including wine and coffee, in the Grand Hall at Mosman Art Gallery, Tuesday April 16th. Simon will conduct an entertaining Q&A with both artists in discussion of their current Mosman Art Gallery exhibitions:

Jenny Sages: *Paths to Portraiture* and Ruth Burgess: *From the Forest*.

**This not to be missed special event is a key fundraiser for Mosman Art Gallery.**

Unique raffles prizes on offer. Bookings essential: [www.trybooking.com/42432](http://www.trybooking.com/42432)

\$90 per person / \$85 Friends of the Gallery / \$850 - corporate tables of 10

image: Jenny Sages, *Each morning when I wake up I put on my mother's face*, 2000

## JENNY SAGES: *Paths to Portraiture* - PUBLIC PROGRAMS:

### *PATHS TO PORTRAITURE: CURATOR'S FLOORTALK WITH DR. SARAH ENGLEDDOW*

**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March at 3pm**

Join Dr. Sarah Engledow, the Historian at the National Portrait Gallery and exhibition curator for a floor talk and exhibition overview of Jenny Sages: *Paths to Portraiture*.

Floortalk will be followed by afternoon tea.

Admission free / RSVP essential: [www.trybooking.com/42143](http://www.trybooking.com/42143)

### **EXPRESSIVE DRAWING MASTER CLASS WITH JENNY SAGES**

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May, 10am – 3pm**

Jenny Sages is one of Australia's leading artists known for her expressive painting and drawing techniques, which produce her compelling portraits. Join the artist for an intimate Master Class as she imparts her passionate love of expressive drawing as the basis for all areas of her art practice.

Cost: \$100.00 per participant. \$90.00 (Friends of the Gallery).

Places are limited to 10, minimum 6 people required for workshop.

Materials: to be supplied by participants.

Bookings essential: [www.trybooking.com.au/42423](http://www.trybooking.com.au/42423)

#### **Suggested Materials List:**

- 20-30 x large sheets of inexpensive drawing paper, butchers paper or similar
  - Willow charcoal
  - Compressed charcoal
  - Spray fixative
- Optional: Bring your favourite drawing medium, eg pastels, crayons or oil sticks.