

Sarah Walker

Born 1988, Australia. Lives and works in Melbourne, Australia.

sarahwalkerfineart.com

Sarah Walker is a Melbourne-based artist, photographer and writer. Her work uses humour and theatricality to explore catastrophe, disaster and existential dread. She uses speculative fiction and narrative disruption to demonstrate the limits of language in comprehending chaos, and comedic tactics to create surprising and unexpected engagement with ideas of mortality and loss. She is also one of Melbourne's most prominent theatre photographers. In 2019 she was a finalist in the MTV:REDEFINE award and the fortyfivedownstairs Emerging Artist Award, was runner-up in the Calibre Essay Prize and was selected to represent RMIT at the LaSalle College of the Arts 'Tropical Lab' residency. She has previously been a winner of the Best Portrait prize at the CCP Salon, a finalist in the National Photographic Portrait Prize, a two-time finalist in the Maggie Diaz Photography Prize for Women and a semi-finalist in the Moran Photographic Portrait Prize. Recent exhibitions have included her solo show 'In Living Colour' at First Site Gallery and 'Aesthetics of Human Relations' at Site Eight Gallery, curated by Soyoun Kim.

Education

2019 MFA at RMIT, Melbourne

2010 Bachelor of Arts, Monash University, Melbourne.

Awards, grants, residencies

- 2019 *Calibre Essay Prize*, Australian Book Review. *Runner Up*.
- 2019 *Emerging Artist Award 2019*, fortyfivedownstairs. *Finalist*.
- 2019 *MTV RE:DEFINE award*, presented by the Goss-Michael Foundation. *Finalist*.
- 2019 *Tropical Lab* residency, LASALLE College of the Arts, Singapore.
- 2018 *Time, Place, Space: Nomad 2018* regional residency, facilitated by Arts House.
- 2017 Sydney Road Writer's Contest and Cup. *Overall winner and Storytelling Prize winner*.
- 2017 Darebin Mayor's Writing Award. *Highly Commended*.
- 2017 *Maggie Diaz Photography Prize for Women*, Brightspace, Melbourne. *Finalist*.
- 2016 *CCP Salon*, Centre for Contemporary Photography, Melbourne. *Best Portrait winner*.
- 2015 *National Photographic Portrait Prize*, National Portrait Gallery, Canberra. *Finalist*.
- 2015 *Maggie Diaz Photography Prize for Women*, Brightspace, Melbourne. *Finalist*.
- 2015 *Moran Photographic Portrait Prize*. *Semi-finalist*.
- 2013 *Visible Studios* artist-in-residence at Federation Square, Melbourne.
- 2011 *Green Room Awards*, Best Ensemble, for *The Economist*, MKA. *Finalist*.

Selected exhibitions and commissions

- 2019 *In Living Colour*, First Site Gallery, RMIT. *Solo show*.
- 2019 *Aesthetics of Human Relations*, Site Eight Gallery, RMIT, curated by Soyoun Kim.
- 2019 *Melbourne Fringe x Metro Tunnel* hoardings project. *Public solo exhibition*.
- 2019 *7 for 7* hoardings project. Produced by RMIT University (RMIT), Central Equity, Wonderment Walk Victoria (WWV), Multiplex and Future Tense. *Commissioned artist*.
- 2019 *One Night Stand*, Evie's, curated by Coalesce ARI.
- 2018 *CCP Salon*, Centre for Contemporary Photography, Melbourne.
- 2018 *Behind the Curtain*, Yarra Sculpture Gallery, curated by Julian Cobb.
- 2018 *Stay Safe*, Noir Darkroom.
- 2018 *Artland*, RMIT Brunswick, curated by the RMIT Curatorial Collective.
- 2018 *One Night Stand: Aberration*, The Burrow, curated by Coalesce ARI.
- 2016 *Autumn*, Noir Darkroom.
- 2016 *Black and White*, Noir Darkroom.
- 2015 *Future Past* retrospective, permanent exhibition, Arts House, Melbourne.
- 2014 *CCP Salon*, Centre for Contemporary Photography, Melbourne.

Projects, facilitations and publications

- 2020 *A Capacity to be Moved: Performance and its Affects*, special issue of *Research in Drama Education: The Journal of Applied Theatre and Performance*, co-edited by Anne Harris & Stacy Holman Jones. *Book chapter*. Co-authored with Fleur Kilpatrick.
- 2019 *Floundering*, Calibre Essay Prize Runner-Up, published in the *Australian Book Review* and the *Australian Financial Review*.
- 2019 *Imagine Me and You: Bob Brown and Paul Thomas*, Melbourne Writer's Festival. *Session moderator*.
- 2019 *Levity and Gravity: The Place of Humour in Critical Autoethnography*, presenter and panellist, co-authored with Fleur Kilpatrick. *Critical Autoethnography 2019 Annual International Conference*, State Library of Victoria.
- 2019 *Whale*, Fleur Kilpatrick, dir. Katrina Cornwell, Darebin Arts. *Performer*.
- 2019 *Ocular becomings in dangerous times: The politics of 'seeing'*, session facilitator, Association for Visual Pedagogies 2019 International AVP Conference, RMIT University, with Ben Landau.
- 2019 *Retreat*, MONA FOMA 2019, project facilitator and key creative, with Ben Landau.
- 2017 *Songs of the Earth, Spirits of the Sky* project facilitator and key creative, City of Booroondara, with Barking Spider Visual Theatre.
- 2016 *Signed, Sealed, Delivered: Women of Letters*, ed. Michaela McGuire and Marieke Hardy. *Contributing essayist*.
- 2016 *Contact Mic* podcast, co-hosted with Fleur Kilpatrick until 2018 | contactmicpodcast.com
- 2016 *The Human Condition* project facilitator, Footscray High School, with Barking Spider Visual Theatre.
- 2015 *By You, Me and the Light* youth short film project facilitator for Rawcus
- 2015 *The Art Olympics* monthly arts interview project founder and director
- 2014 *Portraits* project with young people with and without disabilities for Rawcus
- 2013 *Love: This is not yet a musical*, co-creative with Sipat Lawin Ensemble, Philippines.