Vivienne Binns OAM

1940 – 2026
Born in Wyong, New South Wales.
Lived and worked in Sydney, New South Wales, and Canberra, Australian Capital Territory.

Selected Solo Exhibitions

2026	*Test Pieces*, Sutton Gallery, Melbourne
2024	*Enamels*, Conners Conners, Melbourne
2023	*Selected Works on Paper, 1963*, Milani Gallery, Brisbane
2022	*Vivienne Binns: On and through the Surface,* Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney; Monash University Museum of Art, Melbourne
2019	*Mothers' Memories Others' Memories,* Milani Gallery, Brisbane
2018	*It is what it is what it is,* Sutton Gallery, Melbourne
2016	*Minding Clouds,* Sutton Gallery, Melbourne
2014	*New Work,* Milani Gallery, Brisbane
	NOT ALL BY ME, TCB, Melbourne
2011	*2011,* Sutton Gallery, Melbourne
2012	*Vivienne Binns, Art and Life,* La Trobe University Museum of Art, Melbourne
2010	*Recent Paintings and Drawings from the Sixties,* Milani Gallery, Brisbane
2008	*Everything New is Old Again,* Sutton Gallery, Melbourne
2007	*A Symphony of Uncertainties: In memory of Unknown Artists and Scenes of Popular Reverie,* Helen Maxwell Gallery, Canberra
2006-8	*Vivienne Binns,* Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, Hobart; The Drill Hall Gallery, Australian National University, Canberra; Penrith Regional Gallery, Penrith, NSW; and Bathurst Regional Gallery, Bathurst, NSW
2006	*Translating: In Memory of Unknown Artists,* Bellas Milani Gallery, Brisbane
2005	*Some New, Some Old, Some Collaborations,* Sutton Gallery, Melbourne
2004	*Vivienne Binns: Twenty First Century Paintings,* The Cross Art Projects, Sydney
	Painting Formulas, Helen Maxwell Gallery, Canberra
2003	*Vernissage,* Helen Maxwell Gallery, Canberra
	In Chaos and Order, Bellas Gallery, Brisbane
	Shit: Collaborations with Derek O'Connor and Geoff Newton, Canberra Contemporary Art Space, Canberra
2001	*New Work*, Sutton Gallery, Melbourne
	New Work, Helen Maxwell Gallery, Canberra
1999	*PATTERNING: In Memory of Unknown Artists*, Sutton Gallery, Melbourne
	TRANSLATIONS: Remembering Unknown Artists, Bellas Gallery, Brisbane
	Rocks and Relics: Cook to Lake Cargelligo, The Cube, Canberra Contemporary Art Space, Canberra
1998	*Small Works,* New England Regional Art Museum, Armidale
1997	*Heroes, God, My Father and Me,* Sutton Gallery, Melbourne
1996	*Slicing History in the Pacific,* Bellas Gallery, Brisbane
	In Memory of the Unknown Artist and Others, Watters Gallery, Sydney
1995	*Pacific Strands,* Australian Girls' Own Gallery (aGOG), Canberra
1994	*Pacific Parts,* Sutton Gallery, Melbourne

	Pacific Parts, Watters Gallery, Sydney
	Surfacing in the Pacific, Bellas Gallery, Brisbane
1992	Sutton Gallery, Melbourne
1991	*New works,* Waters Gallery, Sydney
1990	*Drawings of God,* Tower of Babel, Bellas Gallery, Brisbane
1989	*Miniature Paintings and group work 'Tower of Babel,'* Watters Gallery, Sydney
1988	*Miniature Paintings,* Bellas Gallery, Brisbane
1987	*Miniature Paintings,* Watters Gallery, Sydney
1985	Watters Gallery, Sydney
1973	*Enamel Panels,* University of Tasmania, Hobart and Raffins Gallery, Orange
1971	*Funky Enamel Ashtrays,* Watters Gallery, Sydney
1967	Watters Gallery, Sydney

Selected Group Exhibitions

2026	*MOTHER*, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne
	Iconic Loved Unexpected, Newcastle Art Gallery, Newcastle, NSW
	Difficult Women: Art, Activism, Identity, Artbank, Sydney
2025	*Patternmakers*, Tuggeranong Arts Centre, Canberra
2024	*The Possibilities Are Immense: Fifty Years of the George Paton Gallery*, George Paton Gallery, University of Melbourne, Melbourne
	Wilder Times, Bundanon, Illaroo, NSW
	Exhibition No. 1, Civic Art Bureau, Canberra
	Staging Oneself: Photography and New Media Self-Portraits by Women Artists, Cairns Art Gallery, Cairns
2023	*Frozen Blood*, Neon Parc, Melbourne
	Living Patterns: Contemporary Australian Abstraction, QAGOMA, Brisbane
	Spacingout, Art Gallery of Western Australia, Perth
	Braving Time: Contemporary Art in Queer Australia, National Art School, Sydney
	In the arms of consciousness: Women, feminism and the surreal, Hazelhurst Regional Gallery and Arts Centre, Gymea
2022	*Bright*, Goulburn Regional Art Gallery, Goulburn
2021-22	*QUEER: Stories from the NGV Collection*, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne
2020	*Know My Name: Australian Women Artists 1900 to Now*, National Gallery of Australia, Canberra
2018	*Painting Amongst Other Things*, ANU School of Arts and Social Sciences, Canberra
	Celebration: 20 Years of Collecting Visual Art at CMAG, Canberra Museum + Art Gallery, Canberra
	Redlands Konica Minolta Art Prize, National Art School, Sydney
2017-18	*Unfinished Business: Perspectives on Art & Feminism,* ACCA, Melbourne
2016	*Painting, More Painting,* ACCA, Melbourne
2015	*Pop to Popism,* Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney

	Party, Party, Party - Casula 21, Casula Powerhouse, NSW
	Lurid Beauty, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne
2014	*Binns + Valamanesh,* Casula Powerhouse, Sydney
2012	*Temperment Spectrum,* Sutton Gallery, Melbourne
	The Green Room, M16 Artspace, Canberra
	Sixties Explosion, Macquarie University Art Gallery, Sydney
	Word of mouth - encounters with abstract art, Canberra Museum and Gallery, ACT
	The transit of Venus, Photospace Gallery, Canberra
	Test Pattern, Margaret Lawrence Gallery, VCA, Melbourne
	The Baker's Dozen, UTS Gallery, University of Technology, Sydney
2011	*Zero Dollar Show,* curated by Liang Luscombe, WestSpace's The West Wing, Melbourne Central shopping complex, Melbourne
2010	*Something in the Air: Collage and Assemblage in Canberra Region Art,* Canberra Museum and Gallery, Canberra
	Time and Space: Art and Artist Run Spaces 1970 to Now, Hazelhurst Regional Gallery and Arts Centre, Sydney
	Three Prints: Vivienne Binns, Jan Brown and Waratah Lahy, Megalo Print Studio & Gallery, Canberra
	This Way Up: An Exhibition Series of Recent Abstract Painting and Drawing, ANU School of Art, ANCA & M16, Canberra
	Stick it!: Collage in Australian Art, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne
	The Oyster's Locale, curated by Fernando do Campo, The Mill Providore & Gallery Ritchies Mill, Launceston, Tasmania
2009	*Clemenger Contemporary Art Award,* curated by Alex Baker, Jane Devery and Kelly Gellatly, The Ian Potter Centre: National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne
2007	*Cross Currents: Focus on Contemporary Australian Art,* Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney
2006	*Opening exhibition,* George Petelin Gallery, Brisbane
	someone shows something to someone, curated by Tony Bailey, Canberra Contemporary
	Art Space, Canberra
	The Artist, the Community and the Land, Plimsoll Gallery, Hobart
2005	*Superspective,* Canberra Contemporary Art Space, Canberra
	CCAS Manuka Drawing Award 2005, Canberra Contemporary Art Space, Canberra
	Retroactive, Canberra Contemporary Art Space, Canberra
	Christmas Exhibition, Bellas Gallery, Brisbane
2004	*Surface Indicators,* ANU School of Art, Canberra
	Christmas Exhibition, Bellas Gallery, Brisbane
2003	*Reflecting Canberra*, Canberra Museum and Gallery, Canberra
	Christmas Exhibition, Bellas Gallery, Brisbane
	Hung Drawn & Quartered: Twenty-Five years, Twenty-Five Artists, Tin Sheds Gallery, Sydney
2002	*Christmas Exhibition,* Bellas Gallery, Brisbane
2001	*CSA showcase, Jubilee 2001,* ANU CSA Gallery, Canberra

	Coincidence, Spiral Arm Gallery, Canberra
2000	*Suburb*, curated by Peter Emmett, Museum of Sydney, Sydney
	On the Brink: Abstraction in the 90's, Heide Museum of Modern Art, Melbourne
1999	*GLUE,* Galerie Constantinople, Queanbeyan, New South Wales
	a letter to PICASSO: the Stamp in Contemporary Art, Post Master Gallery, National Philatelic Centre, Melbourne
1997-8	*Drawings,* Australian Girls' Own Gallery (aGOG), Canberra
	Winter Light, aGOG, Canberra
	Patterning: Layers of Meaning in Contemporary Art, curated by Merryn Gates, an Asialink touring exhibition to Canberra; Bandung, Jakarta, Ubud, Yogyakarta, Indonesia; Lahore, Pakistan; and Manila, Philippines
1997	*I had a Dream: Australian Art in the 1960s,* National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne
1996	*Women Hold Up Half the Sky: The Orientation of Art in the Post-War Pacific,* Monash University Gallery, Melbourne
1995	*1968,* National Gallery of Australia, Canberra
	Island to Island: Australia to Cheju, Cheju Pre-Biennale, Korea
	Artist Editions, Sutton Gallery, Melbourne
1994	*Remain in Light,* Blaxland Gallery, Sydney
1991	*Frames of Reference: Aspects of Feminism and Art,* Pier 4/5, Sydney
1989	*Tower of Babel: Miniature Paintings and Group Work with 29 Contributors,*
	Watters Gallery, Sydney
	25 Year Anniversary Exhibition, Watters Gallery, Sydney and regional galleries
	ARX 89, Australian and Regional Artist Exchange, Perth Institute for Contemporary Art, Perth; and Art Gallery of Western Australia, Perth
	Group Theme Exhibition, Oz Art Gallery, Newcastle, NSW
1988	*20 by 20 Crafts in Society 1970 - 1990,* NSW Crafts Council travelling exhibition
1987	*Contemporary Art in Australia - A Review,* Museum of Contemporary Art, Brisbane
1986	*Hugh Williamson Prize,* City of Ballarat Fine Art Gallery, Ballarat, Victoria
1986-8	*Country-City Connections,* artist in community project, North Sydney council, Sydney
1985-6	*Exhibition for Young Travellers,* Australian National Gallery, Canberra
1982	*Biennale of Sydney,* Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
	Vision in Disbelief: Acquisitions 1973-83, University Art Museum, Queensland University, Queensland
	Eureka, Institute of Contemporary Art Gallery, London, UK
1981-83	*Full-Flight*, artist-in-community in the central western region of NSW (the region covers approximately 60,000 square miles with 40-50 towns)
1981	*Australian Perspecta*, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
	Mothers' Memories, Others' Memories, final exhibition, Westpoint Shopping Plaza, Blacktown, Penrith Shopping Centre, Windsor Library
1980	*Mothers' Memories, Others' Memories*, Blacktown artist in community and participation project, Watters Gallery, Sydney; Ewing and George Paton Galleries, The University of Melbourne, Melbourne
1979	*Mothers' Memories, Others' Memories*, John Clark Gallery, University of New South Wales, Sydney

	Artist in Community and Participation Project, Blacktown Municipality, Blacktown, Sydney
	Assisted Frank Watters with Upper Hunter Valley Environmental Project and exhibiton, Muswellbrook, New South Wales
	Mother's Day, group performance at Watters Gallery, Sydney
1978	*A Powerful Lecture*, collaborative performance by the Women's Art group, Fine Arts Department, University of Sydney, Sydney
1977	*Scenes from the Highway of Life,* William Angliss Memorial Prize Exhibition, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne
1976	*Portraits of Women in Enamel*, with Marie McMahon, Watters Gallery, Sydney
	Ewing and George Paton Galleries, University of Melbourne, Melbourne Fantasia Gallery, Canberra
1974	*The Quick Brown Fox Jumps over the Quick Brow*, performance with Aleks Danko and Mark Underwood, Maquarie University, Sydney
1972	*Environment HTCT*, with Tim Burns, University of Sydney, Sydney
	The Jo Bonomo Story - A Show of Strength, a group happening, Watters Gallery, Sydney
	See That My Grave's Kept Green, evening of songs, Watters Gallery, Sydney
	The Artsmobile Project, Grafton and Woollongong, NSW
1971	*Woom,* environmental lightshow with Roger Foley (Ellis D Fogg), Watters Gallery, Sydney

Selected Bibliography

Ashburn, Elizabeth	'Lesbian Art: an encounter with Power, *Art & Australia,* Craftsman House, Sydney, 1996.
Barron, Sonia	*The Canberra Times* (Panorama), December 20, 1997.
Berriman, Ann	'Vivienne Binns', *Craft Australia*, no.3, 1980.
Best, Sue	'Vivienne Binns and Friends, Tower of Babel', *Eyeline*, no.13, 1990.
Binns, Vivienne (ed.)	'Community in the Arts', *History, Theory, Practice Australian Perspective*, Pluto, Sydney.
Binns, Vivienne	Articles and artists' statements in: *Lip*, Melbourne, 1976, 1977 and 1980.
Binns, Vivienne	'Mothers' Memories, Others' Memories', *Tharunka,* University of New South Wales Student Union, May 28 1979, pp.11-13.
Binns, Vivienne	'A Brief History of an Art Practice in Community Contexts', *Artlink*, vol.10, no.3, Spring 1990.
Brocker, David	'Vivienne Binns in Hobart', *Art Monthly Australia*, no.198, April 2007.
Bromfield, David	'Artspeak spoken here', *The West Australian (Big Weekend)*, January 10 1988.
Bronwyn, Hann	'Community Art a Feminist Challenge', *Artlink*, vol.10, no.3, Spring 1990.
Burke, Janine	*Field of Vision: A Decade of Change, Womens Art in the Seventies*, Viking, Penguin Books, Melbourne, 1990.
Burke, Janine	'Artist Statement in Six Women Artists', *Meanjin*, vol. 38, no.3, Melbourne, 1979.
Clark, Deborah	'Vivienne Binns Surfacing in the Pacific', *Eyeline,* no.22/23, 1993.
Clark, Deborah	'Collaboration, Artists Working Collectively', *Art & Text*, vol.1, Melbourne, 1981.
Clark, Deborah	'The painting of Vivienne Binns,' in *Vivienne Binns*, exhibition catalogue, Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, Hobart, 2006.
Crawford, Ashley	'50 things collectors need to know 2009: Acquisitions, Vivienne Binns,' *Australian Art Collector* issue 47, January-March 2009, pp.136-137.
Drury, Neville (ed)	*New Art Two: New Directions in Australian Art*, Craftsman House, 1988.

Emmett, Peter	*SYDNEY metropolis suburb harbour,* Historic Houses Trust Trust of New South Wales, Sydney, 2000.
Ewington, Julie	'Enduring Patterns: The Art of Vivienne Binns', *Australian Art Monthly*, no.51, 1992.
Fairley, Gina	'Binns and Valamanesh: an odd pairing', *ArtsHub*, 22 July 2014.
Garlick, Beverley	'Interview with Vivienne Binns', *Refractory Girl,* no.8, March 1975.
Gates, Merryn	'notes from the border', in *SHIT*, exhibition catalogue, 2003.
Gates, Merryn	'Travels with Vivienne: scenes from the highway of life,' in *Vivienne Binns*, exhibition catalogue, Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, Hobart, 2006.
	'Found in Translation', in *Cross Currents Focus on Contemporary Australian Art,* exhibition catalogue, Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney, 2007.
Gray, Anna (ed)	*Australian Art in the National Gallery of Australia*, National Gallery of Australia, Canberra, 2002.
Green, Charles	*Peripheral Vision, Contemporary Australian Art 1970-1994*, Craftsman House, Sydney, 1995.
Hanna, Barbara	'Vivienne Binns', *Honit Soit,* 30 April 1985.
Hart, Deborah	*Know My Name,* Medium, https://medium.com/national-gallery-of-australia/know-my-name 4c3bee25eaa, accessed 20 May 2021.
Hughes, Helen	*Binns' Grids and Voids: "It is what it is", Vivienne Binns at Sutton Gallery,* Memo Review, 14 April, 2018
Hull, A., and Binns, Vivienne	*Community Art Directory,* Australia Council, North Sydney, 1985.
Kerr, Joan	'The Art of Vivienne Binns', *Art and Australia*, vol.30, no.3, 1993.
Kirby, Sandy	*Sight Lines: Womens Art and Feminist Perspectives in Australia*, Craftsman House, Australia, 1992.
Kunda, Maria	'The artist, the community, the land,' *Vivienne Binns*, exhibition catalogue, Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, Hobart, 2006.
Lippard, Lucy	'Out of Control: Australian Art on the Left', *Village Voice*, New York, 19 October 1982; reprinted in *Vivienne Binns*, exhibition catalogue, Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, Hobart, 2006.
McKenzie, Rob	'Vivienne Binns', *un Magazine*, issue 6, Summer 2005
McQualter, Andrew	'Vivienne Binns: Art and Life', *Un Magazine*, vol. 6.2, 2012
Mendelsosohn, J.	*The Australian,* August 23 1996.
Murray Cree, L & Drury, N.	*Australian Painting Now*, Craftsman Press, Sydney, 2000.
Myall, Emma	*2009 Clemenger Contemporary Art Award*, exhibition catalogue, National Gallery Victoria, Melbourne, 2009.
O'Riordan, Maurice	'Vivienne Binns', *Artist Profile*, issue 15, 2011.
Paroissien, Leon (ed)	*Australian Art Review*, William Warner, 1982.
Peckham, Penelope	'Vivienne Binns: Biography,' *Vivienne Binns,* exhibition catalogue, Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, Hobart, 2006.
Peckham, Penelope	*The Political and the Avant-Garde in the Work of Vivienne Binns,* PHD Thesis School of Historical and European Studies, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, LA Trobe University, Victoria, 2007.
Periz, Ingrid	'Vivienne Binns: 50 most collectible artists', *Australian Art Collector,* issue 43, January-March 2008.
Price, Jane	'Ploughlands in Summer', *Heritage: The National Women's Art Book,* Joan Kerr (ed.), Craftsman House, 1995, p.198.
Smee, Sebastian	'Beauty and Brains', *The Weekend Australian*, 13-14 October 2007, pp.18-19.

Snaith, Tai	'Icing the Highway of Life', *un Magazine,* vol. 4.1, 2010, pp. 30-31.
Sullivan, Graeme	*Seeing Australia, Views of Artists and Art Writers*, Piper Press, Sydney, 1994.
Sommerville, Jane	'New Work: Vivienne Binns', *Art World,* issue 6, December 2008.
Stringer, John	'Cross Currents' in *Cross Currents Focus on Contemporary Australian Art,* exhibition catalogue, Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney, 2007.
Taylor, Paul	*Anything Goes: Art in Australia 1970-1980,* Melbourne, 1984.
Taylor, Paul	*Vision in Disbelief*, Biennale of Sydney, exhibition catalogue, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney, 1982.
Tedmanson, Sophie	*Vivienne, Ex, Karla and Fiona*, National Gallery of Australia: Know My Name, https:/ knowmyname.nga.gov.au/stories/vivienne-ex-karla-and-fiona/, accessed 20 May 2021.
Watson, Bronwyn	'Vivienne Binns' Kite-Like references her life and love', *The Australian*, December 7, 2013.

Audio Visual Bibliography

Leahy, Gill (dir)	Something Creative, Crafts Council Australia (prod), MMOM Blacktown 1980. (Copies available through Australian Film and Sound Archive, ACT.)
Ravlich, Robin	'Point Taken', ABC radio, Vivienne Binns, Artist-in-Community 1&2; 20 and 27 Apr 1985.Studies
1982	Artist in Community Training Program, Bowral, New South Wales
1969	Television Course, Gore Hill Technical College, Sydney
1958-62	Diploma in Painting and Drawing, National Art School, Sydney

Grants/Awards

2021	Australia Council Award for Visual Arts
2008	One of four final nominees for John McCaughey Memorial Award,
	50th Anniversary of the National Gallery Victoria, Melbourne
2003	Capital Arts Patron Fellowship, Canberra
2001	London Venice, Paris ANU FRGS Grant, Research; Artists of the Cook. Voyages 18C and Contemporary surfaces in painting 21C
2000	Artist in Residence in London, UK, through the Australia Council: visited Bogside Artists, Derry, North Ireland; Glasgow School of Art, Scotland; and Paris, France
1992	Arx 3, Artists' Regional Exchange, Perth
1991	Artist's Studio Residency in Tokyo, Japan
1990-93	Australian Artist's Creative Fellowship
1986	Ros Bower Memorial Award for Visionary Contribution to Community Art
1983	Order of Australia Medal for Service to Art and Craft
1982	Artist in Community Training Program, Bowral, New South Wales
1977-78	Visual Arts Board Travel Grant to New York, USA and England, UK

Commissions

1975	Photographic screen printing in enamel on steel, enamel panels in conjunction with Victorian enamellers for fountain at Maribyrnong shopping complex, Melbourne

1973	Copper Wall ASL, 11th Floor, 167 Clarence St, Sydney. Designers: Davenport, Wragg & Knight
1972/3	Enamel wall motif, 380 Oxley St, Crows Nest, Architect: Peter Duffield
1972	Copper wall, 110 Pacific Highway, North Sydney, Architects: Kolos and Bryant
1971	Decorative Enamel Plaques, Neutral Bay Synagogue

Travel/Research

2001	International Research Grant, ANU
2000	Eighth Pacific Festival of Arts, Noumea, New Caledonia.
1996	Seventh South Pacific Festival of Arts, Western Samoa
1995	Germany, Switzerland; Oceanic collections esp. Tapacloth; Italy, Venice Biennale
1993	Papua New Guinea, Sepik River and villages, South Pacific Arts Association group
1992	6th South Pacific Festival of Arts at Rarotonga, Cook Islands

Collections

Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney

Art Gallery of Western Australia, Perth

Australian National University, Canberra

BHP Billiton, Melbourne

Canberra Museum and Gallery, Canberra

Griffith University Art Collection, Brisbane

Ian Potter Museum of Art, Melbourne

Kohlberg Kravis Roberts, Sydney

Monash University Musuem of Art, Melbourne

Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney

National Gallery of Australia, Canberra

National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne

Newcastle Art Gallery, Newcastle

Parliament House Art Collection, Canberra

Perc Tucker Regional Gallery, Townsville

Queensland Art Gallery/Gallery of Modern Art, Brisbane

Tate, London

University of Queensland Art Museum, Brisbane

Wesfarmers, Perth

Private Collections