

# CHRISTINE WREST-SMITH

*One's Own Work*

MEDIA RELEASE

Exhibition Dates: 11 - 30 July 2017

28 Derby Street Collingwood VIC 3066

Open 7 days 10am to 6pm

*'I hope that these works do justice to the delight and enjoyment I felt whilst having the opportunity to paint some of Australia's most distinguished and well known artists'. Christine Wrest-Smith, 2017*

Australian Galleries is delighted to present Melbourne based artist Christine Wrest-Smith's first ever major portrait exhibition. Over the past three years, Wrest-Smith has been creating a series of large scale portraits of Australian artists. Wrest-Smith paints her sitters predominantly from life, capturing much about the artist's inner world by incorporating elements of her subjects' own artistic style and inspiration into her work. The unique characteristics of each sitter are masterfully rendered in oil paint; the sensitive portrayal of individuality, strength and fragility are testament to the artist's close and perceptive observation.

Jock Clutterbuck is captured poignantly, peering through one of his large bronze sculptures; Philip Davey is transposed into one of his own artworks, the flora and fauna he has painted numerous times floating around the artist's body. Artist Peter Wegner sits upon a well-worn armchair, in a pose much like one he would have his own subject seated, his gaze turned to the viewer rather than the canvas in a rare moment of revelation and repose.

Wrest-Smith's evocative and illuminating portraits are celebrations of the creative spirit. Each artist's voice resonates poetically through her work, revealing an honest and profound dialogue between painter and subject. This series of paintings will be an ongoing project for the artist, and presently includes dynamic subjects such as Graeme Drendel, Geoffrey Ricardo, Deborah Williams, Sarah Tomasetti and Rick Amor.

*One's Own Work* includes large scale portraits, small head studies in oil as well as charcoal drawings in varying scale. This exhibition is current until 30 July 2017.

For more details or images contact:

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