



MAUREEN HANSEN

Carbon Kaleidoscope:  
Self-portraits in Still Life

## **Carbon Kaleidoscope: Self-portraits in Still Life**

The recent world of isolation is the permanent world of a painter. To create an exhibition, you must cut yourself off from the world for the hundreds of hours it takes to complete a painting. This show took 2 years to create, it is the smallest exhibition I have made in 35 years because there is more in the paintings and resources have been impacted by COVID.

The fourteen gestural and colour-saturated oil paintings sit in contrast to the light airy drawings from my Life Drawing Class at Woolloongabba Art Gallery, which were completed in under 20 minutes. Reflections record a moment where you are 'caught' in much the same way as camera catches you. When I catch my reflection, I record the creation of the picture, the changing light and feeling of the present in my immediate surroundings.

The world-wide response to the pandemic is to capture each other through Skype and Zoom so as to not lose touch. The past 2 years of the world responding to covid has made everyone's introspective thought process increase as we double check and confirm arrangements for work or travel.

The Zoom call has introduced us into a million private homes since COVID began... creating a home environment that is true to your own individual aesthetic has become more important. In works such as '*Triple Stardust Still Life*' or '*The Magical Rainforest on my Kitchen Bench*' a kind of fantasy-land is created to escape in violets, greens and pale silver pinks.

'*Psychedelic Sand Crab on Rainbow Beach Sand*' is a play on the fact glass is composed of sand and all organic matter shares carbon. '*Carbon Kaleidoscope*' features glass objects almost

cover image:

*Triple Stardust Still Life* 2022  
Oil on canvas  
61 × 76 cm

falling through a black glass table with a wooden spinning top to refer to the element of chance in our lives.

These still life paintings are compositions of fields of colour, the way the light bounces off poured Murano Glass or reflects a painter documenting the scene. All of this is gathered in this moment but preserved in drawing with oil paint from scratch and never using photographic reference- painting from LIFE... that is how to catch time.

*Maureen Hansen 2022*



*Carbon Kaleidoscope 2022, Oil on canvas, 46 × 61 cm*



*Self-portrait with Gun Fish 1994, Oil on plywood, 81 × 61 cm*



*The Artist sees by Feel, Gun Fish Self-portrait 2022, Oil on canvas, 77 × 61 cm*



*Gold Bird Self-portrait with Atom 2022, Oil on canvas, 46 × 61 cm*



*Between Birth & Old Age there is Life* 2022, Oil on canvas, 77 × 62 cm



*Life's a Bunch* 2022, Oil on canvas, 62 × 46 cm



*German Pots & Ginger Flower 2022, Oil on canvas, 51 × 41 cm*



*Manet's Last Flower Paintings 2022, Oil on canvas, 36 × 26 cm*



*Psychedelic Sand Crab on Rainbow Beach Sand 2022, Oil on canvas, 61 × 76 cm*



*Harmony of Spheres (Red: I'm here) 2022, Oil on canvas, 46 × 61 cm*



*The Magical Rainforest on my Kitchen Bench 2022, Oil on canvas, 76 × 102 cm*



*The Shadow of your Hand 2022  
Charcoal on paper, 95 × 72 cm (framed)*



*Femme Seated 2022  
Charcoal on paper, 95 × 72 cm (framed)*



*Gold Bird Auto Portrait 2022  
Oil on canvas, 41 × 31 cm*



*Golden Girl 2022  
Charcoal on paper, 95 × 72 cm (framed)*



*Femme Standing 2022  
Charcoal on paper, 95 × 72 cm (framed)*



*Charcoal Dancer 2021  
Charcoal on paper, 95 × 72 cm (framed)*





*White Drip* 2022, Oil on canvas, 41 × 31 cm

Exhibition dates  
**22 July – 20 August 2022**

Woolloongabba Art Gallery

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