

# Wendy Sharpe Travel



*Egyptian Temple* 2008 oil on linen double sided 4 panel screen 166 x 320 cm (side 1)



*Young boy in the temple (Luxor)* 2008 gouache on watercolour paper 21 x 30 cm

Melbourne Art Rooms [MARS] has great pleasure inviting you to the launch of

# Travel

by Wendy Sharpe

Paintings, drawings, works on paper and ceramics

**24 September 6–8pm**

Exhibition Dates

24 September – 19 October 2008

ICON HOLIDAYS



**[MARS]** MELBOURNE  
ART ROOMS

418 Bay st, Port Melbourne  
+61 3 9681 8425 [rsvp@marsgallery.com.au](mailto:rsvp@marsgallery.com.au)  
[www.marsgallery.com.au](http://www.marsgallery.com.au)  
Open Tuesday - Sunday, 10 - 5pm

*“Travel and painting are my two preoccupations. I am always planning my next trip, experiencing it or recalling it.”*

Wendy Sharpe 2008



This exciting and unique exhibition has work from Sharpe's most recent travels particularly, India, Morocco, Spain, Egypt and France. In 2007, she was awarded her 2nd residency at Cité Internationale des Arts in Paris for 3 months and in the 1st two months of 2008, Sharpe and her partner, artist Bernard Ollis, had a residency at the Australian Embassy in Cairo, Egypt. She produced numerous works on paper in the Embassy residency roof studio. Many of these are the basis for the major paintings.

There is a wide range of media; works on paper, paintings, ceramic pieces, a stunning 'panorama' of a Cairo café and a spectacular double sided folding screen, with an image of an Egyptian temple on one side and the Cairo skyline on the other.

The paintings and drawings are not postcards or reportage. They are personal and idiosyncratic images where the viewer is invited to share the artist's experiences, vicariously surrounded by the colour and chaos of a market in Cairo, crushed amongst the crowd in Granada, Spain, watching the candle covered statues in procession through the streets at Easter, or drawing Krishna, the beautiful transvestite dancer, at a cheap hotel in Varanasi, India.

She is interested in the various mythologies associated with travel, the romance and the real. The imagined place in songs, movies and advertisements versus the world of souvenirs, package tourists and the realities of cultural clashes, poverty or social problems.

The immediacy in the work helps to distill the experience, this partly comes from being made in situ or directly after, in studios, hotel rooms, on the street or in a Bedouin camp in the Sahara. Her interest in human relationships and narrative is evident.

There is an obvious delight in the differences and similarities which reinforce our common humanity.

*“We approach new places with humility. We carry with us no rigid ideas about what is interesting. We irritate the locals because we stand on traffic islands and on narrow streets and admire what they take to be strange small details. We run the risk of getting run over because we are intrigued by the roof of a government building or an inscription on the wall. We find a supermarket or hairdresser's unusually fascinating. We dwell at length on the layout of a menu or the clothes of the presenters on the evening news.”* Alain De Botton\*

Wendy Sharpe would like to thank Robert Bowker, the former Australian Ambassador to Egypt, his wife textile Artist Jenny Bowker and Sam and Tabitha, for their wonderful generosity.

*\*Alain De Botton, "Art of Travel", published Penguin 2003*

Photography - All artwork by Michael Bradfield, Photos of Wendy by Bernard Ollis, Martin Lane and Lucy Buttenshaw. Travel photos by Wendy Sharpe.



*Paris, Past, Present and Imagined* 2008 oil on canvas 145 x 180cm



Tourists in Arles (France) 2008 gouache 28 x 36 cm

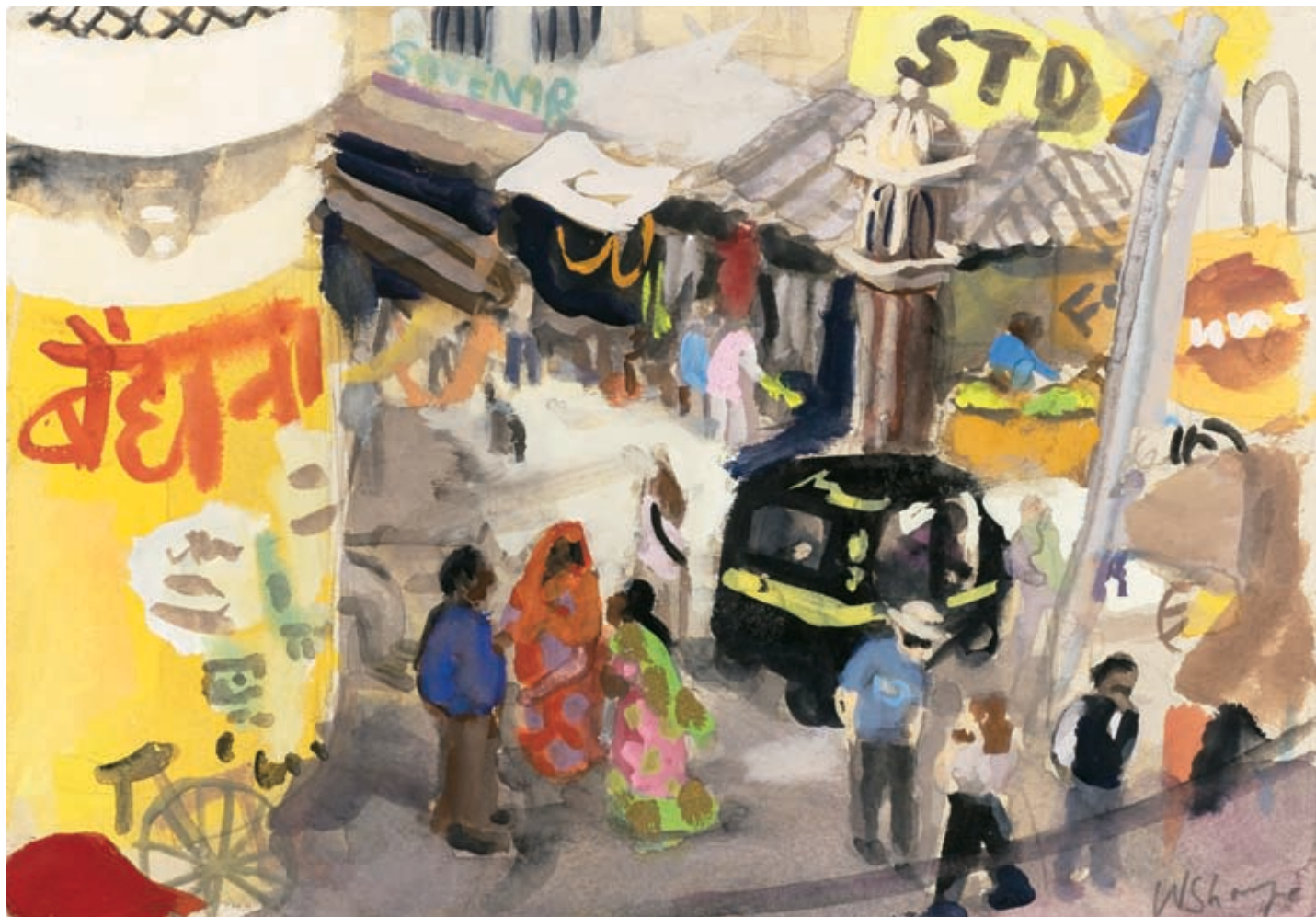


*Cairo Cafe* 2008 oil on linen 70 x 330 cm





Women in red and blue Saris 2007 gouache 18 x 26 cm



Jaisalmer corner 2007 gouache 18 x 26 cm



*Easter procession with penitents and bridge (Granada , Spain) 2007 gouache on watercolour paper 25 x 35 cm*

# Wendy Sharpe BORN SYDNEY 1960

## SOLO EXHIBITIONS (A SELECTION OF 32 EXHIBITIONS)

- 2008 *Travel*, Mars Gallery, Port Melbourne
- 2008 *Intimacy and Solitude*, Adele Boag Gallery, Adelaide
- 2008 *Paris*, King St Gallery on William, Sydney
- 2007 *Stories from the Studio*, Philip Bacon Galleries, Brisbane
- 2006 *Couples*, Mars Gallery, Port Melbourne
- 2006 *Opera Paintings*, King Street Gallery on Burton, Sydney
- 2005 *Artist & City*, Chapman Gallery, Canberra
- 2004 *Travel Paintings*, Phillip Bacon Gallery, Brisbane
- 2000 *New Beginnings-East Timor*, Australian War Memorial, Canberra
- 1999 *Drawings, Paintings and Mixed Media Works for The Annette Kellermann Mural* (at Cook & Phillip Aquatic Centre, Sydney), King Street Gallery, Sydney
- 1997 *Night Paintings*, King Street Gallery on Burton, Sydney
- 1991 *Ghosts*, Pod Theatre, Sydney
- 1990 *Magic Paintings*, DC Art Gallery, Sydney
- 1985 *Sex and Death*, Nicholson Street Gallery, Sydney

## AWARDS, PRIZES, RESIDENCIES AND MAJOR COMMISSIONS (A SELECTION)

- 2008 Artist Residency Australian Embassy, Cairo Egypt.
- 2006 Awarded tenancy Cité Internationale Studio, Paris, Art Gallery of NSW
- 2003 Winner - Portia Geach Memorial Prize Award, S.H. Ervin Gallery Allan Gamble Painting Prize
- 1999 Commissioned as Official Australian War Artist to East Timor, Australian War Memorial ACT (The first woman since WW2)
- 1998-99 Commissioned City of Sydney for olympic pool murals Cook & Phillip Aquatic Centre, College Street, Sydney
- 1998 Winner - Bathurst Art Prize, Bathurst Regional Art Gallery
- 1996 Winner - Archibald Prize, Art Gallery of New South Wales
- 1995 Winner - Kedumba Drawing Prize, New South Wales  
Winner - Portia Geach Memorial Prize, SH Ervin Gallery
- 1992 Robert Le Gay Bereton Drawing Prize  
Australian Postgraduate Research Award
- 1989 Mercedes Benz Art Scholarship

- 1986 Awarded tenancy Cité Internationale Studio, Paris, Art Gallery of NSW  
Marten Bequest, Travelling Art Scholarship (painting)  
Dyason Bequest  
Winner - Sulman Prize (judge Albert Tucker)

- Finalist Sulman Prize - Art Gallery of NSW - 9 times
- Finalist Archibald prize - Art Gallery of NSW - 3 times (for Self Portraits)
- Finalist Dobell Drawing Prize - Art Gallery of NSW - 10 Times

Included in survey and travelling exhibitions in state and regional galleries throughout Australia.

COLLECTIONS include Art Gallery of NSW, Australian Consulate, Paris France, Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Sydney Maritime Museum, Kedumba Drawing Collection, City of Sydney Council, Orange & Bathurst Regional Galleries, Qantas, The University of QLD, BHP Australia and major private collections Australian and international.

For Wendy Sharpe's complete CV see [www.wendysharp.com](http://www.wendysharp.com)



*Dyeing Vats (Fez, Morocco)* 2006 Pastel 24 x 30cm



*Cairo Roofs* 2008 oil on linen double sided 4 panel screen 166 x 320 cm (side 2)