



KATHRIN LONGHURST
Women to the Front



Kathrin Longhurst

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5 - 27 March 2024

Opening event: Friday 8th March, 5 - 7pm

For her forthcoming exhibition *Women to the Front*, acclaimed Sydney artist Kathrin Longhurst explores the multifaceted roles women play in society. Through oil and mixed media on linen, her large scale portraits weave together textured backgrounds and figurative paintings to create a narrative about women on the frontlines, their battles, and their unyielding strength as trailblazers and change-makers.

Each of the women depicted in Longhurst's paintings are personally known to her and much admired for their individual stories of strength and determination, overcoming difficulties such as domestic violence, war and displacement, or other forms of cultural discrimination. Through this exhibition Longhurst aims to celebrate their stories and inspire others to live their lives free of fear or doubt.

"In 'Women to the Front', I present a powerful ode to female empowerment, resilience, and the enduring spirit of women as trailblazers and change-makers. My work serves as a reminder that women's lives are indeed a battlefield, but they continue to march forward, undeterred, to claim their rightful place in society. Through my art, I invite you to honour and celebrate the strength and resilience of women, ensuring that their stories are never silenced but instead brought to the forefront where they belong. "Women to the Front" is not just a collection of paintings; it is a testament to the enduring power and significance of women's stories in our world today.

My work serves as a reminder of the countless battles women have fought and continue to fight in pursuit of equality and recognition. My women are not passive observers but active participants in shaping their destinies and the world at large."

- Kathrin Longhurst, November 2023

German-Australian figurative artist Kathrin Longhurst has been exhibiting her arresting, provocative paintings since 2004. Her work has been included in a number of international exhibitions in Europe and the USA and she has held 20 successful solo exhibitions in Melbourne, Sydney and Queensland. She has been a finalist in numerous awards including the prestigious Archibald Prize (2022, 2021, 2018), the Darling Prize at the National Portrait Gallery Canberra (2020), the Portia Geach Award (2021, 2020, 2019, 2018, 2017, 2015, 2013, 2012, 2011), the Doug Moran Portrait Prize (2017), the Sulman Prize (2012), the Mosman Art Prize (A2016), the Shirley Hannan National Portrait Prize (2008), the Korea Australia Arts Foundation Prize (2013, 2017) and the WA Black Swan Prize (2008, 2009).

She was the winner of the 2021 Packing Room Prize for the Archibald Prize, winner of the 2020 Northern Beaches Art Prize and winner of the 2017 Portia Geach People's Choice Award. She has formally served as Vice President for the Portrait Artists Australia and was the Founding Director of Project 504, a co-operative art space in Sydney. Her work is collected widely in Australia and internationally and is represented in the Bennett Collection of Women Realists, USA and the Manly Art Gallery and Museum and Mirvac Collection in Australia.

Women to the Front

With her latest exhibition for Flinder's Lane Gallery, the artist Kathrin Longhurst has once again produced a collection of works layered in depth and meaning, while continuing to champion the feminist cause to great impact and effect.

The title, *Women to the Front*, on its own right, brings to mind the hackneyed idiom, 'Behind every great man is a woman'. Although, the exact origin of the phrase is unknown, its meaning is not. While acknowledging that a man is unlikely to achieve success on his own, the statement also reinforces traditional gender roles and societal expectations for women, including keeping house and raising children, all done behind the scenes, often without thanks or recognition.

During second wave feminism, which began in the 1960s, the phrase was adapted to 'Behind every great man is an even greater a woman' which, considered subversive at the time, began challenging these ideals, encouraging women to step out from behind their husbands, fathers and brothers, to claim their own space and voice.

In the intervening decades, much progress has been made, however, there is still much work to be done, to both achieve gender equality as well as hold onto the hard fought wins that have transpired since that time, including our rights to agency over our own bodies. For Longhurst, regression is not an option.

With this exhibition, the artist defiantly places her subjects on the frontlines of this battlefield. Featuring her signature large-scale canvases, deft skills with the brush, and a bold view of the feminine archetype as both nurturer and warrior, she weaves a common thread of resilience and survival.

Her models, all of whom she has built up a close relationship with over time and range in age from adolescence to women in their 50s, gift the artist with their experience of what it means to be a woman in this space and time. Through her art, she tells their stories, whether it be coming of age in our challenging world, the exploration of fluid sexuality, or learning to live with trauma born from sexual and domestic violence.

To achieve such a feat, Longhurst has endeavoured to remove herself from the narrative: to let her models 'speak' for themselves. With titles such as 'The Defender', 'The Seeker', and 'The Warrior', her subjects are depicted fully inhabiting these roles, while maintaining a powerful enigmatic detachment, paradoxically providing the viewer with both insight and room to ponder.

In 1985, Annie Lennox wrote a song combatting the aforementioned 'great man' idiom, belting out that it's 'no longer true'. 'Sisters,' she sang, 'are doing it for themselves.' And with Kathrin Longhurst, and this magnificent sisterhood on display here, the fight continues.



The Fighter, 2024
oil on linen, 182 x 121cm
\$17,000 AUD



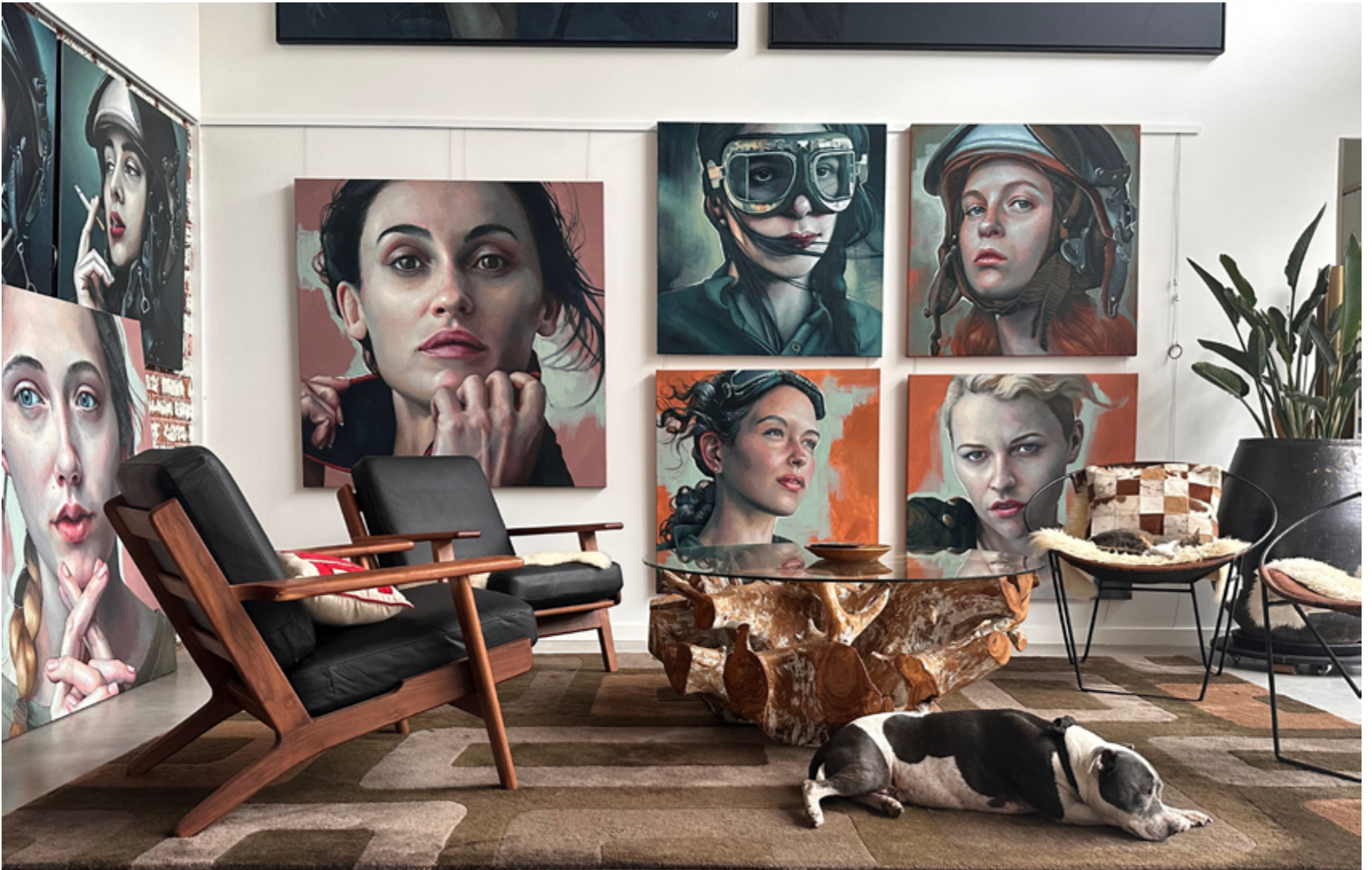
[The Adventurer](#), 2024
oil on linen, 182 x 121cm
\$17,000 AUD



The Trailblazer, 2024
oil on linen, 182 x 121cm
\$17,000 AUD



[The Connector](#), 2024
oil on linen, 121 x 121cm
\$13,800 AUD



"My decision to make women the central subject of my work is a recurring topic for me. Through my art, I want to amplify women's voices and stories that have often been overlooked or silenced. 'Women to the Front' offers viewers a chance to engage with these narratives, to listen to the stories of women who have been at the forefront of social, political, and cultural change. My subjects become symbols of strength and resilience, representing the broader collective experiences of women."

- Kathrin Longhurst



[The Explorer](#), 2024
oil on linen, 121 x 121cm
\$13,800 AUD



[The Seeker](#), 2024
oil on linen, 91 x 91cm
\$10,500 AUD



[The Defender](#), 2024
oil on linen, 91 x 91cm
\$10,500 AUD



[The Devotee](#), 2024
oil on linen, 91 x 91cm
\$10,500 AUD



Artist's photo

"Art has a unique role in our society, it always has. Like their predecessors, today's artists are our conscience – mirroring the things we should be proud of, the things we find challenging, and sometimes, reminding us of things that we would prefer to forget.

Kathrin's work simultaneously falls into each of these categories. We are reminded of the power and defiance of the women that her work represents, as well as the suffering that women have endured, and continue to endure, as they fight for justice. The epochal moment of #MeToo is reflected in the work of Kathrin Longhurst, and so much more"

- Professor James Arvanitakis



[The Dreamer](#), 2024
oil on linen, 91 x 91cm
\$10,500 AUD



[The Traveller](#), 2024
oil on linen, 91 x 91cm
\$10,500 AUD



[The Warrior](#), 2024
oil on linen, 91 x 91cm
\$10,500 AUD

KATHRIN LONGHURST CV

Born in Germany
Resides in Sydney, Australia.

TRAINING

2011 - 2015 Julian Ashton Art School

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2024 Women to the Front, Flinders Lane Gallery, Melbourne
2023 Sum of its Parts, .M Contemporary, Sydney
2022 Mind-Field, Flinders Lane Gallery, Melbourne
2021 Fighting Spirit, Gallery One, Gold Coast
2021 Indoctrinated, Nanda Hobbs Contemporary, Sydney
2020 Standing Strong, Flinders Lane Gallery, Melbourne
2019 Fighters and Dreamers, Gallery One, Gold Coast
2019 Flights of Fancy, Nanda Hobbs Contemporary, Sydney
2018 Ode to Femme, Gallery One, Gold Coast
2018 Protagonist, Nanda Hobbs Contemporary, Sydney
2018 Into Thin Air, Flinders Lane Gallery, Melbourne
2016 Fading History, Nanda/Hobbs, Sydney
2014 Heroes and Villains, Art Equity, Sydney
2013 Women of the Revolution, Catherine Asquith Gallery, Melbourne
2013 Children of the Revolution, Art Equity, Sydney
2012 Dear Comrade..., Catherine Asquith Gallery, Melbourne
2008 Dreams from Down Under, Dabbert Gallery, Florida
2007 Intimately, SOHO Galleries, Sydney
2006 Arthouse Hotel, Sydney
2006 Tighes Hill Gallery, Newcastle
2006 La Belle Vie, SOHO Gallery, Sydney
2004 Divas, Salmon Galleries, Sydney

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2023 Sydney Contemporary Art Fair, .M Contemporary, Sydney
2023 Toys, Tales & Tenacity, Shrine of Remembrance, Melbourne
2022 Settled/Unsettled, Manly Art Gallery & Museum, Sydney
2021 Archibald Prize (Packing Room Prize), Art Gallery of NSW
2021 Woman: Painting all over the World, European Museum of Contemporary Art (MEAM), Barcelona Spain
2021 9x5, Nanda Hobbs, Sydney
2020 The Portrait Project, Manly Art Gallery and Museum, Sydney
2020 WOMAN, James Baird Gallery, Canada
2020 Creator & Muse, online through 33 Contemporary, Chicago
2020 Storytellers, Flinders Lane Gallery, Melbourne
2019 Painting the Figure Now, Wausau Museum of Contemporary Art, Wisconsin
2019 Painting the Figure Now, Zhou B Art Centre, Chicago
2019 The Nude, Flinders Lane Gallery, Melbourne
2019 Secondary Meanings, Zhou B Art Centre, Chicago
2019 Pintando Hoy: Painting Today, European Museum of Modern Art (MEAM), Barcelona
2019 Mondo Tondo, Arcadia Gallery, Los Angeles
2019 Beautiful Bizarre Prize Exhibition, Modern Eden Gallery, San Francisco
2019 30 x 30, Flinders Lane Gallery, Melbourne
2019 Beautiful Bizarre Art Prize, Modern Eden Gallery, San Francisco
2018 Archibald Prize, Art Gallery of NSW
2017 International Artist Grand Prix, Get Art Museum, Taipei, Taiwan
2017 In Your Face, Flinders Lane Gallery
2015 Project [504], Sydney, NSW
2015 Brave New World, Nanda/Hobbs, Sydney
2010 Divine Femme, Astras Galleries, Gold Coast

2008 Manyung Gallery, Mornington Peninsula
 2008 David Hart Galleries, Sunshine Coast, Queensland
 2007 David Hart Galleries, Sunshine Coast, Queensland
 2006 Contemporary Figures, Dabbert Gallery, Florida
 2005 Looking inwards, Salmon Gallery, Sydney
 2004 Figures, Faces and Landscapes, Tighes Hill Gallery, Newcastle
 2003 Introducing the new SAUC, SAUC Gallery, Sydney
 2003 Splash, Manly Arts Festival, BASE Space, Sydney

AWARDS AND PRIZES

2023 Finalist, Portia Geach Memorial Award
 2022 Finalist, Archibald Prize
 2021 Finalist, The Portia Geach Memorial Award
 2021 Winner, Packing Room Prize (Archibald Prize)
 2020 Winner, Northern Beaches Art Prize
 2020 Finalist, The Portia Geach Memorial Award
 2020 Finalist, The Darling Portrait Prize
 2019 Finalist, The Portia Geach Memorial Award
 2018 Finalist, Beautiful Bizarre Art Prize
 2018 Finalist, Archibald Prize
 2017 Winner, Peoples Choice Award, Portia Geach Memorial Prize
 2017 Finalist, Portia Geach Memorial Prize
 2017 Finalist, Doug Moran Portrait Prize
 2016 Finalist, Percival Portrait Painting Prize
 2012 Finalist, Sir John Sulman Prize
 2015 Finalist, Portia Geach Memorial Prize
 2013 Finalist, Portia Geach Memorial Prize
 2012 Finalist, Portia Geach Memorial Prize
 2011 Finalist, Portia Geach Memorial Prize
 2009 Finalist, Black Swan Prize
 2008 Finalist, Black Swan Prize
 2012 Finalist, Mosman Art Prize
 2019 Finalist, Mosman Art Prize
 2008 Finalist, Shirley Hannan National Portrait Award
 2013 Finalist, KAAF Art Prize
 2003 Finalist, Willoughby Art Prize 2003

PUBLICATIONS & MEDIA

Beautiful Bizarre Magazine, Issue 23, December 2018
 McDonald, John, 'Kathrin Longhurst', Good Weekend. p. 35, 31 March 2018
 American Art Collector, '10 Portrait Artists to Know Right Now', July 2020 Issue

COLLECTIONS

Longhurst's work is held in private collections in Germany, Sweden, Australia, England, The Netherlands, Hong Kong, Mexico and United States and is represented in the Bennett Collection of Women Realists, USA and the Manly Art Gallery and Museum and Mirvac Collection in Australia.



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