

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Welcome to a strangely familiar vision of the 1920s - 1950s in which the world is peopled by animals. Elise Hurst has created an exhibition of 20 oil paintings which depict realistic portraits of, among other things, bohemian lions and tigers in smoking jackets, a board-room carnivore and Art Deco femme fatales. With a background in fine art and illustration, Elise's works are never parody but a sympathetic portrayal of characters who merge attributes of animals and humans. Elise offers us moments of narrative to explore the humanity of these creatures, of ourselves and the world we live in.

The exhibition runs from 20 May to 5 June 2010 at No Vacancy Gallery in the Queen Victoria building – Melbourne CBD (34-40 Jane Bell Lane, Melbourne 3000). Opening night is Thursday 20 May, 6pm – 9pm (beautiful wine being provided by the Crittenden Estate) and there will also be a Family Day on Saturday 22 May (11-3pm) where children are invited to explore the show with their families and have some drawing fun of their own. Elise will be installing a pared-back version of her studio and painting throughout the exhibition.

In the fortnight leading up to the exhibition, Avant Card, a company specialising in the production and distribution of free art-house post cards, will be distributing over 20,000 postcards of art featured in the exhibition to cafes, cinemas and various boutiques. Additionally, some of Elise's artwork related to this exhibition has recently been purchased by Roger la Borde to form part of their the 2010-11 European stationary collection.

About Elise

Elise Hurst is 35, with intense red or purple hair and old-fashioned styling - she could definitely fit into the world of her paintings. She is a noted author and illustrator of over 55 books (including the 2008 short-listed picture book "The Night Garden" and several Honour Books) and has been working as a full-time illustrator and author for 15 years. Her current project is the creation of an epic textless graphic novel to be published by Omnibus Books, due for release in late 2011. This book will be full of the detailed pen drawings for which she is known.

Elise is an occasional lecturer at universities, schools and festivals around Australia. She recently judged the Koko Black Drawing Award (along with Guy Grossi and Emma Mayall - assistant curator of contemporary art, NGV). As an ongoing member of the board of the Australian Society of Authors (the peak professional association for Australia's literary creators).

Elise works from her studio at home in North Carlton which is filled with paintings and odd artefacts. This is her first solo exhibition. More information about Elise, the exhibition, and its rationale are available at: <http://www.elisehurst.com/exhibition>

Contact Details

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No Vacancy Gallery website: www.no-vacancy.com.au

Dates and Times

Opening Night: 6 - 9pm Thursday 20 May, No Vacancy Gallery
Family Day: 11 - 3pm Saturday 22 May
Gallery hours: Tuesday to Friday 11am - 6pm, Saturday 11am – 5pm, Sunday noon – 5pm (Open Thursday & Friday after hours by appointment)
Elise is available for interview and public appearances, including demonstrations.
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