

# HEIDI YARDLEY



## MIDSUMMER SHADOW

NICHOLAS  
THOMPSON  
GALLERY

25 FEBRUARY TO 7 MARCH 2026

# HEIDI YARDLEY

## MIDSUMMER SHADOW

Melbourne-based Heidi Yardley's evocative paintings and drawings explore the porous boundaries between memory, identity and the unconscious. Mining imagery from vintage media and esoteric traditions, she reconstructs and dissolves familiar forms into haunting, fragmented compositions. Drawing upon the visual languages of film noir, surrealism and the occult, Yardley's images linger in states of tension—between presence and erasure, intimacy and estrangement, clarity and disquiet. Her layered compositions blur clarity and dissolve narrative, inviting the viewer into an ambiguous realm where the familiar becomes ghostly and the intimate becomes uncanny. Yardley's paintings are not static depictions, but thresholds—spaces where sensuality, absence, and psychological resonance merge into something quietly disarming.





**HEIDI YARDLEY**  
*Untitled, 2025*

Oil on linen 65 × 50cm  
Nicholas Thompson Gallery, Naarm/Melbourne

Naarm/Melbourne-based **Heidi Yardley** has established herself as one of Australia's most compelling figurative painters, mining imagery from vintage media, psychological archives and esoteric traditions to create evocative paintings that explore porous boundaries between memory, identity and the unconscious. Drawing upon visual languages of film noir, surrealism and the occult, Yardley reconstructs and dissolves familiar forms into haunting, fragmented compositions that linger in states of tension—between presence and

erasure, intimacy and estrangement, clarity and disquiet. Her layered approach blurs narrative and invites viewers into ambiguous realms where the familiar becomes ghostly and the intimate turns uncanny. A Monash University and RMIT Honours graduate, Yardley's distinctive voice has earned repeated recognition in Australia's most prestigious prizes including the Archibald, Wynne, Sulman and Doug Moran, with work held in major public collections including National Gallery of Victoria, Artbank and University of Queensland Art Museum.

**EROSIVE ELEGANCE**  
When Art Collector, 2025

An evocative portrait painting in oil on linen, featuring a woman with voluminous, light-colored hair, looking over her shoulder towards the viewer.

Yardley's work is characterized by its intricate detail and masterful use of light and shadow, creating a sense of depth and atmosphere. Her subjects are often women, depicted with a mix of vulnerability and strength, reflecting her interest in the complexities of female identity and experience. The painting 'When Art Collector' is a testament to her skill in capturing the subtle nuances of human emotion and the timeless beauty of the female form.

NICHOLAS  
THOMPSON  
GALLERY



**HEIDI YARDLEY**

*Midsummer shadow*

2024

oil on linen

148 x 100 cm

\$12,000

NICHOLAS  
THOMPSON  
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**HEIDI YARDLEY**

*The world is turning*

2025

oil on linen

148 x 100 cm

\$12,000

NICHOLAS  
THOMPSON  
GALLERY



**HEIDI YARDLEY**

*Venus in furs*

2024

oil on linen

137 x 71 cm

\$8,900

NICHOLAS  
THOMPSON  
GALLERY



**HEIDI YARDLEY**

*Trapped in an oil painting*

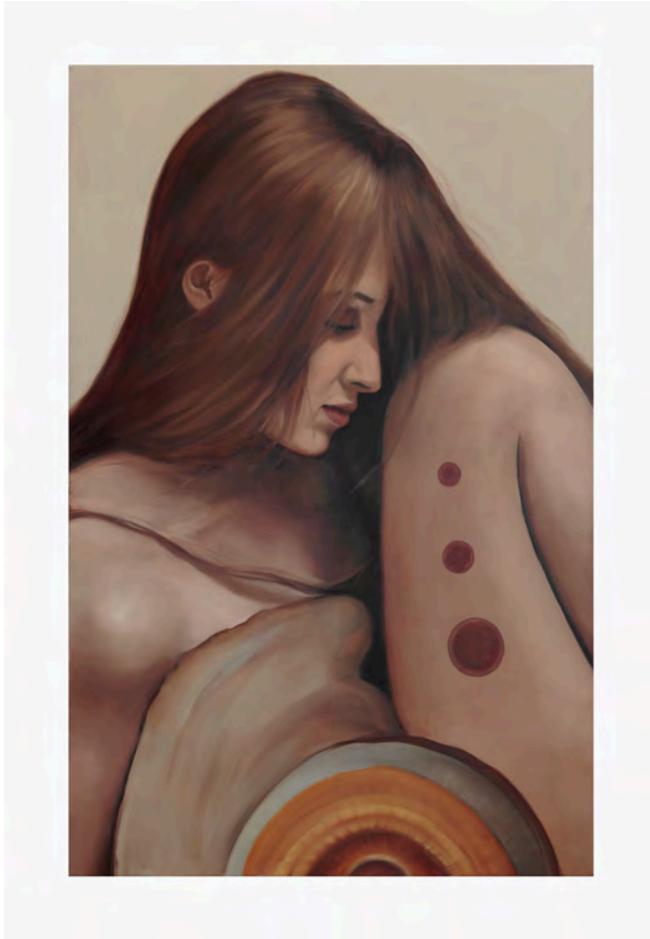
2025

oil on linen

95 x 93 cm

\$8,500

NICHOLAS  
THOMPSON  
GALLERY



**HEIDI YARDLEY**

*Passage through the spheres*

2025

oil on linen

107 x 71 cm

\$7,900

NICHOLAS  
THOMPSON  
GALLERY



**HEIDI YARDLEY**

*The climbing harmonies*

2025

oil on linen

107 x 71 cm

\$7,900

NICHOLAS  
THOMPSON  
GALLERY



**HEIDI YARDLEY**

*Glamour*

2025

oil on linen

71 x 106 cm

\$7,900

NICHOLAS  
THOMPSON  
GALLERY



**HEIDI YARDLEY**

*Chakra moon*

2025

oil on linen

112 x 66 cm

\$7,900

NICHOLAS  
THOMPSON  
GALLERY



**HEIDI YARDLEY**

*Wedjat eye*

2025

oil on linen

86 x 76 cm

\$7,500

NICHOLAS  
THOMPSON  
GALLERY



**HEIDI YARDLEY**

*Posthuman*

2025

oil on linen

91 x 71 cm

\$7,500

NICHOLAS  
THOMPSON  
GALLERY



**HEIDI YARDLEY**

*Just a candle*

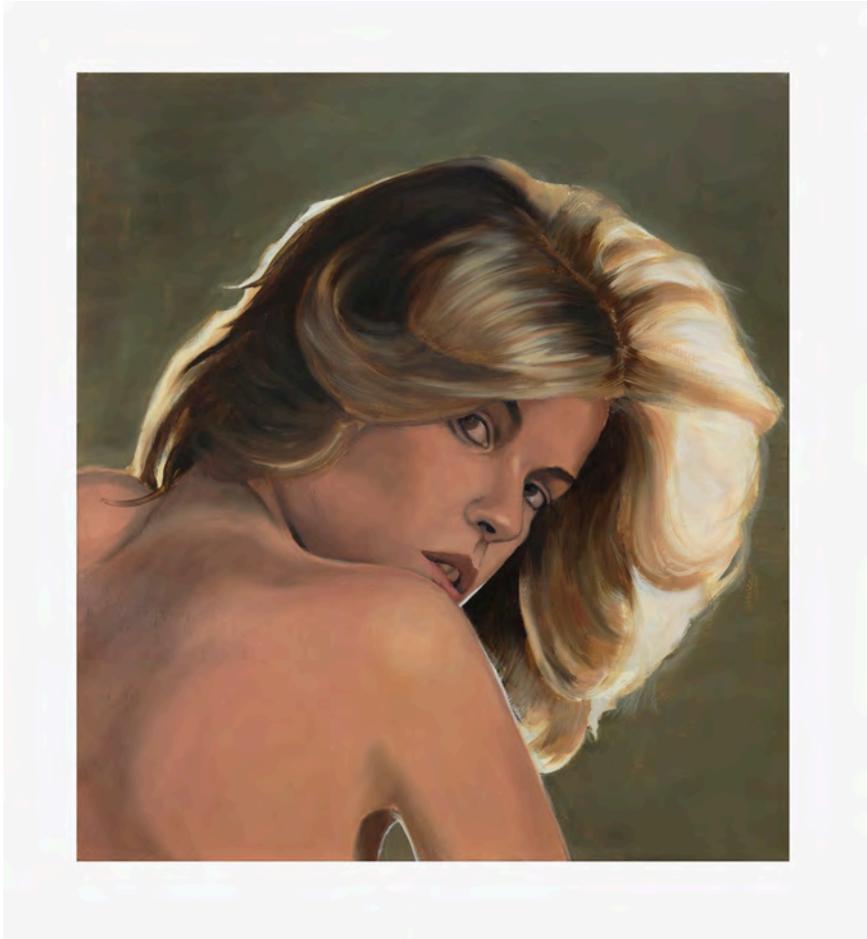
2025

oil on linen

91 x 61 cm

\$7,500

NICHOLAS  
THOMPSON  
GALLERY



**HEIDI YARDLEY**

*Bitter summer in decline*

2024

oil on linen

65 x 50 cm

\$4,900

NICHOLAS  
THOMPSON  
GALLERY



**HEIDI YARDLEY**

*Taboo club*

2025

oil on linen

56 x 51 cm

\$4,900



**Heidi Yardley** completed a BFA at Monash University (1995) and Honours at RMIT (1999). She has been a finalist in significant Australian prizes including The Archibald Prize (2016, 2014, 2013), The Wynne Prize (2016) and the Sulman Prize (2014) at the Art Gallery of New South Wales, the Doug Moran National Portrait Prize (2013, 2011, 2009), the Hazelhurst Art on Paper Award (2019), the National Works on Paper Prize, Mornington Peninsula Regional Gallery (2020), the Paul Guest Prize, Bendigo Art Gallery (2020) and the Percival Portrait Painting Prize, Perc Tucker Regional Gallery (2020).

Heidi Yardley has been included in curated group exhibitions throughout Australia. She has held two artist residencies in New York funded by the Ian Potter Cultural Trust (2011, 2014) and has been listed as one of Australia's 50 most collectable artists (Australian Art Collector magazine, 2011). Heidi Yardley's work is held in public collections including Artbank, the National Gallery of Victoria, Gippsland Art Gallery, Bendigo Art Gallery, Ballarat Art Gallery and the University of Queensland Art Museum.

Photograph Timothy McCormick

## HEIDI YARDLEY

### EDUCATION

- 2002 Graduate Diploma in Education, Melbourne University  
1999 Bachelor of Fine Art Honours (Drawing) RMIT, Melbourne  
1995 Bachelor of Fine Art (Painting) Monash University, Caulfield

### SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2026 *Melbourne Art Fair* with Nicholas Thompson Gallery, Melbourne, VIC  
2024 *Selected Paintings*, Nicholas Thompson Gallery, Melbourne, VIC  
*Moon Bathing*, Jan Murphy Gallery, Brisbane, QLD  
2022 *Glittered in the Cave*, Nicholas Thompson Gallery, Melbourne VIC  
2019 *The Thin Veil*, Nicholas Thompson Gallery, Melbourne VIC  
2018 *Selected Works: The Clayton Utz Art Partnership* (with Rhys Lee), curated by 3:33 Art Projects in conjunction with  
Nicholas Thompson Gallery at Clayton Utz, Melbourne VIC  
*Drifters*, Jan Murphy Gallery, Brisbane QLD  
2017 *The sinking belle*, Arthouse Gallery, Sydney NSW  
*Night Letters*, Jan Murphy Gallery, Brisbane QLD  
2016 *Lost weekend*, Nicholas Thompson Gallery at Neospace, Melbourne VIC  
2015 *Shapeshifting*, Jan Murphy Gallery, Brisbane QLD  
*Meeting the shadow*, Arthouse Gallery, Sydney NSW  
2014 *Unfamiliar*, presented by blackartprojects, Chalk Horse, Sydney NSW  
2013 *Glass Psyche*, Jan Murphy Gallery, Brisbane QLD  
2011 *Her Kind*, Scott Livesey Galleries, Melbourne VIC  
2010 *Gift for the Darkness*, Jan Murphy Gallery, Brisbane QLD  
2009 *Light Possession*, Scott Livesey Galleries, Melbourne VIC  
*Black Mirror*, Gallery 2, Grantpirrie, Sydney NSW  
2008 *Supernatural*, Jan Murphy Gallery, Brisbane QLD  
2007 *Darklands*, Stephanie Burns Fine Art, Canberra ACT

### SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2025 *Synchron City*, Gippsland Art Gallery, Sale, VIC  
*Summer 2025*, Nicholas Thompson Gallery, Melbourne, VIC  
*Nicholas Thompson Gallery at Spring 1883*, Windsor Hotel, Melbourne, VIC  
*Winter 2025*, Nicholas Thompson Gallery, Melbourne, VIC  
*Nicholas Thompson Gallery at Quarantine Art Fair*, Portsea, VIC  
2024 *A Summer Selection*, Nicholas Thompson Gallery, Melbourne, VIC  
2023 *Melbourne Now*, National Gallery of Victoria, VIC

- Nicholas Thompson Gallery at Spring 1883*, Windsor Hotel, Melbourne, VIC
- 2022 *Origins and Imagination (curated by 3:33 Art Projects)*, Artist Profile Space, Sydney Contemporary, NSW
- 2021 *Nicholas Thompson Gallery at Spring 1883*, @14 Langridge Melbourne, VIC
- 2020 *Re-gathering*, Benalla Art Gallery, VIC  
*The Paul Guest Prize*, Bendigo Art Gallery, VIC  
*The Mornington Peninsula Regional Gallery National Works on Paper Prize*, MPRG, VIC  
*The Percival Portrait Painting Prize*, Perc Tucker Regional Gallery, Townesville, QLD
- 2019 *The Hazelhurst Art on Paper Award*, Hazelhurst Art Centre, NSW  
*Love*, Tweed Regional Gallery and Margaret Olley Centre, NSW  
*Custom Ordered, Fashion Capsule 2*, Melbourne Fashion Week, Melbourne Town Hall, VIC
- 2018 *The Glover Prize*, Falls Park Pavilion, Evandale TAS  
*A fine romance*, Gippsland Art Gallery, Sale, VIC  
*Spring 1883*, Jan Murphy Gallery, The Windsor Hotel, Melbourne, VIC  
*Imagine*, Gippsland Art Gallery, Sale, VIC
- 2017 *Eutick Memorial Still Life Award*, Project Contemporary Art Space, Wollongong NSW  
*Romancing the skull*, Art gallery of Ballarat VIC  
*Sydney Contemporary*, Arthouse Gallery, Carriageworks NSW
- 2016 *Drawing to an end*, MARS Gallery, Windsor VIC  
*Nigredo*, Second Space Projects, Fitzroy VIC  
*Cut*, The Dirty Dozen, Campbell Arcade, Melbourne VIC  
*Spring 1883*, Jan Murphy gallery, The Windsor Hotel, Melbourne VIC  
*The Kilgour Prize*, Newcastle Art Gallery, NSW  
*The Archibald Prize*, The Art Gallery of NSW  
*The Wynne Prize*, The Art Gallery of NSW
- 2015 *Grey Matter*, curated by Mark Feary, Artbank, Sydney NSW  
*Sex*, curated by Linsey Gosper and Jack Sargeant, Strange Neighbour, Melbourne VIC  
*Mug Shot*, Gallery Ecosse, Exeter NSW  
*Shots off the dices*, curated by Rhys Lee, Nicholas Thompson Gallery, Melbourne VIC  
*With her feet off the ground*, curated by Simone Hine, Counihan Gallery, Melbourne VIC  
*Iconoclasts*, curated by Chelsea Lehman, Airspace Projects, Sydney NSW  
*From Point A to PointB and back again*, PointB Artist Worklodge, Brooklyn NYC USA
- 2014 *The Dame Joan Sutherland Fund Showcase*, Adelante Studios, NYC USA  
*The Archibald Prize*, Art Gallery of NSW Touring  
*In Bloom*, Gippsland Art Gallery, Sale VIC  
*Cut, Paste, Create*, Walker Street Gallery, Dandenong VIC
- 2013 *The Doug Moran National Portrait Prize*, Juniper Hall NSW  
*The Archibald Prize*, Art Gallery of NSW Touring
- 2012 *The Melbourne Art Fair*, Jan Murphy Gallery, Carlton Exhibition Buildings VIC  
*The Fisher's Ghost Art Award*, Campbelltown Arts Centre NSW  
*The John Leslie Art Prize*, Gippsland Art Gallery, Sale VIC  
*Things that go bump in the night*, Walker Street Gallery, Dandenong VIC

- Narrative Spaces, Reverie Projects, Villa Alba Museum, Kew VIC*  
*Fashioning Self, The University of Queensland Art Museum, Brisbane QLD*
- 2011 *Esk Collection, Academy Gallery, School of Visual and Performing Arts, Launceston TAS*  
*Summer Arts Soiree, American Australian Association, Galapagos Art Space, Brooklyn, New York USA*  
*The Doug Moran National Portrait Prize, State Library of NSW, Touring*
- 2010 *Hold, Screen Space, Melbourne VIC*  
*NOTFAIR, Satellite Art Fair curated by Sam Leach, Tony Lloyd and Ashley Crawford, VIC*  
*The City of Albany Art Prize, Vancouver Arts Centre, Albany WA*
- 2009 *The University of Queensland National Artists' Self-Portrait Prize, Brisbane QLD*  
*The Doug Moran National Portrait Prize, State Library of NSW, Touring*
- 2008 *NEW - Selected Recent Acquisitions, University of Queensland Art Museum QLD*  
*Post Chrysalis, Sullivan and Strumpf Fine Art, Paddington, NSW*  
*Neo Goth – Back in Black, University of Queensland Art Museum QLD*
- 2007 *What Lies Beneath, Upstairs Flinders, Melbourne VIC*  
*Exploration 7, Flinders Lane Gallery, Melbourne VIC*
- 2005 *MLC Acquisitive Art Exhibition, MLC, Kew VIC*
- 2002 *Brett Whiteley Travelling Art Scholarship Finalist's Exhibition, Brett Whiteley Studio, Surry Hills NSW*
- 2001 *Mosman Art Prize, Mosman Art Gallery, Mosman NSW*  
*The Land of Milk and Honey, Emerging Victorian Artists, Adelaide Central Gallery, SA*
- 2000 *The Hutchins School Art Prize Finalist's Exhibition, The Long Gallery, TAS*  
*Brett Whiteley Travelling Art Scholarship Finalist's Exhibition, Brett Whiteley Studio, Surry Hills, NSW*

#### **AWARDS & RESIDENCIES**

- 2020 *Finalist, The Paul Guest Prize, VIC*  
*Finalist, The Mornington Peninsula Regional Gallery National Works on Paper Prize, VIC*  
*Finalist, The Percival Portrait Painting Prize, QLD*
- 2019 *Finalist, The Hazelhurst Art on Paper Award, NSW*
- 2018 *Finalist, The Glover Prize, TAS*
- 2017 *Finalist, Eutick Memorial Still Life Award*
- 2016 *Finalist - The Kilgour Prize, Newcastle Art Gallery NSW*  
*Finalist, The Archibald Prize, Art Gallery of NSW*  
*Finalist, The Wynne Prize, Art Gallery of NSW*
- 2014 *Artist in Residence Point B Artist Worklodge, NYC, USA*  
*Recipient - The Ian Potter Cultural Trust Grant*
- 2012 *Winner 'Best Gippsland work', The John Leslie Art Prize, Gippsland Art Gallery, VIC*
- 2011 *Artist in Residence Point B Artist Worklodge, NYC, USA*  
*Recipient - The Ian Potter Cultural Trust Grant*  
*Recipient - The Dame Joan Sutherland Award*
- 1999 *Recipient, Pat Corrigan Artists Grant*

**SELECTED PUBLICATIONS**

- Melbourne Now exhibition catalogue, National Gallery of Victoria, 2023
- Amelia Winata, *Spring 1883 Art Fair* in Memo Review (online), 13 August 2023
- Bruce Cooper, Max Germanos, Kon Gouriotis (ed). *The Clayton Utz Art Partnership 2017 – 2022*, 3:33 Art Projects and Bandicoot Publishing, Sydney 2023
- Chelsea Hopper, *Spring 1883* in Memo Review (online), 8 August 2021
- Elli Walsh, *Heidi Yardley*, Artist Profile, Issue 47, 2019
- Phil Brown, *Catch her drift*, The Brisbane Times, August, 2018
- Carrie McCarthy, *The Sinking Belle*, Art Almanac, August 2017, p40-42
- Ashley Crawford, *Heidi Yardley's Cadavre Exquis*, The Article, November 10, 2016
- Simon Gregg, *Hindsight-Gippsland Art Gallery History and Collections 1965-2015* 2015 pp 224-225
- Sylvia Lopez, Architectural Digest Magazine Spain, online article, Feb 29th 2016
- John McDonald, *Small Wonders*, The Sydney Morning Herald, July 19-20 2014, p16-17
- Real Living Feature article, *Artist in residence*, August 2014 pp 100-107
- ABC TV, Hannah Gadsby's *OZ*, Series 1, Ep 2, March 18, 2014
- Phil Brown, *Serene Dreams*, The Brisbane Times, October 16, 2013 p27
- John McDonald, *In our own image*, The Sydney Morning Herald, March 23-24 2013, pp12-13
- Ashley Crawford, *'50 of Australia's Most Collectable Artists'*, Australian Art Collector, issue 55, pp 198-199, 2011
- Alison Kubler, *'Little Whispers in the Dark'*, The Courier Mail, July 31, 2010
- Louise Martin-Chew, *'Fresh views of the face in the mirror'*, The Australian, December 11, 2009
- Ashley Crawford - Feature article, *Eyeline Magazine* issue 68, pp 33-35, 2009
- Ashley Crawford, *'Gothic candour: "I am the coffin that will not be silent"'*, Art Monthly, December 2008 –February 2009
- Charly Ogilvie, *'Danger that lies beneath'*, The Canberra Times, May 18, 2007
- Helen Musa, *'Harsh Light Inspires Dark Themes'*, The Canberra Times, April, 2007
- Robert Nelson, *'Talent Emerges, Not Necessarily on Cue'*, The Age, October 27, 2000

**COLLECTIONS**

- Artbank
- Australia Felix Foundation
- Ballarat Fine Art Gallery
- Bendigo Art Gallery
- BHP Billiton Collection
- Esk Collection Tasmania
- Gippsland Art Gallery
- Methodist Ladies' College
- National Gallery of Victoria
- RACV Melbourne
- St Leonard's College
- University of Queensland Art Museum