

"If you ask me what I came to do in this world, I, an artist, will answer you: I am here to live out loud."
Émile Zola

The depression and suicide epidemic in Australia as well as Andrea's own struggle with mental illness has led to her interest in the effects early childhood and inter-generational trauma on self identity and autobiographical reasoning.

With intelligence, sensitivity, and depth that comes from lived experience, Andrea searches for meaningful retrospective self-identity and self-continuity within the complexity of modern life and the chaos of her neuro-divergent mind.

"The job of an artist is to reveal, for discussion, truths that most people avoid thinking about. For this reason, my work is a personal exposé."

Andrea Verheesen

Andrea's paintings reveal her struggles with gender dysphoria, cultural and familial fragmentation, neurodivergence and the cumulative impact of trauma.

As an un-diagnosed, neurodivergent child, Andrea was the kid that infuriated her teachers as she whistled during class and was often gazing longingly out the window, unable to remain mentally present. However there was one lesson that successfully engaged her interest; the Ned Kelly story.

"When I paint myself with the Kelly mask it feels profoundly fitting. This is not just because of my childhood obsession with his story or my own intense compulsion to fight for justice and improved equality in the world - to me the mask also symbolizes the 'invincibility shield' that is shattered during trauma (or perhaps my need to recreate it for my self), and all the protective behaviours we adopt at the time, that unfortunately can become problematic behaviours later in life."

Andrea Verheesen

Andrea's works are loosely planned because the process is highly intuitive and changeable. Removing, reworking, and re-contextualising are often a large part of her process, which is why most of her works are on wood.

Andrea is also greatly influenced by her connection to country and her friendships with first nations Australians.

"I have been lucky to connect with some of the most exceptional individuals from the Pitjantjatjara, Yankuntjatjara and Yuggera tribes. I am forever humbled and deeply grateful for the knowledge, wisdom and inspiration they have shared with me."

Andrea Verheesen

"I want to touch people with my art. I want them to say, 'he feels deeply, he feels tenderly.'"

Vincent Van Gogh