

DAVIDA ALLEN





11. *Ant hill* 2019
OIL PASTEL ON ARCHES PAPER 46 × 61 cm

WHEN THE GREAT BRISBANE ART CRITIC Gertrude Langer reviewed Davida Allen's very first exhibition, in June 1973, she saw promise: 'She looks at things around her with the curiosity and freshness of the innocent eye, but of course, she is not a naïve artist.' Decades later, this perceptive observation still holds true.

Allen's work has always captured moments of her life, as her children were born and grew up, and as her responsibilities and inner life wrestled; fearlessly describing a full spectrum of emotions and experiences in her works. Only rarely does she depart from her usual medium of oil on board. Recently, she has been working with oil pastel on paper, best suited to capture the energy and liveliness of her grandchildren's adventures; feeding chooks, chasing dogs, tumbling through beach cartwheels, riding bicycles and bushwalking. As a group, these smaller works are an accumulation of perfect moments of joy, those snapshots which rest in our memories amidst the quicksilver vicissitudes of childhood.

Oil pastels can be used swiftly, and in an open-air studio during the heat of Queensland summer they soften deliciously to a heavy liquid consistency, gliding across the expanses of Arches paper. They can be returned to later, layered and incised with delicate details, outlining the pattern of a sundress here, and the shapes of tree branches there. Best of all, is their vibrant, saturated colour, which Allen uses in bright patches of blues, yellows and reds to lead our eyes around her scenes.

Allen has said: 'Painting is my method of surviving – grief, love, lust, angst, joy, excitement. All the nouns of emotion'. Here we see pure joy. These fresh new works revel in their subject matter and the enjoyment of their execution, continuing Allen's unceasing curiosity for all that might move and delight us in every chapter of life.

Angela Goddard
Director, Griffith University Art Museum



above: 2. *Chook* 2019
OIL PASTEL ON SAUNDERS WATERFORD PAPER 75 × 100 CM

cover: 3. *Chook cage* 2019
OIL PASTEL ON SAUNDERS WATERFORD PAPER 75 × 100 CM



12. *Boy with donkey* 2019
OIL PASTEL ON ARCHES PAPER 46 × 61 cm



13. *Boys patting donkey* 2019
OIL PASTEL ON ARCHES PAPER 46 × 61 cm



1. *Sleepover* 2019
OIL PASTEL ON SAUNDERS WATERFORD PAPER 75 × 100 CM



14. *Bushwalkers in setting sun* 2019
OIL PASTEL ON ARCHES PAPER 46 × 61 cm



15. *Cubby house* 2019
OIL PASTEL ON ARCHES PAPER 46 × 61 cm



7. *Playing with trucks* 2019
OIL PASTEL ON SAUNDERS WATERFORD PAPER 75 × 100 CM



16. *Kids at park* 2019
OIL PASTEL ON ARCHES PAPER 46 × 61 cm



17. *Mt Larcom* 2019
OIL PASTEL ON ARCHES PAPER 46 × 61 cm



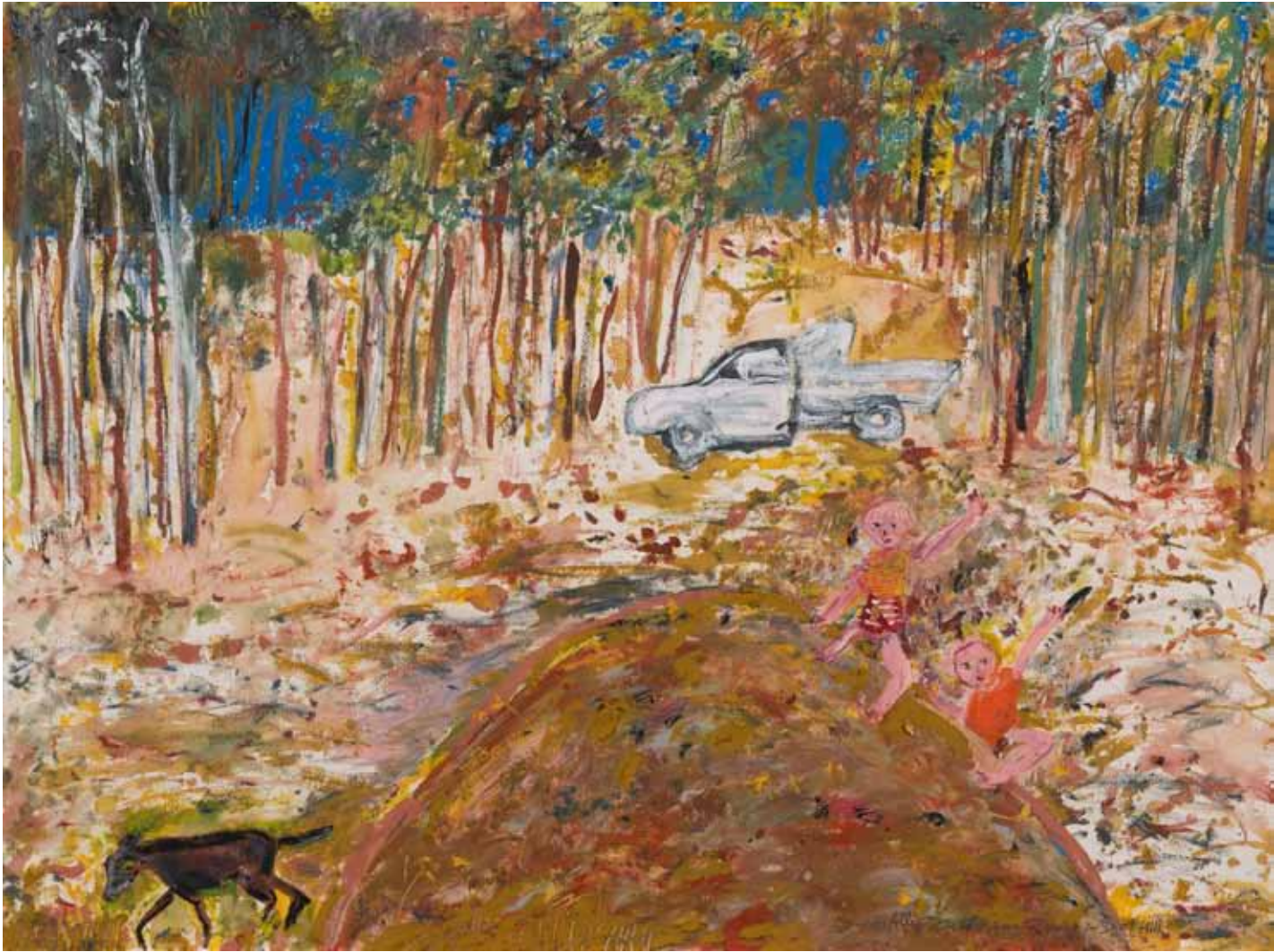
4. *Hand stands on beach* 2019
OIL PASTEL ON SAUNDERS WATERFORD PAPER 75 × 100 CM



18. *Purple sea* 2019
OIL PASTEL ON ARCHES PAPER 46 × 61 cm



19. *Putting chooks to bed* 2019
OIL PASTEL ON ARCHES PAPER 46 × 61 cm



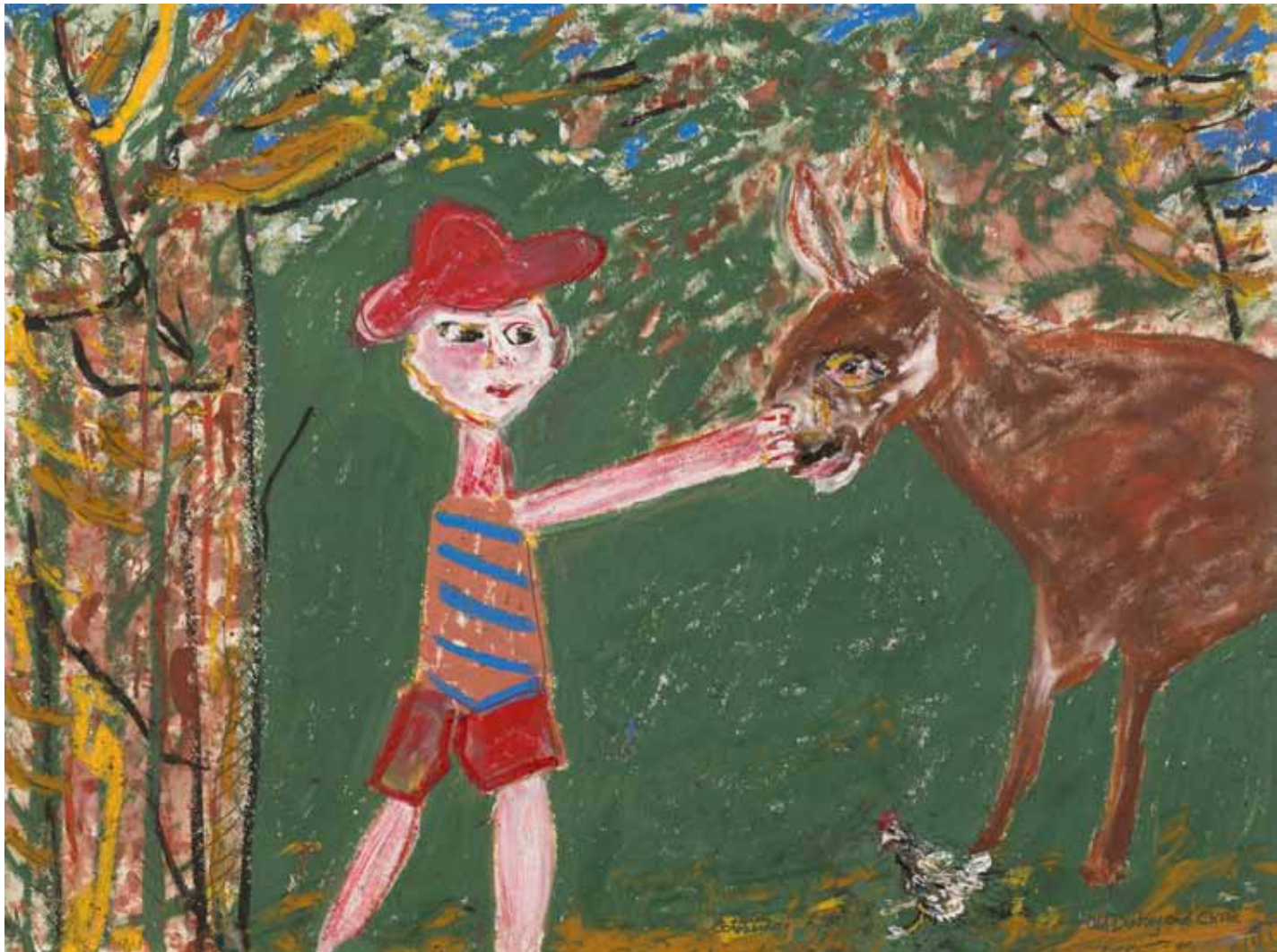
6. *Playing in dirt hill* 2019
OIL PASTEL ON SAUNDERS WATERFORD PAPER 75 × 100 CM



21. *Setting sun* 2019
OIL PASTEL ON ARCHES PAPER 46 × 61 cm



20. *Round rock. Flat rock. Split rock.* 2019
OIL PASTEL ON ARCHES PAPER 46 × 61 cm



5. *Old donkey and chook* 2019
OIL PASTEL ON SAUNDERS WATERFORD PAPER 75 × 100 CM



22. *Swings* 2019
OIL PASTEL ON ARCHES PAPER 46 × 61 cm



23. *Walking the dog* 2019
OIL PASTEL ON ARCHES PAPER 46 × 61 cm



8. *Riding through paddock* 2019
OIL PASTEL ON SAUNDERS WATERFORD PAPER 75 × 100 CM



24. *Boys with dog* 2019
OIL PASTEL ON ARCHES PAPER 46 × 61 cm



25. *Dancing under casuarina trees* 2019
OIL PASTEL ON ARCHES PAPER 46 × 61 cm



10. *Watching chooks* 2020
OIL PASTEL ON SAUNDERS WATERFORD PAPER 75 × 100 CM



26. *Bike circuit* 2019
OIL PASTEL ON ARCHES PAPER 36 × 50 cm



29. *Bird nest* 2019
OIL PASTEL ON ARCHES PAPER 25 × 36 cm



28. *Chooks in tree* 2019
OIL PASTEL ON ARCHES PAPER 30 × 46 cm



30. *Dancing under casuarinas* 2019
OIL PASTEL ON ARCHES PAPER 25 × 36 cm

DAVIDA ALLEN

1951 Born Charleville, Queensland

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2020, 2018, 2016, 2014, 2012, 2010, 2008, 2005, 2003, 1999
Philip Bacon Galleries, Brisbane

2018 *In the Moment*, Griffith University Art Museum, Brisbane

2010 Awarded Tattersall's Landscape Art Prize, Brisbane

2001, 1996, 1993, 1991
Australian Galleries, Sydney

1999 *Feeling Sexy*, film, invited to Venice Film Festival

1986 Awarded Archibald Prize, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney

1986, 1985, 1982, 1981, 1979, 1978, 1975, 1973
Ray Hughes Gallery, Brisbane

SELECTED INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITIONS

D'un autre continent: L'Australie le rêve et le réel, curated by Suzanne Page/
Leon Paroissien, Musée d'Art Modern de la Ville de Paris, touring
to Vienna, Texas, and Venice

An international survey of recent painting and sculpture, curated by Kynaston
McShone, Museum of Modern Art, New York

Davida Allen, curated by Anne Kirker, National Art Gallery of New
Zealand, touring throughout New Zealand

Painters and sculptors, curated by Michael Sournges, Queensland Art
Gallery, travelling to Museum of Contemporary Art, Saitama, Japan

ROSC, an international exhibition, Dublin, Ireland

PUBLICATIONS

'Jimmie the punk', a short story included in *Family pictures*, published by
Angus and Robertson, 1994

The autobiography of Vicki Myers: Close to the bone, a novel published by
Simon and Schuster and New Endeavour Press, 1991

Images of Vicki Myers: Close to the bone, Neil Leveson Australian Print
Workshop, 1991

COLLECTIONS

Artbank, Sydney

Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney

Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide

Art Gallery of Western Australia, Perth

Griffith University Art Collection, Brisbane

HOTA, Gold Coast

Melbourne Children's Hospital, Melbourne

Museum of Modern Art, New York

National Gallery of Australia, Canberra

National Gallery of New Zealand, Wellington

National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne

National Portrait Gallery, Canberra

Parliament House Art Collection, Canberra

Queensland Art Gallery | Gallery of Modern Art, Brisbane

Queensland University of Technology Art Collection, Brisbane

University of Sydney Art Collection, Sydney



27. *Bushwalk* 2019
OIL PASTEL ON ARCHES PAPER 36 × 50 CM



31. *Boy and chooks* 2019
OIL PASTEL ON ARCHES PAPER 23 × 30 CM



32. *Scattering seed* 2019
OIL PASTEL ON ARCHES PAPER 23 × 30 CM



9. *Boy on bike* 2019
OIL PASTEL ON SAUNDERS WATERFORD PAPER 75 × 100 CM



PHILIP BACON GALLERIES

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EXHIBITION: 3 MARCH - 28 MARCH 2020