

EXHIBITION

SYDNEY CONTEMPORARY ART FAIR
SEPTEMBER 2015

JACKIE CASE

ARTIST FROM MELBOURNE

Jackie Case started showing her delicately detailed artworks in local Melbourne cafes in Australia. It was through solid work and a positive attitude, however, that Jackie has since seen her drawings exhibit all over the world, including solo shows in Melbourne, Sydney, London, and now New York.

After completing university at RMIT, Jackie travelled for two solid years throughout Europe. "I had some really wonderfully crappy jobs, including being a 'Dinner Lady' at a London secondary school, grape picking in France, and a nine month stint as an Au pair in Switzerland." During this time, Case visited every single art gallery she could possibly afford, including countless visits to the Louvre, an amazing Egon Schiele exhibition in Switzerland and, using a friend's student card, the Van Gogh museum in Amsterdam. "I actually didn't even do any drawings during this time. I simply looked," she says.

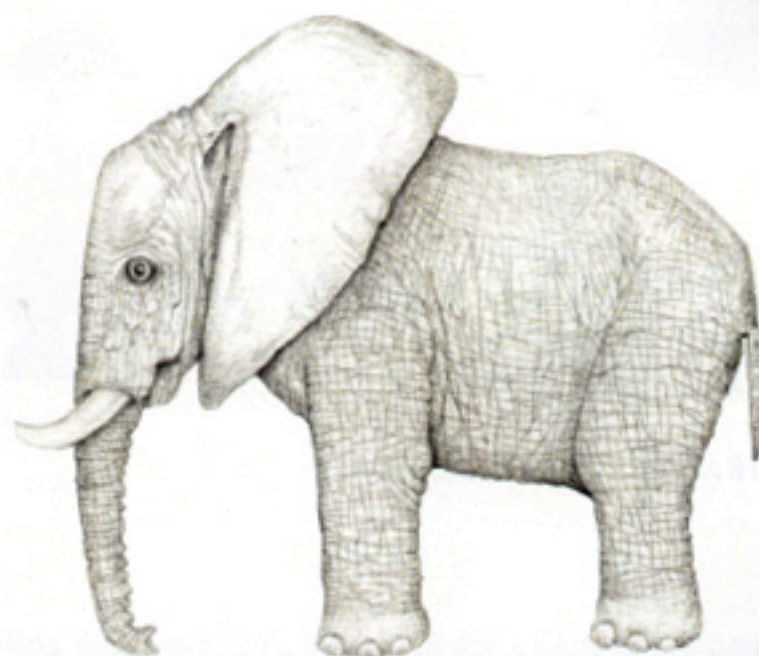
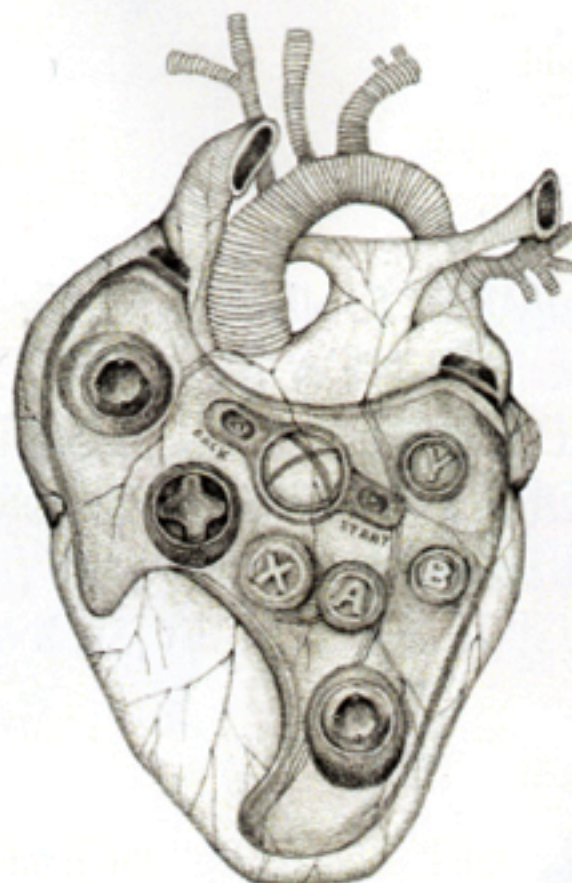
Once returning to Melbourne, Case worked successfully as a graphic designer for many years. "However, my computer screen was always covered in fingers prints." Missing the tactile nature of hands-on work, Case decided to take the chance to have her own exhibition. Researching countless venues she finally found the perfect spot at The Picture Box in Collingwood, a small painted brick venue with a lovely non-intimidating atmosphere.

"My first exhibition was definitely the hardest because I had to literally 'get over myself.' It's terrifying to just let it go, do your best, and see what happens. Yes, friends and family bought pieces, but so did total strangers. I came to realise I could improve, but I could also do this."

Buoyed by this success, Case later took her work to a small gallery which had advertised for local artists. There the drawings were placed in plastic sleeves at the back of the store. Not a single drawing sold. Feeling dejected Jackie decided to try again, and approached a local cafe which showcased artists. The second morning of her first exhibition, Case returned as she had forgotten to give them an artist's statement, and half the show had already sold; the exact same work as in the gallery.

Jackie created her own opportunities and continued to have regular exhibitions at a number of cafes where she was able to practise her craft and really find her own style. "First of all I made the time to make the art. Some days you almost have to fight for that time. I also believe there is always a solution."





Artworks JACKIE CASE

"I'M ALWAYS DRAWN BACK TO THE LITTLE SOMETHING IN THE CORNER THAT'S NOT SCREAMING, BUT JUST MIGHT HAVE SOMETHING INTERESTING TO SAY."

If you want to have an art exhibition but you have no money; show in a cafe. You can't afford canvases; take the canvases or old frames left out on hard rubbish. Can't afford paints; use pencil (take a couple next time you're in IKEA) or cut up paint swatches from Bunnings."

After the unexpected death of her youngest brother, Jackie's hands shook uncontrollably for months and she was simply unable to draw. Desperately trying to drag herself out of her sadness, Case applied to The Melbourne Affordable Art Show. "I was so raw with grief it gave me something positive to focus on." Jackie produced a large number of pieces, all original, and presented them during the show using all her graphic design skills. The booth was white, with white framed work in order to highlight her delicate line. "When I draw, the pencils are sharpened finer than a needle and I love the fact that you have to take the time to have a closer look at the pieces. My work won't catch your eye across the room like a massive big piece will." Those who took the time to look were richly rewarded with a miniature world of squabbling budgies, animals in knitted jumpers, wistful girls, and intricate trees. During the opening night, patrons were literally taking the works off the wall to secure the piece they wanted. Case sold over fifty drawings.

Jackie's work also caught the eye of Rebecca Hossack. Originally from Australia, Hossack owns two galleries in London, and another in New York. The Rebecca Hossack Gallery also exhibits at most of the Art Fairs all over the world from Singapore, Canada, U.S.A, Europe, and Australia. This was an amazing opportunity, as Jackie happily concedes.

With a hectic schedule, Jackie continues to draw and provides work for Rebecca's galleries, always striving to improve on her skills and make beautiful original pieces. "I like to draw what interests me, and little things amuse me. Bold colour and massive canvases look amazing, but somehow I'm always drawn back to the little something in the corner that's not screaming, but just might have something interesting to say".

Jackie's work will be in Australia at the Sydney Contemporary Art Fair September 2015 at The Rebecca Hossack Gallery stand. See websites below for further details.

SEE MORE OF JACKIE'S WORK

web: jackiecase.com • rebeccahossack.com

facebook: facebook.com/jackiecase.artist