

OUR KNOWING AND NOT KNOWING HELEN MAUDSLEY

ARTWORK LABELS

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Our Knowing and Not Knowing: Helen Maudsley

This exhibition presents recent work by Melbourne artist Helen Maudsley. Featuring Maudsley's paintings from the past five years, as well as a selection of her intricate drawings, the exhibition provides an insight into the artist's ongoing exploration of visual language and analogy. Born in Melbourne in 1927, Maudsley studied at the National Gallery of Victoria Art School and has had many solo exhibitions since her first exhibition in 1957. Before attending art school she studied music at the Melbourne Conservatorium.

Maudsley's interest in non-verbal forms of communication can be seen in the paintings she has produced over her seventy-year career. She has developed a visual language incorporating forms with rich and varied associations which draw us into the artist's reflections on human relationships and the surrounding world. Maudsley refers to her paintings as visual essays which can be read using the grammar of form and colour. The poetic titles offer insight into the artist's contemplations, and act as signposts for the various motifs within her works. A hand, a face, or a boot refer to interpersonal interactions or social dynamics. Maudsley encourages us to look closely and open our minds to association, analogy and ambiguity.

All works Private collection, Melbourne.

**Our Civilised Minds,
Our Feral Mindlessness,
Our Inherited Language;
our Re-configuration.
The Hyena Laugh.**

2013

oil on canvas

**To Get, Have and Keep; Mine.
Different Sovereignties.
Status, Authority, Omnipotence.**

2014

oil on canvas

4 Roses in a Vase.

4 Heads and One Face.

4 People and the Golden Pillar.

2014

oil on canvas

**When Shoe leaves Foot. When Dreams
become Myths, become Facts.
When Foot stays Grounded with
Difference.
And the Pillar, the Secular Presence
of God.**

2014

oil on canvas

To be Part of.

2017

oil on canvas

The Heads that Consider. The Hyena Laugh.

2014

oil on canvas

**You've Got what I want, and I'm going
to Get it.**

2015

oil on canvas

Getting On with it. Striving to Do

2015

oil on canvas

The Leaf. The Hand. The Landscape. The Killer. The Innocent One.

2015

oil on canvas

**With Effort, to Get.
'I don't have to Get, I'm Gifted.
I can Have without Getting.'**

2015

oil on canvas

**The Rose Petal Scrolls, become the
Scrolls of our Ancient Past; of the Law;
of Wigs, still worn.**

**The Hands of Now, of Doing. The Pear
that is Flesh and Heart.**

The Conflict with Arrogance.

**Also, the Flicker of Life, and the
Question Mark.**

2014

oil on canvas

Selves; In Touch but not Merging

2017

oil on canvas

At; Into; Down, Across

2017

oil on canvas

The Self. Part of it all, but Not Merging.

2017

oil on canvas

**The Heads; with Minds.
The Mindless; The Feral.
And The Warrior.**

2013

oil on canvas

You've Got it. I Want it. I'll take it by Stealth

2015

oil on canvas

'You Know Something that I don't, and I Want it; I'm the same as You'

'No you're Not. I haven't Got what you think I've Got.'

'Yes You Have and you wont let me Have it, but if I Match you, I'll Get it.'

'When you find out I Haven't Got what you think I've Got. I will be your Enemy.'

'If I don't Get it and Everyone else Does, I'll look Stupid, so I Pretend to Get it, but I'll Hate you. When No one Gets it, I'll join the Pack and Kill you. If you withstand this, You're Mad'

2015

oil on canvas

I. Me. You.

**'I don't see You. You don't see Me.
You see Me as you want me to be.
I see You as I want You to Be.
Each one's Separation and Difference.'**

2017

oil on canvas

**The Not Knowing.
Each One There; Difference.
Your experience of Me, is not Me.
My experience of You, is not You.**

2014

oil on canvas

He Thinks He Knows. She thinks she Doesn't.

If He doesn't get it, there's Nothing to Get.

The Ancient Coil, that is Ear; Question Mark; Pendant; The Shepherd's Crook and Christianity; the Golden Section; also the Shell, and the Pre-Humanity Mollusc.

The Hands that Do, that Save, that Shelter – and the little one runs away.

The Significant Other – I am One with You.

The Pillar; of Civilisation; Authority; Glory; of I, Me, the Self, the Ego.

And the Landscape of Hope

2016

oil on canvas

Is it This, Is it That. Knowing you don't Know. Guessing and Testing.

2015

oil on canvas

**'I'm Above You. You're Below Me.
I Know and You Don't.
It's My Sovereignty.'**

**'I Want to be In It'; 'There's Nothing to
be In On'**

'What's the Code' 'There is no Code'

**'This is Rubbish and you're not Getting
Away with It. I'm not Below You.'**

**Scrambling to Get. Scrambling to
Prevent.**

**The Hands that Save; and the Ancient
Scroll, Part of Us**

2015

oil on canvas

Status.

**Status Givers; Status Takers; Positions
to be Filled.**

**Also an Innocent, Delighted to be
Chosen**

2016–17

oil on canvas

Differences.

**Looking At, Up At, Down At, Across,
Into and Diagonal.**

2015–16

oil on canvas

Other Than. Not to be Got. Heads that are Different, Contained.

2013

pen and ink over pencil on paper

From Each One's Mindscape. Staying Part of It.

2013

pen and ink over pencil on paper

Our Souls Together; Released from Enmity; Single and Multiple.

2016

oil on canvas

**I'm not Stupid, but I don't Get it.
If I don't Get it, I'm seen as stupid.
What is to be Got, I Want.**

The Hands that Stay

2014

oil on canvas

Not 'The Civilized and the Barbaric'. But, 'The Civilized and the Feral'.

2013

pen and ink over pencil on paper

**The Innate and Secular Presence
of God.**

The Innate presence of the Feral.

2014

oil on canvas

Permission and Gender.

‘It’s not a Competition; it’s to Do, and be Validated.’

‘No it’s not; it’s Who Rules. I Am, There, but am Not, Here.’

The Male to the Female; You can Do only what I allow you to.

The Female to the Female; You’re a Nothing and I will Stamp You Out.

In 16th Century Italy, ‘The Young Man in the Hat’ is not part of this.

2015

oil on canvas

Our Souls; Alive.

2016

oil on canvas