

GALLERY
SALLY
DAN —
CUTHBERT



Sally Smart Portrait, The National 2021, MCA, Photography by Anna Kucera

"I'm interested in making dances that are like plays, made as installations that are iterative collaged assemblages; with scores created from the images of the performance that also become installed as sets and theatre curtains; with costumes that can also be props and vice-versa; including performers that might sing, and or make sounds; dance and draw; or talk from a script that is a text written like a play"

– Sally Smart

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Sally Smart is one of Australia's most venerated contemporary artists with a practice that engages identity politics: ideas relating to the body; the home and history. Smart graduated from the Victorian College of the Arts, University of Melbourne (Master of Fine Arts) 1991 and attended the Victorian College of the Arts, Melbourne for a Post-graduate Diploma (Painting) in 1987- 88.

Smart is recognised internationally for producing stunning, large-scale cut-out assemblage installations made from felt, canvas, silk-screened and everyday fabrics that she constructs with pins. Smart is a process-oriented artist, often presenting narratives that characteristically subvert gender hierarchies through deconstruction and reconstruction of historical events and political associations with the traditional activities of women. Her work identifies with the art practices of Cubism, Dada, and Surrealism, and reflects a long engagement with avant-garde modernist women artists such as Sonia Delaunay, Hannah Hoch, Lyubov Popova, and Sophie Taeuber, all exponents of work with performance, collage and textiles and a lineage of practice she shares.

Smart has exhibited widely in Australia and internationally and is represented in most major galleries and collections throughout Australia and in various collections both public and private, internationally. Smart's most recent public exhibitions include *P.A.R.A.D.E.*, Geelong Gallery, Victoria Australia (2022); *Matisse Alive*, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney (2021); *The Artist's Ballet*, The National 2021, Museum of Contemporary Art (MCA), Sydney (2021), a solo exhibition *Flaubert's Puppets* (2024) and *Choreographies (The Artist's Ballet)*, at Gallery Sally Dan-Cuthbert, Sydney, and *Bessie Davidson and Sally Smart Two Artists and the Parisian Avant-Garde* at Bendigo Art Gallery, Bendigo (2020).

Smart also exhibits regularly throughout the world with exhibitions including; *Manifesto*, Kayu Lucie Fontaine Setia Darma, The House of Mask and Puppets Bali Indonesia (2019); and held a solo exhibition *The Choreography of Cutting*, at Postmasters ROMA Unosunove, Rome, Italy (2017). Sally has also worked in collaboration with Italian Fashion House, Marni, Milan, Italy (2017), and created the immersive *The Exquisite Pirate* installation commissioned by the Singapore Art Museum for the 20th anniversary of their exhibition *Odyssey: Navigating Nameless Seas*.

Smart has also been the recipient of numerous appointments, awards, publications and prizes, recently being included in the *Know My Name (Book)* by the National Gallery of Australia (2020), appointed to the Visual Arts Australia Council Grant (2018); Jury Member Adelaide Contemporary, International Architecture Competition (2018) and a was a Trustee of the National Gallery of Victoria, Australia 2001-2008. Smart is currently Vice-Chancellors Professorial Fellow, VCA, University of Melbourne, Board member (Deputy Chair), National Association for the Visual Arts (NAVA) and is a member of the Council of the National Gallery of Australia.