

Gilded Perceptions: Erika Cholich

Erika Cholich is a local artist who infuses her still life paintings with a contemporary aesthetic that is bold and full of life. Erika regularly visits the Sydney Flower Markets, utilising this local resource for subject matter in her choreographed compositions. This body of work chronicles the output of Erika's artistic language over the past three years.

Predominately working in oils, Erika initiates the painting process *alla prima* and then applies glazes to further develop contrast and atmosphere. She employs both brushes and palette knives to create a texturally rich and varied surface. Erika's compositions and techniques are rooted in tradition, paired with her modern-day sensibility. This contemporary realism reinforces the notion that traditional imagery that is recognised globally can still be interpreted with a unique voice and vision indicative of our time and place in the world.

This current body of work is an exploration and celebration of colour relationships and storytelling. The titles given to each of these works provides the viewer with a heightened insight and understanding of each work.

Erika studied under American artist, Shirley Aley Campbell; graduating with a Master of Arts in Art Education, Case Western Reserve University and The Cleveland Institute of Art (Ohio, USA) in 2011. She has many influences, which include Anselm Kiefer, Abram Arkhipov, Kent Williams and Olga Grigorieva-Klimova.

Originally from Cleveland (USA), Erika relocated to Sydney in 2012. Erika has been selected as a finalist in numerous art prizes such as; the Camden Art Prize, Burwood Art Prize and the Hunters Hill Art Prize. In 2019 she was a finalist in the Archibald Prize, Art Gallery of New South Wales. Earlier this year Erika had her first solo exhibition at The New Artisans Gallery, Milsons Point as well as having work represented through AK Bellinger Gallery.