

PEER ARTS

COLLECTIVE

EXHIBITION

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF COUNTRY

We acknowledge the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation as the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we gather today. We pay our respect to Elders past and present, and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people joining us. Sovereignty was never ceded. This always was, and always will be, Aboriginal land.

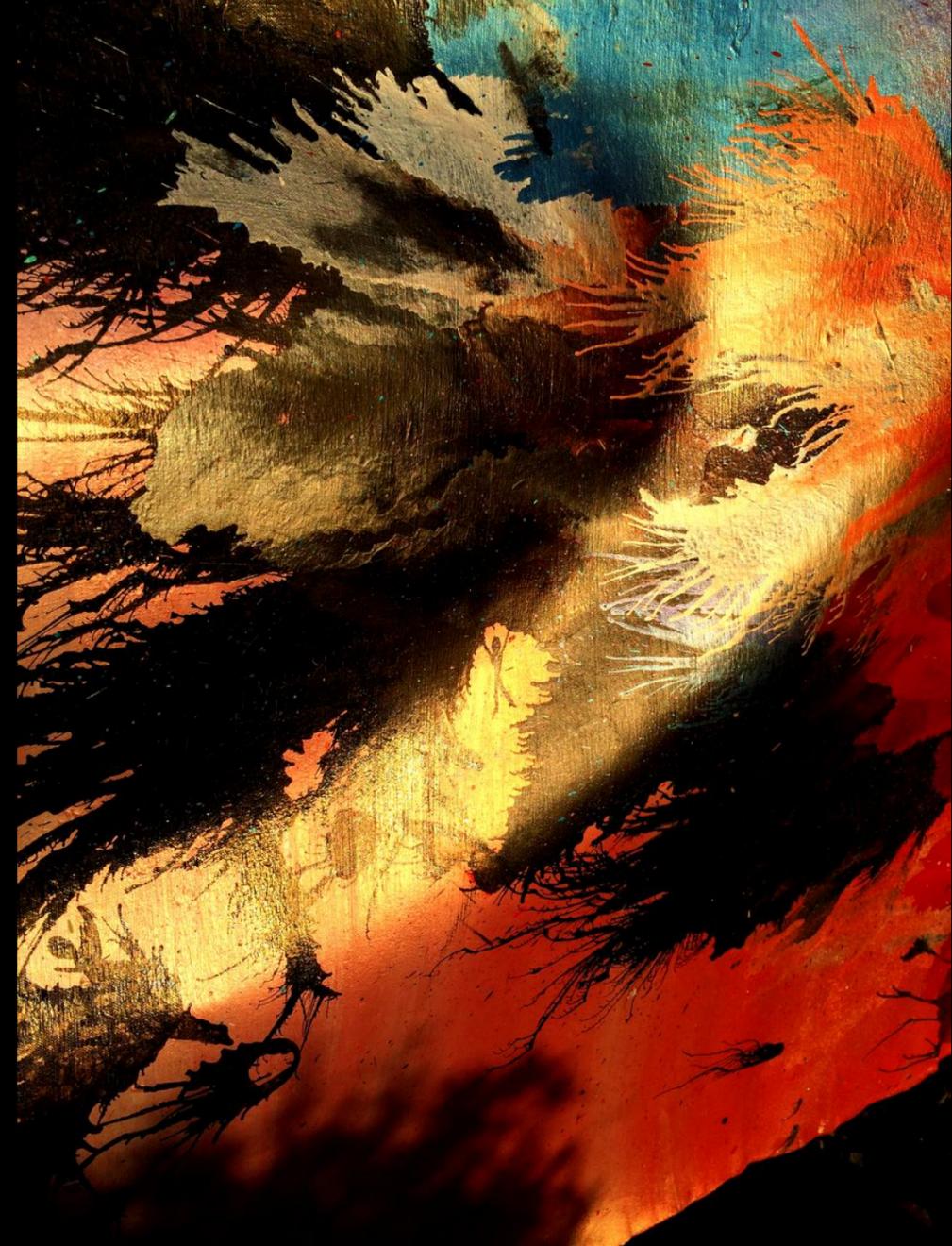
ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF COUNTRY

We acknowledge the strength, creativity, and resilience of people who use drugs. We honour the lives, experiences, and knowledge within our community. We remember those who are no longer with us and celebrate those who continue to lead change, challenge stigma, and create space for others to be seen, heard, and valued.



I'm Samuele Tomasulo

- I am the creative lead at AIVL
- I studied fine art at the School of the Art Institute in Chicago
- I am an award-winning international exhibiting artist
- My accent is American, but I come from a multicultural home and grew up in Switzerland
- I am a queer creative who is living with HIV and uses drugs, and has a lot of trouble keeping my mouth shut when I see people falling through the cracks or being treated unjustly



What is PACE



- PACE stands for Peer Arts Collective Exhibition
- PACE is an elevated exhibition book that celebrates the remarkable talent and creativity within the community of people who use drugs
- Last year was the inaugural year featuring 15 artists from around Australia.
- This year, we showcase 18 artists from all over Australia
- Next year, it looks like we will be potentially expanding internationally

**Cool but why is
this important?**



**PEER ARTS
COLLECTIVE
EXHIBITION**
EDITION ONE
2024

CHAZZY

ARTIST BIO

Chazzy is an artist living and working in Lutruwita/Tasmania, who holds a Bachelor of Fine Art from the University of Tasmania (UTAS). Chazzy's main mediums are pen on paper, however she also sculpts and writes poetry as well as indulging in other creative ventures such as gardening and fossicking. Chazzy's art is recognisable for its high amount of detail. Her images are rendered with numerous fine, pen strokes which evolve into sometimes sprawling imagery blending both the surreal with the figurative. Chazzy is also a mother and has a long career in the disability support sector.

Untitled
21cm x 30cm
Hand drawn pen on paper.

31



EMILY EBDON
@EMILY_J_EBDON

ARTIST BIO

Emily (b. 1983) is a resident peer artist at AIVL, where she creates original hand-drawn illustrations and artwork in support of the communications team and community-led advocacy. Before joining AIVL, Emily applied her artistic skills to communications for the International Network of People who Use Drugs (INPUD), contributing design content and providing essential support for this international advocacy organization.

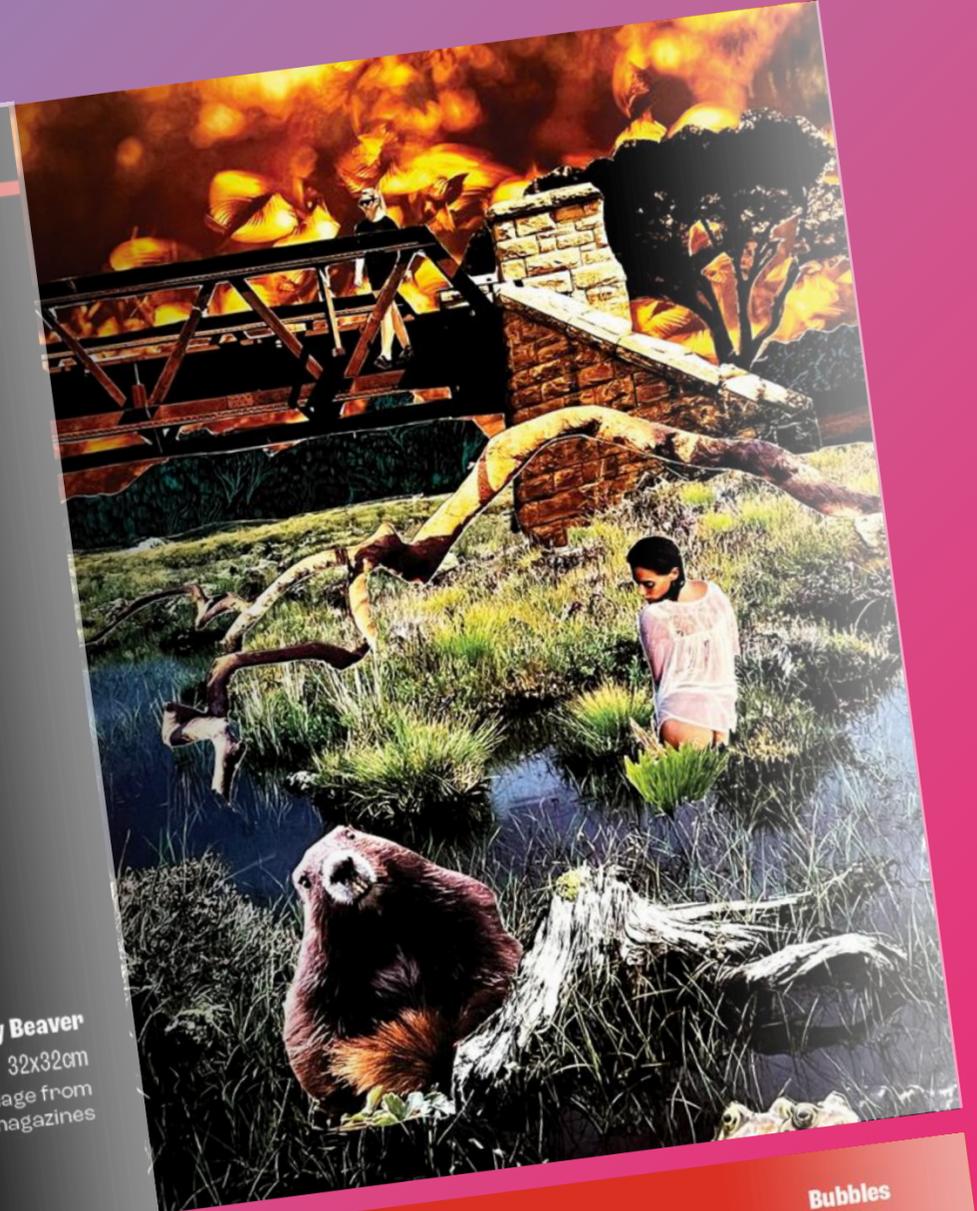
Based in Nipulina/Hobart, Emily earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the University of Tasmania (UTAS) in 2006. Her passion lies in drawing and illustration, specifically on a stretched canvas.



Yvonne Samuel

I live with my two beautiful dogs and an affectionate cat. And I am a creative hobbyist who spends a lot of my free time creating art cards and trading them with other people around the world. I love hanging out with friends and making art and this is an example of what can happen when you are with people you love spending time with. This is an example of my collages.

Checking Out My Beaver
32x32cm
collage from magazines



**PEER ARTS
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EXHIBITION**
EDITION TWO
2025

23

Pool Anyone?



Bathing



Bubbles



The Ballet

Merfairy

Kerrie Dare: A FIERCE VOICE TO THE VERY END

Emily Ebdon interviews Kerrie Dare in the Palliative care ward on 4 August 2025. Present in the room with them are Jo Murphy and Oliver Ebdon



Before we dive into anything specific, how would you like to introduce yourself, not just as an artist, but as a person? I feel like a dying person at the moment, which is existential for an artist. It's big shit! I'm a deep thinker; I can never stop thinking about things and I always want to go further than I can. I can never get far enough into things. And as I said that, the clock turned over to my lucky number: 333.

Oh it's an angel number! They say angel numbers are 3 of the same number. *Emily and Kerrie laugh* Well there you go. If someone had never met you before, what would you want them to know first about who you are? I'm unique, like everyone else, I'm not a stereotype. You should approach me with an open mind, like you should approach everybody. I've had an insatiable curiosity from a young age. I could never get enough of everything around me. If I was gardening with dad, it was dark when I'd go inside and if I was

You saying that make me think of how people who use drugs have a natural openness to experiences and new experiences. And pleasurable things, I always wanted to do things that made me feel warm and fuzzy and happy.

We're dopamine seekers! *Emily and Kerrie laugh* That's it - totally.

What has being an artist meant throughout your life? Oh it's an escape into a world you create and gift yourself. It's not something to be rushed and it's something that can only come from you, whether it's visual or whether it's been music,

The floristry! Yes, the floristry, that's probably been bigger than anything I guess. I had that creative thread of floristry all through my life, from gardening with dad when I was little, to make a living out of that and making a career out of that. It's [being an artist] meant everything to me. It's meant I've had experiences I otherwise would never have had. I think even people who enjoy art are artists. How boring life would be without having been an artist.

How has been part of the drug-using community shaped your art or perspective? It's given me a deeper sense of empathy for myself and for others.

What does it mean to you, to be a peer artist? I didn't know I was one until PACE!

Are there moments or experiences in your life that you wish more people understood? Right now, I wish people understood what it's like for someone like me to receive palliative care in this current system. I never thought I would get to the end of my life and be denied the medication that everybody else seems to be able to access so easily. Others will be given pain relief medication whether they need it or not, whereas someone who has used drugs throughout their life, isn't worthy of that same treatment.

I also wish people understood just how wonderful drugs can be. There's not enough people who understand how positive drug use can actually be and get out of it. I

That's such an interesting angle Kerrie, I agree. Using drugs always serve a function and that can include intimacy, pleasure, social and emotional connection, fun, relieving pain, etc.

If you could leave one message for future artists in our community, what would it be? Don't hold back.

How do you want to be remembered - artistically, personally or both? Through my floristry, because that's been the biggest thing for me... it would be through that creative role, I've created joy for other people. People don't think of floristry when they think of artistic or creative practice.

What role has creativity played in your life? It's played the biggest role, I wouldn't have survived without creativity. It fed me. It's that sustenance.

And all the different facets from floristry, right from people being born, to dying. I love that I was able to bring joy and solace to people, I always loved doing the funeral flowers. Sometimes people would have big gardens and family would want foliage and flowers from those gardens incorporated into the flowers for their funeral. I appreciated being part of the team of people to help pull a funeral together. I loved being able to bring peace and solace to people through the creative medium of floristry. And I always had music on everywhere I went, I always needed music on in the background to stimulate me. This sounds cheesy, but there were Saturday nights spent around the organ [Kerrie plays the organ], my brother Hayden would get on the trombone and my other brother Michael would play the guitar. It sounded awful, but Mum and Dad would sit there, Dad would try and sing - they used to love it! It was wholesome but fun and it wasn't what my friends did on Saturday nights. I've also always loved writing, and I learned how to write poetry and absolutely loved writing!

Kerrie's last bouquet, 4 August 2025



THE KERRIE DARE PEER ARTIST OF THE YEAR AWARD

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Kerrie Dare

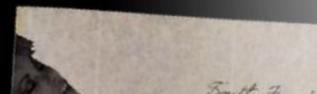
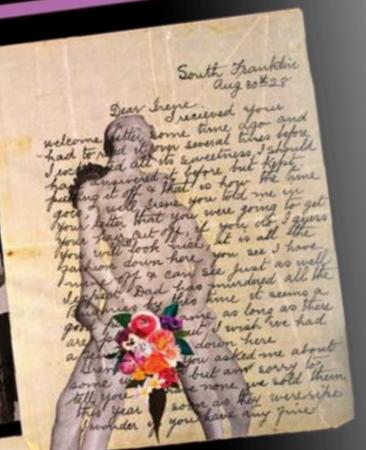
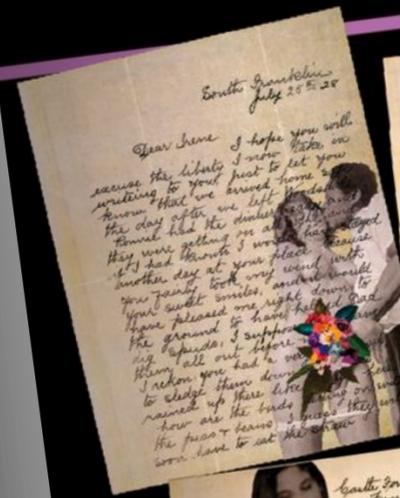
Kerrie Dare (b.1977-2025) was a Hobart based, multidisciplinary artist with a focus on sculpture and collage. Her life was driven by a curiosity of all things pleasure and illicit. Primarily worked with discarded materials, her aesthetic was strongly informed by her long career as a floral designer. Kerrie fused images and items from her well-documented family history with her lived experience of drug use, sex work and floral design. Her work is imbued with affinity and admiration for her female ancestors. She explored ingenuity, courage and struggles of their lives, alongside the reality their sexuality may have been their single source of agency.

A celebration of creativity, community, and the power of art among people who use drugs.

The Kerrie Dare Peer Artist of the Year Award honours the brilliant, creative minds within our peer community. It celebrates those who share their experiences and wisdom through art in all its forms.

This award recognises creativity as a powerful force for connection, advocacy, healing, and truth telling.

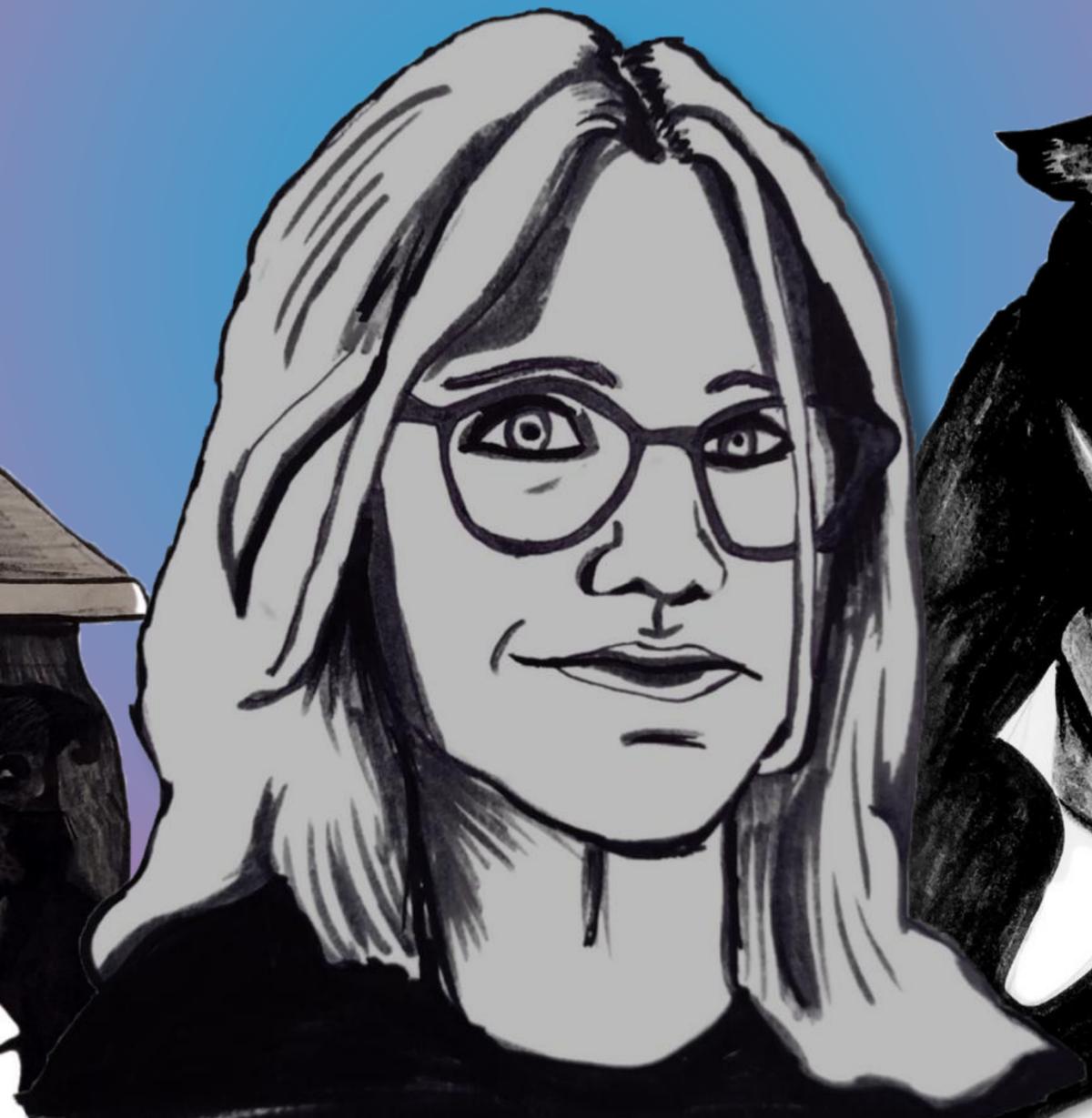
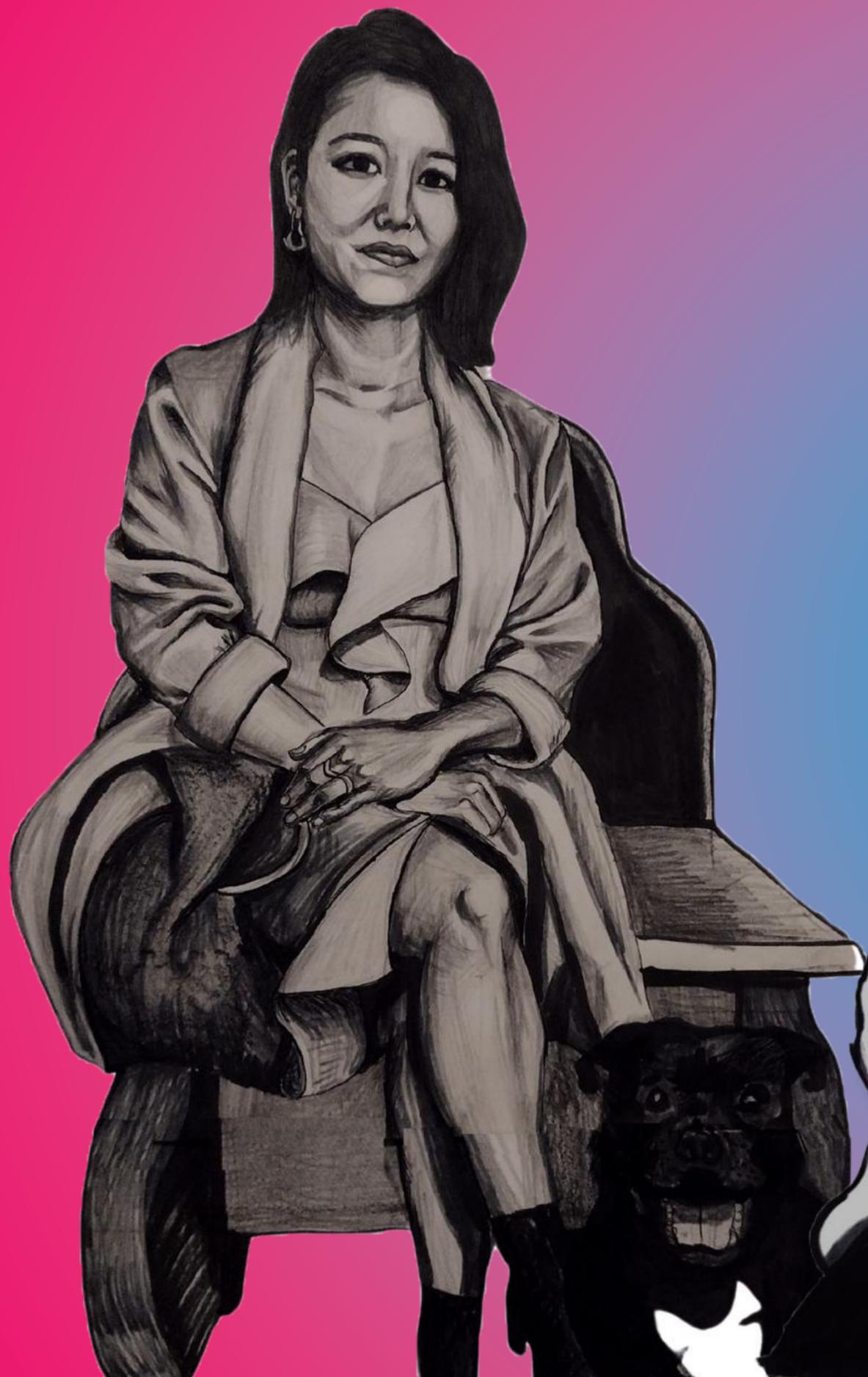
It is named in loving memory of Kerrie Dare, Vice President of TUHSL, an extraordinary artist, peer, advocate and all-round superhero. This award carries her legacy forward and celebrates the beauty she saw and created in the world.



South Franklin
July 25th 28

Dear Irene

I hope you will excuse the liberty I now take in writing to you, just to let you know that we arrived home safe the day after we left Woodsdale. Ronnie had the dinner ready and they were getting on all right and if I had known I would have stayed another day at your place because you fairly took my wind with your sweet smiles, and it would have pleased me right down to the ground to have helped Dad dig spuds, I suppose we have them all out before now. I reckon you had a very hard road to sledge them down as it rained up there like here. how are the birds getting on with the peas & beans, I guess they will soon have to eat the straw





















WKOZ.



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