

# SALERNO

G A L L E R Y

## *Katabasis: Come on Down – Sal Higgens*

*18th October – 4th November, 2012*

Katabasis, or catabasis, is derived from the "Greek κατὰ, "down" βαίνω "go". In the ancient world Katabasis is the descent in search of understanding, thus endowing mythic and poetic accounts of Katabasis with a symbolic significance.

Sal Higgens invites us to glimpse the ecstasy, anguish and terror of the underworld; populated by chimerical female beings, sentinels at the gateway, they exude otherworldliness.

Her paintings are unflinching, tumultuous and heroic. The elegance and fluidity of her brushwork belies an inherent brutality, each work pervaded by a fresh violence. Fusing a sense of dominance, strength and success with an emotional aggression and sadness implicit in the suggestion of death. These are archeological excursions into the land of the dead. It is in our recognition of the mythological subjects, in our familiarity with them, that we see a reflection of ourselves, something of our human desire to conquer. Poised on the cusp between two worlds we are simultaneously seduced and repulsed, echoes oscillating between the dreamer and the dreamt.

*"[The work] positively throbs with the veinal reality of what it is like to be human. The raw emotional quality of the work impresses but, more than this, it is Sal's refusal to deliver a beautiful picture because it would tell us less about what it is to be human."*

- Patricia Preece, Arts Writer UK

### *Curriculum Vitae*

London born and raised, Sal's career began in the UK before migrating to New Zealand. Now settled in Sydney Sal is proud to introduce her first solo show of new Sydney paintings. Sal's work is to be found in the collections of private collectors in Europe, New Zealand and now Australia. She is fast making a name for herself amongst some of Australia's most exciting emerging artists.

#### *Education*

Brighton University, Ba Hons, 2000–2003

Wimbledon School of Art, Btec, 1999

#### *Selected Solo Exhibitions*

Katabasis, Salerno Gallery, Sydney Australia, 2012

Mourning Chorus (Phoenix), Sheffer Gallery, Sydney, 2012

Mourning Chorus, Auckland, New Zealand 2009

Playhouse, Devonport, New Zealand 2008

Boy, Brighton, United Kingdom 2001

Sal Higgens, London, United Kingdom 2000

Freize, London, United Kingdom 2000

#### *Selected Group Exhibitions / Awards*

##### *2012*

Face Apart, Salerno Gallery, Sydney

She Who Can, Walker Street Gallery, Melbourne (Finalist)

##### *2011*

Glebe Art Show, Sydney (Highly Commended), 2010

Warwickshire Arts Week Showcase, Compton Verney

Nuneaton Festival of Arts

Cash and Carry, Coventry

##### *2009*

Waikato Society of Arts Painting and Printmaking Award, Hamilton, New Zealand

Waitakere Open Studio Event, Waitakere

National Drawing Award of New Zealand, Auckland

Molly Morpeth Canaday Painting Award,

##### *2008*

Empire National Youth Art Award, New Zealand (Winner)

Watakere Art Awards, Waitakere

Adam Portraiture Award, Selected for touring exhibition of NZ

\* Sal has exhibited extensively since 2000, for her complete CV please visit her website [www.salhiggens.co.uk](http://www.salhiggens.co.uk)

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1. <b><i>The Sleep of Reason</i></b> , 2012,	oil, acrylic, charcoal and pen on canvas, 55x65cm	\$1,100
2. <b><i>The Dark Dance</i></b> , 2012,	oil, acrylic, charcoal and pen on canvas, 112x122cm	\$3,600
3. <b><i>Fawn</i></b> , 2012,	oil and acrylic on canvas, 56x71cm	\$1,100
4. <b><i>Cherubim</i></b> , 2012,	oil on canvas, 55x70cm	\$1,100
5. <b><i>Sphinx and her prize</i></b> , 2012,	oil, acrylic, charcoal and pen on canvas, 137x122cm	*NFS
6. <b><i>The Summoner</i></b> , 2011	oil, acrylic, charcoal and pen on canvas, 36x46cm	\$700
7. <b><i>Sentinel</i></b> , 2012,	oil, acrylic, charcoal and pen on canvas, 75x97cm	\$2,100
8. <b><i>Seraphim</i></b> , 2012,	oil, acrylic, charcoal and pen on canvas, 51x41cm	\$700
9. <b><i>Self Seer</i></b> , 2012,	oil, acrylic, charcoal and pen on canvas, 92x123cm	\$3,000
10. <b><i>Goddess (Kali)</i></b> , 2010,	oil, acrylic, charcoal and pen on canvas, 100x153cm	\$3,800
11. <b><i>Her Dark Passenger</i></b> , 2011,	oil, acrylic, charcoal and pen on canvas, 91x122cm	\$3,000
12. <b><i>Meanads</i></b> (tryptich), 2012,	oil, acrylic, charcoal and pen on canvas, 268x229cm	\$18,000
13. <b><i>Mirror mirror</i></b> , 2012	oil, acrylic, charcoal pen and shellac on canvas, 51x41cm	\$700

*\* Courtesy of the collection of Wendy Knobel*

*Also available to view from the storeroom:*

<b><i>Juju</i></b> , 2011	oil, collage and mixed media on canvas, 81x61cm	\$1,100
<b><i>Arch of Hysteria</i></b> , 2011	oil, acrylic, charcoal pen and shellac on canvas, 97x76cm	\$2,100
<b><i>Wudi Horse</i></b> , 2012	oil, acrylic, charcoal pen and shellac on canvas, 97x76cm	\$2,100

*www.salhiggins.co.uk*