

Vincent Fantauzzo: Unveiled

Artwork Labels

Introduction

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Wall text:

Vincent Fantauzzo: Unveiled

Unveiled presents a special limited-time collection of works by one of Australia's most celebrated artists, Vincent Fantauzzo. This dynamic display showcases both past and new works, offering an intimate journey through Fantauzzo's evolving artistic styles—from his renowned portraits to his lesser-known but equally compelling abstract pieces.

Vincent Fantauzzo

born 1977 Birmingham, England
works Melbourne, Victoria

The Creek

2011

oil on linen

Courtesy of Fantauzzo Gallery

2025/E134

The Creek, created by Vincent Fantauzzo in collaboration with director Baz Luhrmann explores themes of memory, identity and place anchored within the Australian landscape. Drawing on Vincent Fantauzzo's signature cinematic realism and Luhrmann's theatrical storytelling this work stands as one of Fantauzzo's most iconic paintings. It won the Metro Art Award in Melbourne recognising innovation and excellence in contemporary Australian Art and was also exhibited internationally at Art Basel, Hong Kong where it received widespread critical acclaim.

Vincent Fantauzzo

born 1977 Birmingham, England
works Melbourne, Victoria

Asher Keddie 'This is not an act'

2018

oil on linen

Courtesy of Fantauzzo Gallery

2025/E137

Asher Keddie is one of Australia's most respected and celebrated actresses, best known for her award-winning role in *Offspring*, which earned her a Gold Logie Award in 2013. Her recent work includes, *Fake*, *Strife*, *The Lost Flowers of Alice Hart* and *Nine Perfect Strangers*. Reflecting on painting his wife, Fantauzzo said "I see her in ways other people don't – I see her vulnerability, her strength, her depth. That's what I try to capture. It's very intimate to paint someone you love. There's a trust there, but also a responsibility."

Vincent Fantauzzo

born 1977 Birmingham, England
works Melbourne, Victoria

Wentja Napaltjarri

2016
oil on canvas

Courtesy of the Kestelman Family

2025/E136

In 2016, Vincent Fantauzzo painted a series of portraits of Indigenous artists some of whom had lived a nomadic existence far from the modern world in the Western Desert. The series, titled *Last Contact* included the portrait of Wentja Napaltjarri, a senior Pintupi artist and daughter of Shorty Lungkata Tjungurrayi and Napulu Nangala. Wentja grew up west of Kintore in the Gibson Desert and has lived in Haasts Bluff, Papunya and Mt. Liebig. Having the opportunity to work with these artists Vincent reflected “For us, it brings to the forefront of our psyche the importance of these Indigenous artists, their work and their country.”

Vincent Fantauzzo

born 1977 Birmingham, England
works Melbourne, Victoria

Chapters 1–20

2025

sketches on paper

Courtesy of Fantauzzo Gallery

2025/E143.1-20

Vincent Fantauzzo

born 1977 Birmingham, England
works Melbourne, Victoria

Unveiled

2025

video work, 1 min 4 sec

Courtesy of Fantauzzo Gallery

2025/E135

Vincent Fantauzzo

born 1977 Birmingham, England
works Melbourne, Victoria

Abstract 1

2025

mixed media on canvas

Courtesy of Fantauzzo Gallery

2025/E140

Abstract 6

2025

mixed media on canvas

Courtesy of Fantauzzo Gallery

2025/E141

Abstract 9

2025

mixed media on canvas

Courtesy of Fantauzzo Gallery

2025/E14

Vincent Fantauzzo has always created abstract works alongside his portraits and landscapes. This series of abstract works feature vibrant splashes of colour and richly textured linear compositions on canvas. These works draw inspiration from his childhood drawings, created during a time when he faced challenges with reading and writing. Now, he revisits those early expressions as a powerful outlet for creative freedom and artistic expression.

Vincent Fantauzzo

born 1977 Birmingham, England
works Melbourne, Victoria

Heath 1

2008

sketch on canvas

Courtesy of Fantauzzo Gallery

2025/E138

Heath 2

2008

sketch on canvas

Courtesy of Fantauzzo Gallery

2025/E139

In 2007, artist Vincent Fantauzzo created a portrait of actor Heath Ledger for the Archibald Prize. During the process, he completed a number of sketches and drawings of Ledger. The final portrait went on to win the People's Choice Award in 2008. Fantauzzo and Ledger had been close friends for many years prior to the portrait's creation. Ledger had a celebrated film career with notable roles in *Brokeback Mountain* – for which he received an Academy Award nomination – *I'm Not There*, *Candy* and the *Dark Knight*, in which he portrayed the iconic role of the Joker. "The portrait of Heath was very personal for me. The fact that people connected with it means a lot – because it was never just about technique, it was about emotion."