

Drawn to Word

Contemporary Australian illustrators



2 to 28 June 2014

Sara Acton, Bronwyn Bancroft, Freya Blackwood,
Sarah Davis, Rocco Fazzari, Kim Gamble,
Gus Gordon, David Lovegrove, Cathy Wilcox.



The Drawn to Word exhibition is a wonderful showcase of the illustrator's contribution to the art of storytelling. The exhibition captures something of the richness of creative and imaginative art work in illustrations and images which may accompany poetry, humorous fiction, non-fiction and the media. The illustrators represented here show how powerfully their creativity can make meaning, and either inform the written word or replace the written text entirely.

As an adjunct to our Abbotsleigh Literary Festival, the exhibition celebrates the works of a wonderful range of illustrators, cartoonists and animated film makers. One of the many contributors is Cathy Wilcox, an Abbotsleigh Old Girl who completed her HSC in 1980. As a book illustrator and Sydney Morning Herald cartoonist, she has received many accolades including three Stanley Awards for cartooning and a Walkley Award in 2007 for her contribution to Journalism. Her work, and the work of others in our exhibition, reminds us that illustrations are not always secondary to text but are often centre stage. Such illustrations can provide the viewer with new perspectives from which to consider ideologies and philosophies.

I have the privilege of currently teaching Year 7 English and wonder if any of them will be part of exhibitions in the future. We have recently been studying picture books and I asked them each to bring in their favourite picture book from their childhood. We spent time talking about what these precious texts meant to them and how the images and text work together to make meaning. Are the books important to them because they remind them of time spent snuggling up with a loved one discovering the joy of reading? Are they special because the pictures are evocative of other worlds and imaginative flights of fancy? Is their value connected to the depth of meaning which the pictures bring to the written text? Do they love the book simply because it is aesthetically beautiful? As we shared our



memories and our ideas it was very clear that the answers to all were a resounding yes.

We live in a visual age and the students taught today at Abbotsleigh are among a generation who are more visually literate than the generations that preceded them. They understand the power of image and the many and varied ways in which image and text can inform meaning. Although illustrations in fiction were a common and popular feature of nineteenth century literature, our twenty first century has taken the use of image to a new level. The absence of word, the inclusion of image and the logic of the visual is an ever evolving, sophisticated and powerful art form.

Art in varying forms enhances the depth of our appreciation and understanding. I am sure you will enjoy the breadth and depth of this exhibition, and like me, you will be delighted to see images and cartoons which bring back memories, challenge your thinking or simply invite joy.

Mrs Julie Reynolds



Acting Headmistress
Abbotsleigh

Sara Acton

There on the verandah was a crocodile



Sara is an author and illustrator whose first picture book *Ben and Duck* won the Children's Book Council of Australia Crichton Award for new illustrators. She has always loved drawing, especially people and other strange creatures like an unexpected crocodile. Sara's watercolour images reveal her fine attention to detail as she interprets the author's words. Her humour brings each story alive, often through expression and subtle facial features. Her watercolours are lightly painted and retain a delicacy even when she is concentrating on the idea of rich colour. Sara was born in the Cotswolds in England, but now lives in Australia. In England she studied BA Hons Fine Art and a Postgraduate Diploma in Art Education at Goldsmiths in London and for many years taught art. Sara now lives in a small seaside village, near Sydney, where she enjoys writing and illustrating for children in her studio.

Hold on tight



Bronwyn Bancroft

Cockatoo and galah



Bronwyn Bancroft is a descendant of the Djanbun clan of the Bundjalung nation and a founding member of the Boomali Aboriginal Arts Cooperative, one of Australia's oldest Indigenous run organisations. In 2012 Bronwyn was honoured at Passion, Power, Politics, a solo retrospective exhibition at Sydney's Carriageworks, that spanned her entire 30 year career. Bronwyn is well known for her fabric designs, her work in the fashion and textile industry, public art commissions and her book illustrations. The paintings of native animals for Kangaroo and Crocodile reveal her beautiful use of rich gouache paint, her bold patterns and her choice of deeply saturated colour. Bronwyn's artworks reveal her commitment to aboriginal art and culture.

Brush-tailed possum and dingo



Freya Blackwood

Look a Book



Freya Blackwood was encouraged to draw from a young age and produced many illustrated books as a child. In 2010 Freya was awarded the UK Kate Greenaway Medal for *Harry & Hopper*, the story of a little boy coming to terms with the death of his dog. Freya works with a variety of techniques to achieve her desired result. She says, 'The more drawing I do, the more I appreciate the skill involved in drawing expressively and fluidly.' A technique that helps her maintain this freshness is to print her rough drawings on to watercolour paper. This allows the pencil lines to remain bold and the watercolour to be freely applied on top. Drawn to Word includes illustrations from six books illustrated by Freya. Freya lives and works in Orange, a place that surrounds her with family and provides visual stimulus for her many books.

Harry and Hopper



Sarah Davis

Spooky



Sarah was born in London and spent her childhood in America, Sweden, and finally New Zealand. She has an honours degree in literature and taught English, creative writing and art in secondary schools in New Zealand before moving to Sydney in 2004, where she began freelancing as an illustrator for advertising, film, editorial publishing, and toy design. In her quest to find the right visual qualities for an author's text Sarah experiments with a great range of different art forms. Fearless is sketched lightly in pencil, layered with washes of ink and acrylic paint and finished off with Prismacolor pencils. In Sounds Spooky she made sculptures of all the characters and built an entire haunted house out of cardboard and plaster. She then photographed the scenes and used digital technology to refine the images. Sarah developed a technique that forced her to be less precise with Toucan can as she wanted a joyful colourful style for the book. She hand painted tissue paper and created rough tissue paper collage placing linework over the top.

Fearless in Love



Rocco Fazzari

Valentines Day



Rocco is a graduate of the South Australian School of Art. For many years he has been a Fairfax Media illustrator and his drawings can be regularly seen in the Sydney Morning Herald, Sunday Age and the Sun-Herald. As a media illustrator working in a newsroom, Rocco is required to work to a daily deadline and says he may be required to produce drawings within an hour. His record is about eight in one day. In recent years he has been taking on the digital challenge using multimedia to create animations which have a strong bind to traditional newspaper cartoons. He says that storytellers in this digital age 'have to be fast, edgy, entertaining and informative but most of all, visually seductive.' Rocco is drawn to create stories on his digital tablet using a home-made stylus, he calls them 'espresso video animations.' Rocco is also a painter, represented by Maunsell Wickes Gallery, Paddington.

Valentines Day 2



Kim Gamble

Tashi Rode on the Tiger's Back



Kim studied to be a teacher and worked in a variety of different occupations before he began to illustrate stories for children at the age of 36. His first assignment was for the School Magazine, where he met Anna Fienberg, with whom he has since produced more than twenty books, including *The Magnificent Nose and Other Marvels*, which won the Children's Book Council of Australia Book of the Year for Younger Readers Award, the Tashi books, the Minton series and *Joseph*. Kim is also widely known for his best-selling 'how to' books, *You Can Draw Anything* and *You Can Do Great Lettering*. Kim draws in pencil and paints in watercolour and oil and is widely known and loved for his engaging talks where his hands on approach, creating magnificent pictures with pastels as he goes, has inspired numerous students and teachers.

Roaring Rains



Gus Gordon

Valentines Day



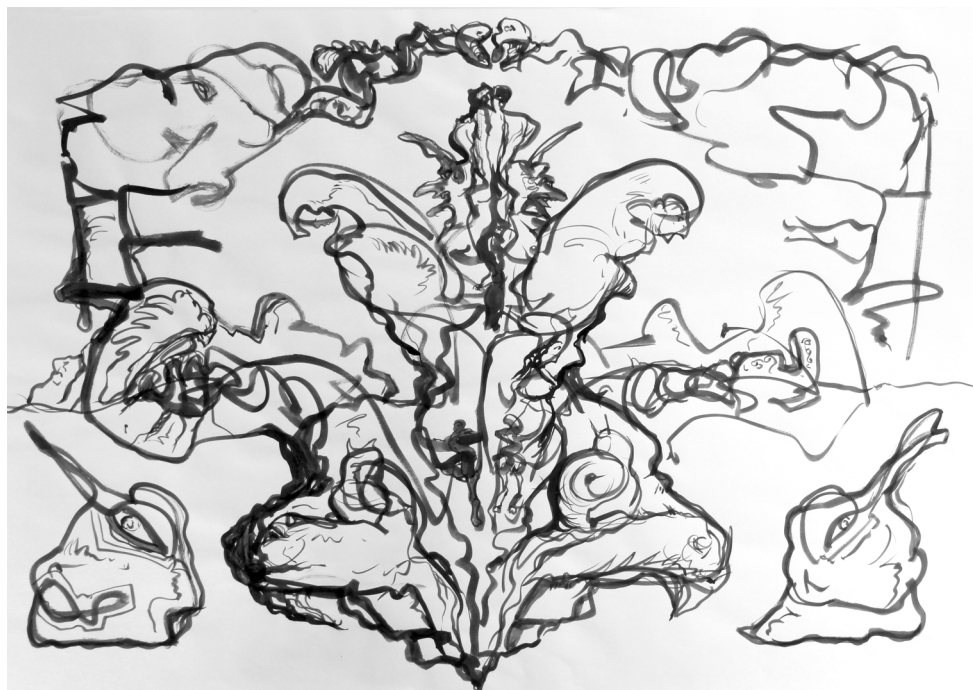
The picture books that Gus enjoyed the most were those that had many layers of magic secretly happening in between the visual and textual, and to him this made the whole book more interesting. After leaving school he worked on cattle stations all over Australia before deciding to pursue a drawing career. He moved to Sydney and studied at the Julian Ashton Art School. In 1996 Gus illustrated his first children's book and now he has the opportunity to write his own magic. Gus's writing is always anthropomorphic, animals take the place of humans in the narrative and he attributes this to his love of Kenneth Grahame's *Wind in The Willows*. Gus takes great pleasure in the challenge of matching animals with appropriate and believable human character traits and quirks. *Herman and Rosie* is the story of a crocodile and a deer who live in New York as neighboring strangers. It is a story about music, connection and a shared love of jazz, which eventually helps bring them together.

Valentines Day 2



David Lovegrove

Double-handed



David is a Murwillumbah based illustrator and manga artist who studied drawing at the Julian Ashton Art School Sydney and also Queensland College of Art, Brisbane. He has created concept art for film and TV including Steven Spielberg's World War II mini-series The Pacific. David is a keen teacher of comic and manga story and art skills, expressive 3D figure drawing and painting, drawing on both sides of the brain and digital art techniques for artists. David is working on his own graphic novel, Daruma, about ninjas, geishas and robots. David says he is passionate about restoring thorough drawing training to its rightful place alongside literacy and numeracy and about exploring the secrets of the ancient East and refining the secrets of the ancient West. David has a surprising talent for drawing with both hands at once and he feels this creates a balance in his mind.

Musume and Bento Boy Emirates poster



Cathy Wilcox

Kevin cleans up



Wilcox

Cathy attended Abbotsleigh, studied at Sydney College of the Arts and lived in Paris. After returning to Sydney in 1987 Cathy began illustrating children's books. She became a cartoonist for the Sydney Morning Herald and The Age newspapers and has published two collections of her cartoons. This year Cathy was invited back to France to join a group of international cartoonists, from all from five continents, to discuss globalisation and the resulting tensions from local perspectives. Her work as a cartoonist requires her to consider challenging world events as well as the domestic political scene. Her wit, great observation and drawing skill are evident in her book and news media illustrations. Cathy has twice won the Australian Children's Book Council's Picture Book of the Year award and twice won the Walkley Award in Cartooning.

Ella Kazoo will not go to bed



Sara Acton

The Unexpected Crocodile,

Original unpublished cover artwork

Ink and watercolour on paper

Image 20 cm x 28 cm

The Unexpected Crocodile, written by

Kim Kane and illustrated by Sara Acton

Published by Allen & Unwin 2012

Sara Acton

'It's not the Dawson's mum', said

Peggy, for there on the verandah was a
crocodile.

Ink and watercolour on paper

Image 45 cm x 30 cm

The Unexpected Crocodile, written by

Kim Kane and illustrated by Sara Acton

Published by Allen & Unwin 2012

Sara Acton

Title page, original unpublished artwork

Ink and watercolour on paper

Image 17 cm x 18.5 cm

Hold On Tight, written and illustrated by

Sara Acton

Published by Scholastic Press 2013

Sara Acton

Half title page, original unpublished
artwork

Ink and Watercolour on paper

Image 170 x 185 mm

Hold On Tight, written and illustrated by
Sara

Published by Scholastic Press 2013

Sara Acton

On Sunday Esther saw red, in raspberry
ice, in the warm bricks in the garden wall,
in the fins of a fish.

Ink, watercolour and collage on paper

Artwork 250 x 275 mm

Esther's Rainbow, written by Kim Kane

and illustrated by Sara Acton

Published by Allen & Unwin, 2013

Sara Acton

She smelt green in mint, crushed
between her fingertips.... But she couldn't
find her rainbow.

Ink, watercolour and collage

Image 250 x 275 mm

Esther's Rainbow, written by Kim Kane

and illustrated by Sara Acton

Published by Allen & Unwin, 2013

Bronwyn Bancroft

Brush-tailed possum and dingo

Gouache on Arches paper

Image 71 x 45 cm

Kangaroo and Crocodile, My Big Book of

Australian Animals, written and illustrated

by Bronwyn Bancroft

Published by Little Hare Books, 2011

Bronwyn Bancroft

Gecko and Frog

Gouache on Arches paper

Image 71 x 45 cm

Kangaroo and Crocodile, My Big Book of

Australian Animals, written and illustrated

by Bronwyn Bancroft

Published by Little Hare Books, 2011

Bronwyn Bancroft

Cockatoo and Galah, 2011

Gouache on Arches paper

Image 71 x 45 cm

Kangaroo and Crocodile, My Big Book of

Australian Animals, written and illustrated

by Bronwyn Bancroft

Published by Little Hare Books, 2011

Bronwyn Bancroft

Wedge-tailed eagle and Koala

Gouache on Arches paper

Image 71 x 45 cm

Kangaroo and Crocodile, My Big Book of

Australian Animals, written and illustrated

by Bronwyn Bancroft
Published by Little Hare Books, 2011

Bronwyn Bancroft

Pelican and Blue Swimmer crab
Gouache on Arches paper
Image 71 x 45 cm
Kangaroo and Crocodile, My Big Book of Australian Animals, written and illustrated by Bronwyn Bancroft
Published by Little Hare Books, 2011

Freya Blackwood

Harry and Hopper, 2009
Pencil and watercolour on paper
Image 60 x 29.5 cm
Harry and Hopper, written by Margaret Wild and illustrated by Freya Blackwood
Publisher Omnibus Book/Scholastic Australia, 2009

Freya Blackwood

Maudie and the Bear, 2010
Pencil and watercolour on paper
Image 56.5 x 38.5 cm
Maudie and the Bear, written by Jan Ormerod and illustrated by Freya Blackwood
Published by Little Hare Books, 2010

Freya Blackwood

Runaway Hug, 2011
Pencil and watercolour on paper
Image 57.5 x 37.5 cm
The Runaway Hug, written by Nick Bland and illustrated by Freya Blackwood
Published by Scholastic Press, 2011

Freya Blackwood

Look a Book, 2011
Pencil and watercolour on paper
Image 43 x 28 cm
Look a Book, written by Libby Gleeson and illustrated by Freya Blackwood
Published by Little Hare Books, 2011

Freya Blackwood

The Terrible Suitcase, 2011
Pencil and watercolour on paper
Image 43 x 28 cm
The Terrible Suitcase, written by Emma Allen and illustrated by Freya Blackwood
Published by Scholastic Australia, 2012

Freya Blackwood

Banjo and Ruby Red, 2013
Pencil and watercolour on paper
Image 64 x 34 cm
Banjo and Ruby Red, written by Libby Gleeson and illustrated by Freya Blackwood
Published by Little Hare Books, 2013

Sarah Davis

Ewan likes to dance all day...
Gesso, tissue paper, acrylic and prisma-color pencils on paper
45 cm x 49 cm
Toucan Can! Written by Juliet MacIver and illustrated by Sarah Davis
Published by Gecko Press, 2013

Sarah Davis

Toucan meets Ewan
Gesso, tissue paper, acrylic and prisma-color pencils on paper
30 x 42 cm
Toucan Can! Written by Juliet MacIver and illustrated by Sarah Davis
Published by Gecko Press, 2013

Sarah Davis

Toucan and Ewan are friends
Gesso, tissue paper, acrylic and prisma-color pencils on paper
30 x 42 cm
Toucan Can! Written by Juliet MacIver and illustrated by Sarah Davis
Published by Gecko Press, 2013



Sarah Davis

Housetraining was hard for Fearless

Acrylic and prisma color pencils on paper
45 cm x 49 cm

Fearless, written by Colin Thompson and
illustrated by Sarah Davis
Published by ABC Books 2010

Sarah Davis

First of all he loved his bed. He loved it so
much he ate it.

Acrylic and prisma color pencils on paper
66 cm x 51 cm

Fearless in Love, written by Colin
Thompson and illustrated by Sarah Davis

Sarah Davis

Primrose – Glamour Shot

Acrylic and prisma color pencils on paper
66 cm x 51 cm

Fearless in Love, written by Colin
Thompson and illustrated by Sarah Davis

Sarah Davis

Primrose – Glamour Shot

Acrylic and prisma color pencils on paper
66 cm x 51 cm

Fearless in Love, written by Colin
Thompson and illustrated by Sarah Davis
Published by ABC Books/HarperCollins,
2012

Sarah Davis

Injured bird

Oil on paper
63 cm x 35 cm

Mending Lucille, written by Jennifer
Poulter and illustrated by Sarah Davis
Published by Hachette Australia, 2008

Sarah Davis

A raging and rolling and roaring in the sky

Oil on paper
63 cm x 35 cm

Mending Lucille, written by Jennifer

Poulter and illustrated by Sarah Davis
Published by Hachette Australia, 2008

Sarah Davis

I watch till the grey bird disappears

Oil on paper
63 cm x 35 cm

Mending Lucille, written by Jennifer
Poulter and illustrated by Sarah Davis
Published by Hachette Australia, 2008

Sarah Davis

The Bicycle

Polymer clay, cardboard, plaster, oils,
tissue, photography, Photoshop
Perspex display box
52 cm h by 43 cm w x 43 cm d
The Bicycle, written by Colin Thompson,
Published by Harper Collins Australia,
2011

Sarah Davis

Home, model for *Sounds Spooky*

Polymer clay, cardboard, plaster,
oils, tissue,
Sounds Spooky, written by Christopher
Cheng and illustrated by Sarah Davis
Published by Random House Australia,
2011

Sarah Davis

Little Ghost At Home

Photography, Photoshop
Digital print on paper
47 cm x 27 cm

Sounds Spooky, written by Christopher
Cheng and illustrated by Sarah Davis
Published by Random House Australia,
2011

Sarah Davis

Little Ghost At Home, window

Photography, Photoshop
Digital print on paper
47 cm x 27 cm
Sounds Spooky, written by Christopher

Cheng and illustrated by Sarah Davis
Published by Random House Australia,
2011

Rocco Fazzari

Valentine's Day, 2014, 1 minute 52
seconds

Australia Day, 2014, 2 minutes 13 seconds

Ask Mikey, 1 minute 52 seconds

Ask Mikey: Mikey meets and greets Noah,
1 minute 15 seconds

Animation and production by Rocco
Fazzari, audio by Belinda Lopez

Rocco Fazzari

Drawing for digital animation
Digital print on paper
40 cm x 28 cm

Rocco Fazzari

Drawing for digital animation
Digital print on paper
40 cm x 28 cm

Rocco Fazzari

Drawing for digital animation
Digital print on paper
40 cm x 28 cm

Rocco Fazzari

Drawing for digital animation
Digital print on paper
40 cm x 28 cm

Rocco Fazzari

Drawing for digital animation
Digital print on paper
40 cm x 28 cm

Rocco Fazzari

Drawing for digital animation
Digital print on paper
40 cm x 28 cm

Kim Gamble

End papers, *Once Tashi Met a Dragon*
Watercolour on paper

Image 47.8 cm x 26.5 cm

Written by Anna Fienberg and Barbara
Fienberg, and illustrated by Kim Gamble

Published by Allen & Unwin, 2013

Kim Gamble

Title page, *Once Tashi Met a Dragon*
Watercolour on paper

46.5 cm x 25.5 cm

Written by Anna Fienberg and Barbara
Fienberg, and illustrated by Kim Gamble

Published by Allen & Unwin, 2013

Kim Gamble

Tashi and Grandma

Watercolour on paper

46.5 cm x 24.5 cm

Written by Anna Fienberg and Barbara
Fienberg, and illustrated by Kim Gamble

Published by Allen & Unwin, 2013

Kim Gamble

Tashi Rode on the Tiger's Back

Watercolour on paper

47.5 cm x 25 cm

Written by Anna Fienberg and Barbara
Fienberg, and illustrated by Kim Gamble

Published by Allen & Unwin, 2013

Kim Gamble

Roaring Rains

Watercolour on paper

46 cm x 25 cm

Written by Anna Fienberg and Barbara
Fienberg, and illustrated by Kim Gamble


Published by Allen & Unwin, 2013

Gus Gordon

Lily and Dragon, opening spread

Signed giclee print

50 cm x 34 cm



The Big Pet Day, written by Lisa Shanahan and illustrated by Gus Gordon.
Published by Hachette Australia, 2013

Gus Gordon

Herman and Rosie
Signed giclee print
46 cm x 26 cm

Herman and Rosie, written and illustrated by Gus Gordon
Published by Penguin Australia, 2012

Gus Gordon

Herman playing oboe on rooftop
Signed giclee print
13 cm x 14.5 cm
Herman and Rosie, written and illustrated by Gus Gordon
Published by Penguin Australia, 2012

Gus Gordon

Herman on rooftop
Signed giclee print
23.5 cm x 26 cm
Herman and Rosie, written and illustrated by Gus Gordon
Published by Penguin Australia, 2012

Gus Gordon

Badger and kite, 2013
Signed giclee print
18 cm x 16 cm

Gus Gordon

Algy saw the bear
Giclee print
40 cm x 21.5 cm
Over the Hills and Far Away, nursery rhymes compiled by the Seven Stories National Centre for Children's Books in the UK. To be published later in 2014 by Frances Lincoln

David Lovegrove

Musume and Bento Boy,
Emirates poster, 2010
Digital print
42 cm x 59.5 cm
Widely distributed artwork in UAE for Emirates Airlines for manga theme launch, Dubai 2010

David Lovegrove

Musume and Bento Boy, original, for Emirates poster, 2010
Black ink and pencil on paper
61 cm x 84 cm
Original characters for *Daruma* graphic novel (in production) created for Emirates Airlines manga theme launch in Dubai, 2010

David Lovegrove

Gilgamesh battle, 2005
Pencil on paper
61 cm x 84 cm
Page from unfinished graphic novel, *Gilgamesh*

David Lovegrove

Gilgamesh hunter-hunted
Pencil on paper
61 cm x 84 cm
Page from unfinished graphic novel, *Gilgamesh*

David Lovegrove

Ancient astronauts prepare to disembark, 2014
Black and green pen on cartridge paper
61 cm x 84 cm
Double handed mirror drawing

David Lovegrove

Turbaned Emissary, 2012
Black and blue pens on cartridge paper
61 cm x 84 cm
Double handed, ten pens on fingers drawing

David Lovegrove

Avian, 2014

Black pen on cartridge paper

61 cm x 84 cm

Double handed mirror ink brush drawing

Cathy Wilcox

Dune Dog, 1990

Pastel

Image 37 cm x 19 cm

Cathy's observation of a mark on the ceiling at Sydney University Sports Centre pool.

Cathy Wilcox

Executive payouts, 2000

Black ink on white paper

Image 21 cm x 14 cm

Drawing for Sydney Morning Herald, 15 February 2000

Cathy Wilcox

New Zealand Earthquake, 2011

Black ink and watercolour on white paper

19.5 cm x 30 cm

Drawing for Sydney Morning Herald, 23 February 2011

This drawing was Cathy's response to the tragedy of the Auckland earthquake.

Cathy Wilcox

Rise of Fundamentalism in the West, 2001

Black ink on paper

Image 21 cm x 13.5 cm

The image was created after September 11 2001. It was considered too political to publish.

Cathy Wilcox

Kevin cleans up, 2013

Printed colour copy

57.5 x 67.5 cm

2013 Walkley award winning cartoon

Cathy Wilcox

Draft idea for *Ella Kazoo will not go to sleep*

Pencil and watercolour

29.7 cm x 21.5 cm

Ella Kazoo will not go to sleep, written by Lee Fox and illustrated by Cathy Wilcox

Published by Hachette Australia, 2011

Cathy Wilcox

Ella Kazoo will not brush her hair, two images ready for print

Ink, watercolour, acrylic paint on board
52 cm x 37.5 cm

Ella Kazoo will not brush her hair, written by Lee Fox and illustrated by Cathy Wilcox
Published by Hachette Australia, 2006



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