

MY COLLECTION

LAWRENCE WILSON ART GALLERY, PERTH

My collection is a program of the Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery at The University of Western Australia, Perth, in which leading figures from the University are invited to select an artwork from the University collections and write a short appreciation about why the work appeals to them. Each work is displayed for a period of three months. The current work was chosen by Maddie Mulholland, President of the UWA Student Guild.



Vicki Varvaressos
The lids are dizzy pink 1982
182 x 122 cm
Chosen by Maddie Mulholland
103rd UWA Student Guild President

This painting is vibrant and eye catching, empowering and thoughtful, and relatable to the experiences of many females. The two women are the clear focal point and own the bold brush strokes, which are a typically 'masculine' style. Their strength sends a clear message of female power and presence. Both women are so different and represent the conflicting expectations of women in our society.

The above woman is poised and composed. The poetry to the left highlights the expectations of what it is "to be a woman". It shows the absurdity of the routine women must meet to be considerable "desirable" and to be loved. This absurdity is that we measure a woman's worth by how she looks and men's approval by choosing to love her, rather than how she thinks, feels, acts, is and her worth as her own person.

The below woman is fun, lively, bold – all the things that the top woman seems to have been told she can't show. She appears to be bursting out of the confines society has placed on her. This juxtaposition shows the conflicting experiences of women, and the complexities of femininity. The woman below is so much more joyful, but society pressures women not to make the choice to stray from the expectations placed on them.

The painting is visually engaging and exciting, but it also sends a strong message. I see myself in both these women. I feel the pressures of the top woman and the release of the bottom woman. This painting was done in 1982 and I feel, unfortunately, this message is still just as relevant today.