

DANCEHOUSE DANCEHOUSE DANCEHOUSE

ON VIEW: ICONS

by Sue Healey

27 — 30 November 2024

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**7pm, Wed 27 November 2024 &
4-7pm, Thu 28 — Sat 30 November 2024
Sylvia Staehli Theatre, Dancehouse**

Dance, quintessentially ephemeral, has no shared archive or collective notation, unlike literature, music and visual art, to ensure that knowledge is not lost.

We, as audiences, also have very short memories. Together we haven't seen the same dances, haven't witnessed the unfolding links between choreographic works. Hence, it is difficult to map lineages and connect the dots across the vast landscape of dance. I translate dance to the screen as an antidote to this impermanence; as a means to prevent the loss of knowledge, as well as offering new dimensions to how it is viewed and perceived.

The ON VIEW series is a decade-long exploration into the essence of portraiture and the symbiotic relationship between viewer and dancer. In making the feature-length film VIRTUOSI in 2012, with a focus on eight New Zealand dance artists, I realised the potential for a cine-portrait to showcase choreography and movement in a new light. An archive of sorts, a gesture against impermanence. And as a choreographer, I was uniquely positioned to understand that the dancer is an expert in navigating how they are seen, making them ideal portraiture subjects.

The ON VIEW project began in 2014, with a series of digital cine-portraits featuring dance artists Martin del Amo, Shona Erskine, Benjamin Hancock, Raghav Handa and Nalina Wait. These portraits evolved into performance installations showcased across Australia and Asia. ON VIEW: PANORAMIC SUITE, the major work of this series, toured Japan and Hong Kong, overcoming the challenges posed by the global pandemic. Comprising 29 portraits, this collection presents an array of single-channel films, multi-screen installations and live performance, offering the viewer the opportunity to experience the vast geographic, temporal and formal landscapes of the featured performers.

A special component of the ten-year series, ON VIEW: ICONS now reveals six Australian dance luminaries. These artists are the pioneers, the leaders, the thinkers, who have lived their lives completely through dance and inspired countless generations of dancers. Their bodies are precious archives, vessels of the liminal and the ephemeral. The project blurs distinctions between art, documentary, biography and performance to reach for that elusive essential essence of each artist. It has been an honour and deep privilege to have collaborated closely with these remarkable women. Eileen, Lucette and Shirley have recently left us, but through these portraits, I aim to capture not only the physical presence and profound practices of all six dancers, but also their enduring legacies.

LUCETTE ALDOUS AC, ELIZABETH
CAMERON DALMAN OAM, NANETTE
HASSALL AM, EILEEN KRAMER, ELMA
KRIS, SHIRLEY McKECHNIE AO



SUE HEALEY is a choreographer, film-maker and installation artist, based on Gadigal land/Sydney, critically acclaimed for her work in dance and the moving image. Experimenting with form and perception, Healey creates performance and film for diverse spaces and contexts: galleries, theatres and screens. Her dance works and films have won national and international awards including 6 Australian Dance Awards and 2 Hong Kong Dance Awards (2017, 2021) and an Opus Klassik Award Germany's foremost classical music prize for Best Music Video 2023.

In 2021 Healey was the recipient of the Australia Council Award for Dance.

Sue Healey spent several decades as a performer and choreographer in Narrm/ Melbourne, as a graduate and lecturer at the VCA, a founding member of Danceworks in the 1980s and an independent artist in the 1990s.

Her new major work AFTERWORLD is currently in development with percussionist Laurence Pike and 5 dancers. It will be presented in Sydney Festival January 2025. The 3 channel installation ON VIEW: ICONS was presented in Sydney Festival 2024 and is touring Australia 2024/25. Her work is shown in many galleries around Australia and Asia.

Her ON VIEW series, cine-portraits of dance artists from Asia and Australia, culminated in the large-scale performance installation 'Panorama' in Japan 2020 and 'Panoramic Suite' in Sydney and Hong Kong in 2021. Various digital and live iterations from this work have toured to Japan, Hong Kong and around Australia.



This project has been assisted by the Australian Government through Creative Australia, the NSW Government through Create NSW, and Tobi Wilkinson and Rob Keldoulis

Essays

[Icons: seeing and being seen by Jill Brown](#) — A new essay for the Melbourne screening

[Meditations on Presence by Dr. Nalina Wait](#)



Dancehouse is on Wurundjeri Country.
We offer our respects to the Wurundjeri woi-wurrung people — and to all
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island people — who continue to dance on
Country, and have done, for thousands of generations.

Always was and always will be Aboriginal land.

Stills from ON VIEW: ICONS by Sue Healey. In order: Eileen Kramer, Elizabeth Cameron Dalman OAM, Elma
Kris, and Eileen Kramer



Dancehouse is assisted by the Australian Government through Creative Australia, its principal arts investment
and advisory body, by the Victorian Government through Creative Victoria, and by Yarra City Council.

