

# “Rolling Hills of White Flat”

*The reality and fantasy of life on the land*



## A Solo Touring Exhibition

By

### Artist Cindy Wider

Bush fires. Sweltering heat.  
Suffocating dirt and dust.  
Backbreaking, manual labour.  
Livestock and farmland.

In an atmosphere where these aspects of life are commonplace, one would expect to see rugged cowboys and farmhands battling nature’s elements in order to complete their work; however, feminine, graceful, stylish ladies rarely emerge as images typically associated with these coarse environments. Cindy Wider, in her collection of works titled “Rolling Hills of White Flat,” examines the lives of farmers’ wives in her continual journey to formulate the complex definition of what it means to be a woman.

Acting as her muse, Wider’s eldest sister Wendy, a wife and mother living and working on a cereal and sheep farm in rural South Australia, provides the inspiration for this compilation of art. “I wanted to celebrate her life and bring recognition to her and farmer’s wives in general,” Wider explains of the origins of this latest body of work.

Seeking to inject high levels of authenticity into each piece, Wider left life of a cosmopolitan artist to live with her sister and family on that farm. She wanted to learn, first hand, how her sister managed to overcome the struggles of living and working in such a harsh and traditionally masculine atmosphere while still maintaining a strong sense of femininity and personal identity. What she discovered is how her sister masterfully merges great faith in God with a healthy dose of fantasy to create joy and personal satisfaction in her life. Through wildly bold and vividly coloured contemporary paintings that are often tempered with an injection of black and white, Wider explores her sister’s mingling of fantasy and diversion with the sometimes difficult realities of her everyday life on the farm.

In paintings like “Who’s Minding the Nest” and “Tonight I Am a Jungle Princess,” Wider creates a fanciful and whimsical world using the real life stuff of the farm. She takes something as ordinary as a husband and wife sneaking a romantic dance and affords the audience a peek as the couple creates a temporary escape to an exotic land. Also, through the medium of realistic portraits etched in graphite or charcoal, the artist reminds viewers that life on the farm can be trying but simultaneously rewarding and rich.

“Rolling Hills of White Flat” is an exploration of the multiplicity of a woman’s role in her family and the larger community, and this collection is Cindy Wider’s reaffirmation of the bond she shares with her sister and her continuous journey to reconcile the varied definitions of woman.

Cindy Wider excels in the literary arts as well as the visual arts, she has published the soft cover book *Paint in Your Pyjamas - Every Woman’s Guide to Finding Your Life Purpose through Art*, and *The Complete Draw and Paint in Your Pyjamas Certificate Course*, a series of thirty-six e-books. This art course has recently become accredited in Canada and America through the Canadian based website [Drawspace.com](http://Drawspace.com).

Image no:1



King Of The Land  
Graphite Pencil and Charcoal on Arches paper  
67 x 50 cm  
(with silver ornate frame and double matt 98 x 80cm)

**SOLD**

Gazing out over the rolling hills of White Flat, this man takes a quiet moment to enjoy his land. This is the land that has provided for him and his family for many years. He ponders his future here for his family and generations to come. There are many difficult decisions he has to make on a daily basis which enable him to achieve success on the land. He has fought fires, survived droughts and floods, worked through all kinds of personal, emotional and economical problems that are all a part of this difficult yet richly rewarding lifestyle. He truly is a King of the Land.

Image no: 2



Portrait of A Voluntary Hero  
Charcoal and White Conte on Grey Mi-Teintes Tex card  
70 x 47cm  
(wide black frame, fine silver strip and black matt with  
silver bevelled edge total size; 91 x 68 cm)

**Donated through charity fundraiser**

Tired, hungry and dirty with soot still covering his face and the strong odour of smoke in his clothes this young man returns home after fighting a ravaging wild fire. Volunteer fire fighters are amazing people.

Image no: 3



Calm, serene and free. The wind gently blows in her face as this woman takes a moment to reflect on how fortunate she is to live a life on the land. Her nurturing spirit reaches out to the animals on the farm who are also considered important members of her family.

Queen Of The Family  
Graphite pencil on Arches paper  
Image size 20 x 21 cm  
**SOLD**

Image no: 4



As the moon gently rises into the night sky, an eerie stillness fills the crisp air as the agapanthus sit quietly, tall and bold they are relishing the refreshing change in temperature after another long hot day in the sun.

Quiet Still Moments  
Acrylic on Canvas  
74 x 60cm  
**SOLD**

Image no: 5



A woman and Her Cuppa  
Acrylic on Canvas  
100 x 100cm

**NFS** Finalist in the Wayne Kratzmann  
Flying Arts Queensland Regional Art Awards 2011

Taking the time out to have a quiet cuppa break on her own, gives a woman the chance to be still, recharge and self-nurture.

In many farming homes, the men are always given their cuppa on time, to keep their spirits up and to refresh them ready for the rest of the morning. A woman and her cuppa is the heart of the nurturing aspect of farming life.

Image no: 6



Women and A Piano  
Acrylic on Canvas  
100 x 75cm

AUD\$1,100 – Kermuller Collection

The piano provides valuable opportunities for women of the land to bond with one another, united by the sounds of music. Some women play the piano, some don't. Some sing, some don't. There would be an element of tension as each woman works out her place within the musical relationship.

Imagine the challenges these three women face; a lifetime together on the land, all with their own ideals, hopes, dreams and expectations. The Piano affords them a moment to be together in a way that no other experience can.

Image no: 7



In this fictitious situation, a woman dances in the arms of her handsome prince. They sneak a dance in the kitchen which becomes a jungle where the woman imagines she is a jungle princess. Through fantasy and inner strength she has been able to maintain her feminine identity in a predominantly masculine world living a lifestyle on the land.

Tonight I am A Jungle Princess  
Acrylic on Linen  
102 x 76cm  
**NFS**

Image no: 8



There are challenges that face young newly-weds as they seek to find themselves at the same time as accept responsibility, learn to compromise and discover how to meet the needs of one another.

With loving family support and a warm home, they have every chance of building a good future with one another, so long as they both remember that home is their haven; it's where their heart should always belong.

House, Home and Haven-for the newly  
weds  
Acrylic on Linen  
102 x 76cm  
100 x 75cm  
AUD\$1,300 – Kermuller Collection

Image no: 9



Red Roses For Me  
Acrylic on Canvas  
50 x 50cm  
**SOLD**

Red Roses are a strong symbol of romantic love. A woman picks this red rose from her garden and gently slips it into a delicate vase on her window sill. As she gazes out across the fields the sun begins to set and the gentle aroma of sweet perfume from the rose catches her breath.

In an instant she is reminded of how wonderful it is to love and be loved in return. Red roses conjure fantasy and romance which gives her the passion and motivation to continue nurturing the family home.

Image no: 10



The Holiday Room  
Acrylic on Canvas  
60 x 74cm  
AUD\$675

Holidays are very important for romantic love relationships. The time away gives us a chance to escape the duties and responsibilities of our usual lifestyles and fulfil our fantasies of what romance really is.

The Holiday Room is experienced in this woman's very own bathroom on a regular basis. Newly decorated with shining blue tiles and a glistening spa bath big enough for two large adults. She slips into the large spa bath ready for a luxurious night of pampering. The candles are lit and beautiful perfume scents fill the air as they begin to melt the wax. Suddenly she remembers her secretly hidden box of chocolates as she steps back out of the frothing spa bath for a moment. She rummages around to find the sweet morsels, popping one into her mouth as she sucks the soft centre of a luxurious chocolates; a little gift she bought for herself in town on shopping day. Her partner might join her soon...or is it a night on her own tonight? Anything can happen in the private escape of the holiday room.

Image no: 11



Who's Minding The Nest?  
Acrylic on Canvas  
50 x 50cm  
**SOLD**

As the moon rises high into the cool night air, the female hen and male rooster are on the hunt to find their missing eggs. They step with trepidation into the human's kitchen and aha! They discover their eggs. The eggs are spotted in the kitchen ready for human consumption, much to the shock of the hen and the horror of the male. As they see their babies have been kidnapped, the question arises; who's minding the nest?

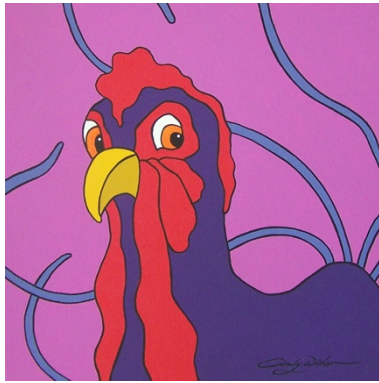
This image is a metaphor for the responsibilities that many women have for taking care of the children, the kitchen and nurturing the family home. This is a huge responsibility and because the male is often so busy on the land the female can often be left to take care of the majority of nurturing the home.

Image no: 12



Stiff White Peaks  
Acrylic on Canvas  
50 x 50cm  
**SOLD**

The art of creating the perfect Pavlova is indeed a prized skill to possess. The careful separation of the yolk from the egg-white is a delicate operation and a vital step in the process of creating this precious Australian desert. Beating the eggs with some sugar until the perfect 'white peaks' form is also an important stage among other things. Finally, just the right temperature in the oven helps to form the hard crust and soft delicate marshmallow inside of this scrumptious sweet desert.



One Chook



Two Chook



Red Chook



Blue Chook



No Chook

One Chook, Two Chook, Red Chook, Blue Chook, No Chook

Acrylic on Canvas

30 x 30cm

**SOLD**

Inspired by the humour of Dr Seuss, these chooks (nickname for chickens) take on human-like characteristics as they depict many emotions we experience. Chickens are intelligent and loyal to the one who feeds them and often they have been known to become excited by the sight of their nurturer. They even follow their owner around just like a pet dog! What beautiful wonderful animals chooks are. What fun to have them in our lives. They make a house feel like a home, and they provide eggs for our survival!

Image no: 14



Harvest – On The Home Run  
Acrylic on Linen  
102 x 76cm  
AUD\$1,100 – Kermuller Collection

As the sun begins to set into a gorgeous pink-sky summer evening, the giant Combine Harvester clammers over the hill to make its way back to the machine shed for another year. It has done its job, the crop is off and there is a beautiful feeling of peace and relief in the air.

Imagine the power of these incredible and awesome machines, how technology has improved over the years. The farmer sits in air-conditioned comfort and the task is much quicker. This successful farmer is wise to invest in such equipment; to make life just a bit easier for himself and his sons to manage the land better.

Image no: 15



White Collar Farmer  
Acrylic on Canvas  
100 x 75cm  
**NFS**

There are gorgeous patterns left in the land as rows upon rows of stubble are left behind after the crop has been removed. This image is inspired by the stubble and the idea that the farmer has more work to do even after the crop comes off.

It's amazing how the farmer also has to be a savvy businessman as well as working hard physically on the land. From the dust dirt and grime of the physical labour he switches roles to negotiate the best deal for his crop along with assistance of his business advisors.

The creation of the crop, the entire process of farming the land is not complete until the farmer becomes a white collar worker to make sure he is justly paid for his years work.

Then the whole process begins all over again.



A Chestnut



A Palomino



A White Mare



An Older Bay



The Black Stallion

A Tribe of Horses  
Acrylic on Canvas  
30 x 30cm

**SOLD**

Horses are beautiful, amazing animals. Here they take on human-like characteristics as they gossip and chatter, laugh and just generally behave like members in a tribe. Here the strong black stallion is the leader and he holds power and authority. There is a gentle but assertive white mare, A cheeky out there chestnut, a sulky sultry palomino; a bit of a princess she always gets her own way or else. Then there is the wiser old bay who is always around to offer advice, whether its welcomed or not! That's what makes up this tribe of horses.

Image no: 17



There is something very beautiful, clam and powerful about a long hot summer day. A quiet spirit-filled energy exists in the great Australian bush where tall grasses grow wild and free amongst the gum trees. Little insects of all sorts go about their busy activities and you can hear the magpies calling out across the hills and valleys.

Hot Summer Days  
Acrylic on Canvas  
74 x 60cm  
**SOLD**

Image no: 18



At the edge of the open ocean sits a beautiful little beach house. Tall gum trees in the landscape become blurred in the mist of the open ocean. Any thoughts of reality become a distant memory as the ocean crashes against the rocks, the salty sea air fills our lungs and peace washes through our soul. What a great holiday; an ocean escape.

Ocean Escape  
Acrylic on Canvas  
90 x 70cm  
**SOLD**

Image no: 19



Eruption  
Acrylic on Canvas  
100 x 100cm  
**SOLD**

Just like a moment in the heat of passion, a burst of flame ignites after a wildfire has passed over the land. There is beauty in fire, as much as it can take away, it can also give back life to the land, making it once again fertile and able to continue the cycle of life.

Image no: 20



Embers  
Acrylic on Canvas  
50 x 50cm  
**SOLD**

Embers sizzle and warm the cool night air, there is an eerie silence. A calm, peaceful stillness.

Image no: 21



There will always be yesterday, today, and tomorrow; life goes on. Human beings have the incredible capacity to recover from what happened yesterday, the inner strength to deal with whatever is happening today, and courage to face what might happen tomorrow.

Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow  
Acrylic on Canvas  
100 x 75cm  
**SOLD**

Image no: 22



A wildfire burns out of control way off in the distance, will this part of the landscape be saved tonight?

Anticipation  
Acrylic on Canvas  
100 x 75cm  
**SOLD**

Image no: 23



Reignition  
Acrylic on Canvas  
70 x 90cm  
**SOLD**

An unexpected circumstance arises; the fire ignites again in the quiet of the still night.

### **Artworks created after Rolling Hills of White Flat**



Ignition  
Acrylic on Canvas  
70 x 90cm  
**SOLD**



Activation  
Acrylic on Canvas  
100 x 100cm

**SOLD**

Wonderful new beginnings are brought about as a result of unexpected circumstances beyond our control.



Carousel  
Acrylic on Canvas  
119 x 89cm  
100 x 75cm

AUD\$1,200 – Kermuller Collection

**SOLD**

At what point in our lives do we allow our fantasies and child-like wonder with all it's innocence to slip away from us?