

# Companions|2023

**Companions | 2023** showcases the creative works of **Ruby SMEDLEY**

This series of figurative oil paintings explores the body as a communication tool, impacting how we want to be and are perceived. A physical connector to our inner intangible selves, that changes as our identities grow and evolve.

Officially opened by Associate Professor **Lyndall ADAMS**

**Spectrum Project Space**

Opening: Wednesday 11 October 2023 5pm–7pm  
Exhibition dates: 12 October to 9 November  
Floor talk: Wednesday 25 October 12:30pm–1:30pm  
Gallery opening hours: Tuesday to Friday 10am–4pm  
Building 3, 2 Bradford St, Mount Lawley

*ECU Galleries acknowledges the traditional custodians, the Whadjuk Noongar people, and elders past and present. We pay our respects for the great privilege of living, making and researching on these unceded lands.*

**ECU Galleries**



# Artist's Statement

*Companion - to share the experience of another, to accompany*

*Companions* is a solo exhibition by artist Ruby Smedley. This series of figurative oil paintings explores the body as a communication tool impacting how we want to be and are perceived.

These paintings render the body as a physical connector to our inner intangible selves. Through experiences such as transition, pregnancy, parenting and chronic illness, the body changes as our identities grow and evolve. These works examine this intersection between obvious physical changes, such as pregnancy, and the quieter, subtle alterations that appear. Evident in how we think, feel, move, make gestures and engage our bodies with the surrounding environment.

The dramatic arrangements are based on sculptures from antiquity, drawing on the myths they depict and presenting them with a different view. People often left out of these well-known stories of human nature or only given space within a stereotype, are placed into these compositions. Consequently, we find and recoup alternative ways of experiencing, looking and thinking about virtues of strength, vulnerability, humility, pride and desire.

## Biography

Ruby Smedley is a Borloo-based artist, that graduated from the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts in 2013. In 2019 she graduated with a Bachelor of Contemporary Art between Edith Cowan University and Taipei National Arts University, as a recipient of the New Colombo Plan Scholarship.

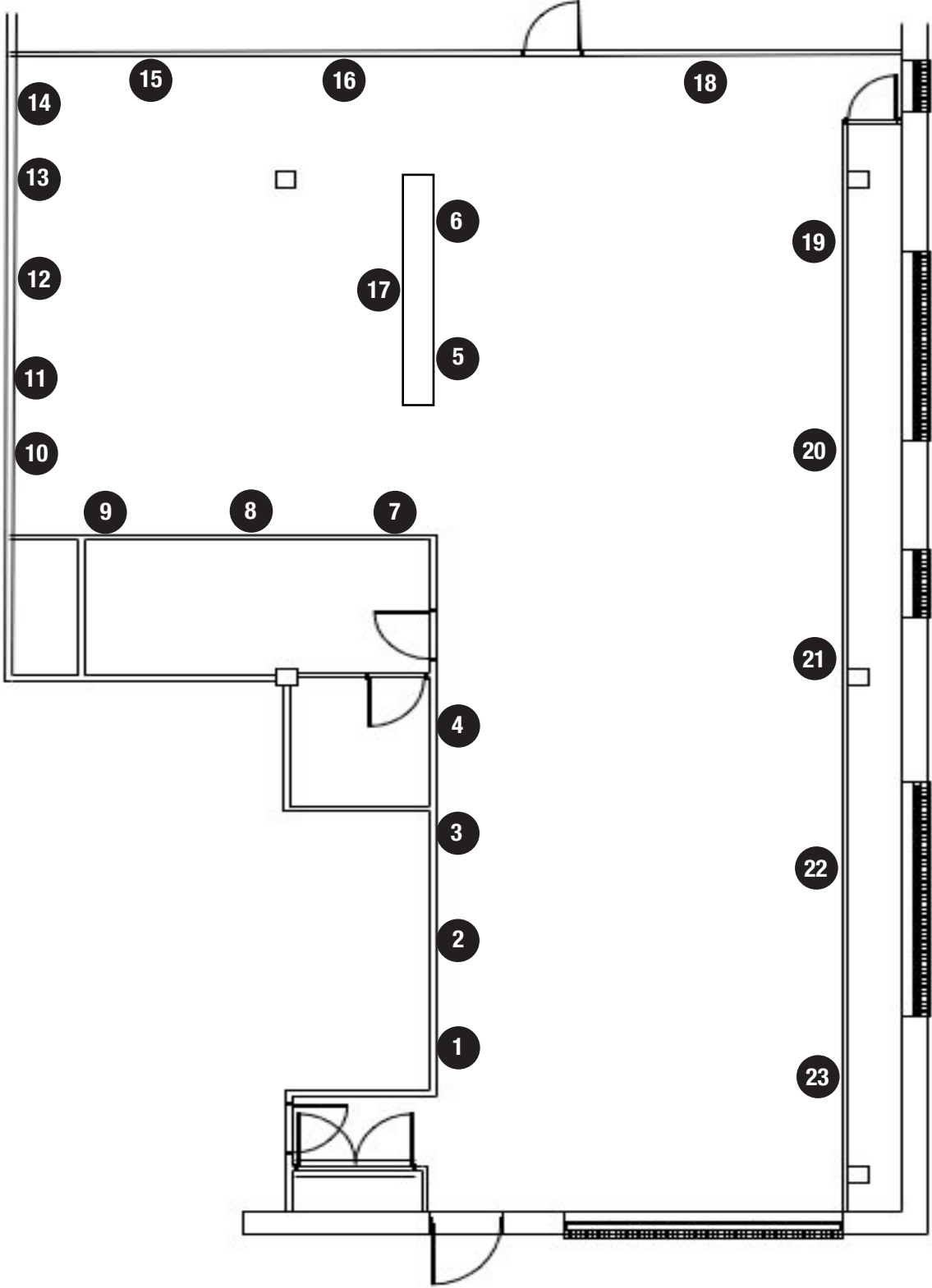
With a diverse creative background that incorporates theatre, film, sculpture, painting and drawing; Ruby's practice often results in multi-disciplinary artworks that focus on the interactive, performative and kinetic. Basing projects within a foundation of how we perceive, interact and live with others, bringing our inner world — of emotions, thought processes and morals into the outer, where they collide with natural and social environments. Ruby's latest works have centred around how these ideas are impacted by chronic illness, coming about from a recent diagnosis of endometriosis.

### Contact Information

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Instagram: [@ruby.smedley](https://www.instagram.com/ruby.smedley)

Spectrum Project Space floor plan



## List of Works

- 1 **Helping Hand**, 2023, Oil on Canvas, 20 x 25cm, \$300
- 2 **Tylie & Rei**, 2023, Oil on Canvas, 20 x 25cm, \$300
- 3 **Tylie (as David)**, 2023, Oil on Canvas, 52 x 20cm, \$500
- 4 **Lucky Me**, 2023, Oil on Canvas, 18 x 23cm, \$250
- 5 **Outstretched**, 2023, Oil on Board, 61 x 122cm, \$550
- 6 **Bond**, 2023, Oil on Board, 25 x 20cm, \$280
- 7 **Getting Comfortable**, 2022, Oil on Canvas, 91 x 76cm, \$800
- 8 **Study**, 2022, Oil on Canvas, 20 x 15cm. \$250
- 9 **Ava**, 2023, Oil on Canvas, 18 x 23cm, \$250
- 10 **Pillow 1**, 2022, Oil on Cotton, 12 x 9cm, \$150
- 11 **Pillow 2**, 2022, Oil on Cotton, 12 x 9cm, \$150
- 12 **Mercy**, 2022, Oil on Canvas, 96 x 71cm, \$900

- 13 **Pillow 3**, 2022, Oil on Cotton, 12 x 9cm, \$150
- 14 **Pillow 4**, 2022, Oil on Cotton, 12 x 9cm, \$150
- 15 **Bracing**, 2023, Oil on Canvas, 76 x 61cm, \$750
- 16 **Acceptance**, 2023, Oil on Canvas, 30 x 30cm, \$350
- 17 **Limbo**, 2023, Oil on Canvas, 60 x 150cm, \$800
- 18 **Siren**, 2022, Oil on Canvas, 122 x 91cm, \$2,200
- 19 **Mother**, 2022, Oil on Canvas, 152 x 91cm, \$2,400
- 20 **Passing Through**, 2023, Oil on Linen, 76 x 61cm, \$1,000
- 21 **First**, 2023, Oil on Board, 63 x 50cm, \$900
- 22 **Three Winsalls**, 2023, Oil on Board, 118 x 84.5cm, \$2,200
- 23 **New**, 2023, Oil on Canvas, 61 x 122cm, \$2,000

**Contact Information for Sales**

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