Self Portrait as Shared Dream plays on the Cruthers Collection of Women’s Art’s strong thematic focus on self-portraiture.

The exhibition presents a collection of works in which, rather than expressing the individuality or presenting a realistic likeness of the subject, figures are anonymous, collective constructions forged from common histories, pop culture references or institutional memories. When these shared experiences are then combined with dream states, visions and imaginings, representations of identity and the self become fluid and complex assemblages.

A mural by local artist Anna Dunnill will connect paintings, prints, and drawings by revered Australian artists including Joy Hester, Vivienne Binns and Susan Norrie. Dunnill’s practice combines drawing, sculpture and creative writing, seeking an embodied, universal language that works where rational certainty fails. Linked by her dreamy, abstract mark-making, individual works become part of a greater whole.

As our attempts to define and represent our individual selves reach fever-pitch online, Self Portrait as Shared Dream speculates instead on the nature of empathy and collectivity, blurring the boundaries between internal and external worlds.

CONTACT
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