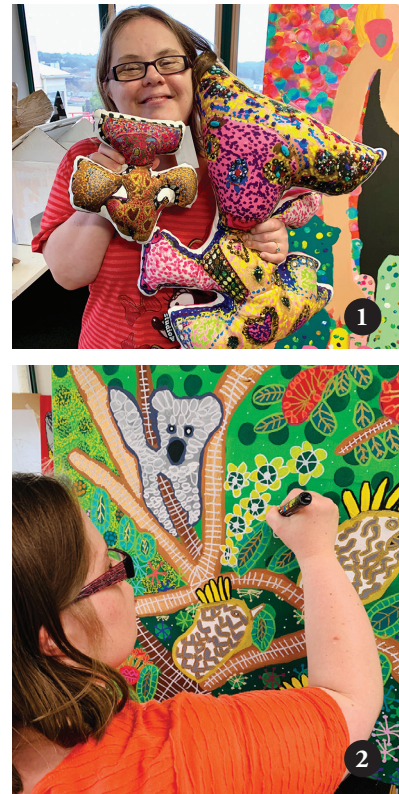




Emily Crockford with her hoarding design, Opera House at Night, commissioned by the City of Sydney. Image: Katherine Griffiths.

# The colour queen



1. Emily Crockford in the studio with her Punk Princess soft sculptures. 2. In the studio painting 'Bird Bop Garden Pop' commissioned by Lendlease. 3. Emily's 2020 Archibald shortlisted work 'Self Portrait with Daddy in the Daisies watching the field of Planes', 2020, acrylic on canvas, 80.3 x 2000cm

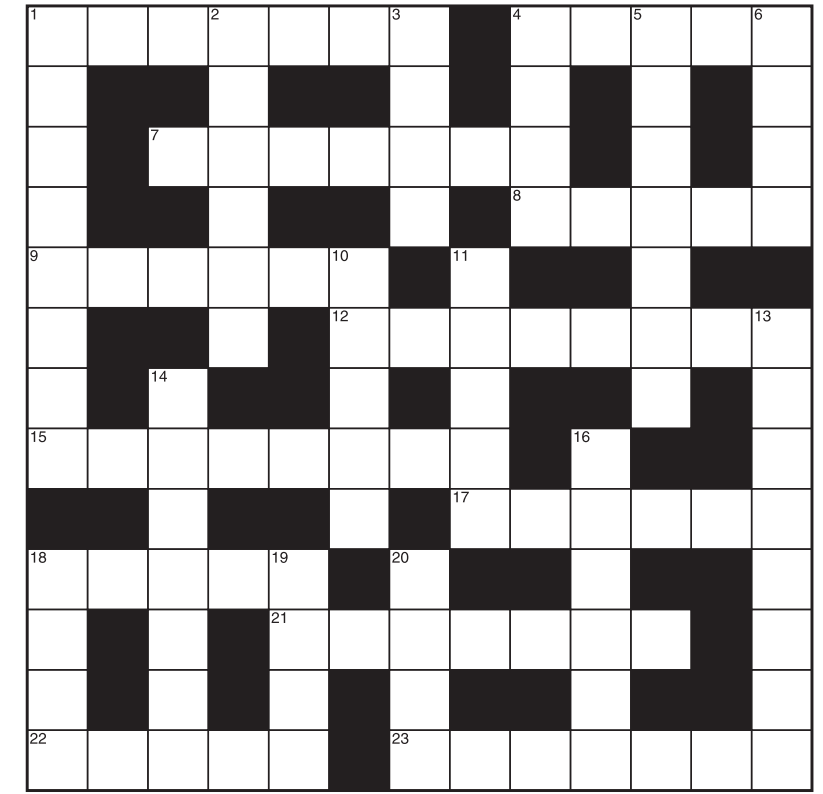
## North Shore Living's Stephanie Aikins speaks with renowned local artist Emily Crockford about her celebrated career and what's next on her horizon.

Her large, vivid murals have boldly transformed public spaces, from Barangaroo to the Westconnex M5 Motorway and Westpac's Concord Service Centre. Meanwhile, her striking and intricate portrait work has seen her named a finalist in one of the nation's most prestigious art prizes, the Archibald. It is clear upon meeting local artist and self-proclaimed 'colour queen', Emily Crockford, that her passion for her work knows no bounds. "I just love art and painting. It inspires me and it makes me feel happy," she beams. Emily is one of several artists who work with Studio A in Crows Nest, a studio that supports professional artists living with intellectual disability to produce work and be exhibited publicly and in major cultural institutions. "These are professionals," explains studio artistic director Gabrielle Mordy. "They don't have a disability in making art. The work is of exceptional quality. Where they have obstacles is in

accessing the contemporary art world." As such, Studio A supports its neurodiverse artists to connect with galleries, exhibition spaces and professional opportunities while ensuring they are remunerated fairly for their work. "People with a disability have a long history of exploitation," Ms Mordy says. "This is a form of employment, so we make sure we have the right kind of legal contracts with clients and that the artists are paid appropriately for their work so that they can earn an income through their practice. "The art world is tough for any artist, let alone an artist with a disability who may have difficulty doing an exhibition application or grant application." Ms Mordy, an artist herself, was inspired to establish the studio after working with Studio ARTES in Hornsby, an organisation providing creative programs to people with disabilities. "The quality of work being produced by many of the artists was so engaging, but I realised the lack of opportunity for

them," she recalls. "I also thought the contemporary art world was missing out on this work. So, it was partly a challenge and partly me thinking, 'This needs to be done'." One of the first artists to join the studio was Emily, whose career continues to progress from strength to strength. Along with her 2020 Archibald shortlisted *Self Portrait with Daddy in the Daisies*, *Watching the Field of Planes*, she has previously appeared in the renowned Salon De Refuses exhibition for her portrait of fellow artist Rosie Deacon. She has collaborated on a large-scale mural for the University of Technology, Sydney, and her work *Sydney Opera House at Night*, and group piece *Midnight Zoo*, have been splashed across prominent hoardings surrounding construction sites around Sydney City. This impressive portfolio also saw Emily named Emerging Artist at last year's Australian Council National Arts and Disability Awards.

Ever on the move, her next projects include a joint exhibition with Ms Deacon of 65 soft sculptures inspired by the ocean, and a commission to prepare an artwork alongside two other artists to be plastered across walls at Hornsby Hospital. While she admits 'there's so much on', Emily says she adores 'smashing out' her pop-pattern masterpieces and is proud of her plethora of successes. One day, she hopes to create a YouTube channel to educate children on how to experiment with colour as she does. "I want to inspire children because my nephew does such beautiful artworks," she adds. **N**



### ACROSS

1. Six-sided figure
4. Huge
7. Sheep barber
8. Hang in folds
9. Actress, Joanna ...
12. Off guard
15. Deceived (lover) (3-5)
17. Baghdad citizens
18. Perceived sound
21. Driver's chart (4,3)
22. Preliminary version
23. Forwards

### DOWN

1. Meekest
2. For some time
3. Legendary 'fiddling' emperor
4. Earl
5. Mends
6. One of the Great Lakes
10. Delicious
11. Fete, ... Gras
13. Wurst & salami
14. East African country
16. Curved fruit
18. From ... to toe
19. Blast!
20. Mexican food shell

See the answers in next month's issue!

Solution to February crossword

C	H	O	R	U	S	E	D		I	O	T	A
H		E		O		A		N				R
I	S	L	E		R	E	M	O	T	E	S	T
L		K		E		A		E				I
L	E	N	S	E	S		G		N			S
S		U		L		V	E	R	D	I	C	T
		L		S		E		A				D
H	O	L	I	E	S	T		V		E		T
E			N		A		N	E	G	A	T	E
R			N		U		O		U			N
B	A	L	A	N	C	E	D		I	C	E	S
A		T		E		E		S				E
L	O	D	E		R	E	S	P	E	C	T	S

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