

## Big Al

(Alice Ford)

**Born** in Boorloo, Western Australia.

**Lives and works** in Wooditjup, on Wadandi Country, and Walyalup, Whadjuk Country,

South West Australia.

- **2025 (ongoing)** — Doctor of Philosophy (PhD), University of Western Australia
- **2021** — Master of Architecture with Distinction, University of Notre Dame, Fremantle
- **2019** — New Colombo Plan Scholarship, Curtin University in Delhi, India
- **2018** — Bachelor of Architectural Science, Curtin University, Australia

### Bio

Big Al (b. 1997) is an Australian interdisciplinary artist and architectural graduate who works from a small cabin on Wadandi Country, Western Australia.

Her work uses digital and analog techniques such as painting, drawing, and collage to blur the boundaries between seen and unseen relationships in events, people, and the cosmos—aiming to recalibrate human beings' connections to landscapes, forgotten rituals, and objects. Through strange-making, comedic absurdity, and an invitation to reconnect through curiosity, Al explores how we might re-entangle with the ecological world amidst the daunting presence of the Chthulucene in an age of mass extinction.

Since graduating from architecture school in 2021, she has pursued this creative practice while meeting and collaborating with artists across Australia, Japan, South Korea, and Italy.

In addition to artmaking, installation, and architectural work, her practice has recently expanded into the production of films, books, and freely accessible publications to explore her views on creative processes and possible hybrid, biodiverse ecologies.

Al's work as an architectural graduate was recognised with the Cohen Medal for the University of Notre Dame by the Australian Institute of Architects in 2022. *The Forests Atlas*, a book of her paintings edited by Daniel Jan Martin in collaboration with several other West Australian artists, was published in May 2023. In 2024, she worked as part of the landscape design team *Super Natural* with LM2A architects for their submission *Scales of Care* to the Australian Government's Reimagining Where We Live competition, which was awarded first place.

In 2025, Al began her PhD at the School of Design, University of Western Australia. The working title of her doctoral project is *Drawers Are Worldmakers*. With immense gratitude, this research is supported by an *Australian Government Research Training Program (RTP)* scholarship.

Al's first book, *The Pigment Pictures*, is set to be published in 2025.

Arts Management from Ashlyn Koh, Sadcowgirl Tours (Western Australia).

## **Lectures and Tutorials**

2024 *Vastness Studio* University of Notre Dame, Architecture, Fremantle, Western Australia

2024 *Nanjing Summer Garden Studio* University of Western Australia, Architecture, Perth, Western Australia

2023 *The Legacy of APACE* University of Western Australia, Landscape Architecture, Perth, Western Australia

2022 *The Unthing Machine* Zokeii University Guest Lecturer, Fine Arts, Tokyo, Japan

2022 *Guest Critic* University of Notre Dame University, Architecture, Fremantle, Western Australia

## **Exhibitions**

2023 *Forests Atlas Launch* Moores Building, Fremantle, Australia

2022 *Yoke Group Exhibition* Arts Itoya, Takeo, Japan

2022 *Unthings* Solo Exhibition, Studio Kura, Itoshima, Japan

2022 *Taking Shape* Group Exhibition Early Work Gallery, Fremantle, Australia

2020 *Place Creatures* Solo Exhibition Third Wheel, Fremantle, Australia (+ residency)

2020 *Eastern States Fire Relief* The Little Wing Corner Gallery Group Exhibition, Subiaco, Australia

2019 *Cabinet of Curiosities* Solo Exhibition Working Studio, Fremantle, Australia

2019 *Monday Milk* Solo Exhibition The Bird, Northbridge, Australia (+ residency)

2019 *OCA Group Art Exhibition*, Peppermint Grove, Australia

2019 *Stable Hands* Group Exhibition, Fremantle, Australia

2019 *Huzzard Studio* Group Exhibition, Perth City, Australia

2018 *OCA Group Art Exhibition*, Peppermint Grove, Australia

2018 *Best Wishes* Group Exhibition, Fremantle, Australia

2018 *Paper Mountain* Gallery Group Exhibition, Northbridge, Australia

## **Publications, Artist Talks and Awards**

2025 Catalogue Essay Author, *Bedforms*, Solo Exhibition by Shupiwe Chongwe at PSAS Gallery, Walyalup

2024 Reimagining Where We Live, First Place, Super Natural with LM2A Architects, Australian Government

2023 Forests Atlas, edited by Daniel Jan Martin, Contributing Artist

2022 Fine Arts Students Lecture Tokyo Zokei University, Tokyo Prefecture

2022 EG Cohen Medal Award for Notre Dame University, Australian Institute of Architects

2022 Landscape Australia, *Matters in Time* August Issue, Article Author

2022 Collaboration with Daniel Jan Martin, PhD University of Western Australia

2021 Armstrong Flooring Award for Ethics and Professionalism, Notre Dame University, Western Australia

2021 Illustrations for Jessica Kohlbusch, PhD University of Western Australia

2020 Living Edge Community Prize, Notre Dame University, Western Australia

2020 Kidgoose Zine Publication, Group Artist Feature

2019 Fremantle Young Citizen of the Year Award for Contribution to Art

2019 FRE-OH! Newspaper Article, Contribution to Art in Fremantle

2019 GOSHI YOUTH Young Mural Artist of the Year Award

2019 The Fresh Creatives Project, Artist Interview

2019 POST Newspaper, For OCA Exhibition and Artist Interview

2015 Shaun Tan Third Young Artist Award

### **Artist Residencies**

2022 Arts Itoya, Takeo, Japan

2022 Studio Kura, Itoshima, Japan

2022 Early Work Gallery, Donnelly River, Australia

### **Collaborations with Teams**

2024 Super Natural Studio

2023 DSLD Design and Management

2023 Shore Coastal

2023 Navdanya International

2022 WA Forest Alliance

2021 APACE Native Plant Nursery

2019 Sheila Art Foundation Australia

2019 DSLD Design and Management

2018 Plastic Free July

2017 LOVE Foundation Australia

### **Album Covers**

2021 South Ceiling, *Where Do We Go*

2020 Oceanique, *Drift*

2019 Spacey Jane, *Good Grief*

2018 Spacey Jane, *In the Slight*

2018 Spacey Jane, *Keep a Clean Nose*

2018 Spacey Jane, *In the Meantime,*

2018 Spacey Jane, *Cold Feet*

2019 Fraeya, *Housewarming*

2019 No Nomad, *Kayak*

2018 Noah Dillon, *The Man I'm Not*

2018 These Winter Nights, *Who Was I*

2017 Spacey Jane, *No Way to Treat an Animal*

2017 Spacey Jane, *Still Running*

2017 Spacey Jane, *Feeding the Family*