



Tim Sharp

1988 –
Lives QLD

Laser Beak Man – home among the gum trees 2009

Crayon and pen on cartridge paper

Redland Art Gallery Collection.

Acquired in 2009 with Redland Art Gallery Acquisition Funds.

Tim Sharp is a Brisbane artist most famously known for his creation of a cheeky, heroic and inspirational superhero called *Laser Beak Man*. Sharp suffers from Autism, a communicative disorder that, among other things, affects his ability to use receptive and expressive language. It also severely impairs his ability to form relationships but his art is helping him to reach out to people and form connections that were not previously available to him.

When words fail him, Sharp is able to use art to express his views and feelings, and create his own special language allowing the audience a glimpse into his life and a view of the world through different eyes.

His latest *Laser Beak Man* works are increasingly becoming tinged with the emotions of solitude and isolation, eloquently representing the entrapment of the mind by Autism. As an 'outsider' artist practising within a populist tradition, through *Laser Beak Man*, Sharp has been able to cut through mainstream culture and redefine the perception of disability by challenging the boundaries of capability.

In June 2004 Sharp was the only Australian selected by a jury in the young adult drawing category for the VSA (Very Special Arts) Festival in Washington DC. Founded 30 years ago by Ambassador Jean Kennedy Smith, sister of President John F. Kennedy, VSA is the largest art festival in the world for people with disabilities. A finalist for the Young Australian of the Year, Sharp has also received many awards and extensive Australian and international media coverage.

The greatest gift of Sharp's art is his ability to make people smile, the appropriate title for his 2009 exhibition at Redland Art Gallery.



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