

News Release  
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## **Naked Portrait Project Coming to Melbourne's Gertrude Street**

Artist Behind Project Inundated with Calls from Curious Candidates

(Melbourne, September 9, 2022) - One of the world's most famous streets is hosting a naked portrait project that's catching attention even before getting underway. Melbourne artist [Jacqui Stockdale](#) is setting up shop for the project titled, 'Nudes of Chong.' Stockdale will paint over two weeks, from September 12 - 24, to produce 30 oil paintings inside Melbourne's Rose Chong Costumier on [Gertrude Street](#).

The 30 models will be painted one by one, fully nude, while hidden from the public's view. Onlookers will only see Stockdale's version on canvas as she paints in the front window of Rose Chong. The models were easy to come by, in fact, Stockdale says there was so much interest from people wanting to participate that she now has a wait list of hopefuls standing by in case someone drops out.

The models range in age and gender, from lawyers to teachers, students, to burlesque dancers. One woman who wrote Stockdale asking to model, stated she's been "working on saying yes to things more" and felt it would be the ultimate confidence boost.

"Some people just want to support me as a friend, others are fans of my work or like the idea of being involved in something different and challenging. I think this project is serious and fun, edgy and mysterious. After two years of constant lockdowns in Melbourne due to the pandemic, I think that people are ready to come together and do something special and meaningful."

This project follows a recent set of memorial portraits Stockdale created while her family was going through a time of grieving.

"I made small oil portraits of all the visitors who came to say goodbye to my stepfather in the final weeks of his life. The experience made me realise how painting can bring people together in times when we feel upset and vulnerable. The idea behind *Nudes of Chong* is much more challenging as it is public and I have to work every day for twelve days."

You can watch Stockdale work from 10am - 6pm starting September 12 at [Rose Chong Costumier](#). Stockdale plans to show each of the final paintings in a solo exhibition in Melbourne next year.