



**PADDOCKS TO PAINT** ... Lucy Culliton finds inspiration all around her rural property. Works include *Sparrow and japonica* and, (right), *Lacey and Super Zippy*.

# Everyday heroes

## GALLERIES Fiona Purdon

Most people would see a dog lying on a rug. Lucy Culliton sees a painting in the making.

For her works hanging at Jan Murphy Gallery she's drawn on the inspiration from living on a NSW rural estate.

There, she's surrounded by more than 60 sheep, six dogs, eight horses, three cows, two lambs, two rabbits and her hobby garden.

"It all feeds into my paintings and ideas," Lucy, 50, says. "I handfeed the animals and then they become my painting subjects."

The six-time Archibald finalist hit the trifecta last year with finals recognition in the Archibald, Wynne and Sulman prizes.

This month's show features pets on patterned rugs and fabrics.

Her rescue greyhounds rest on the rugs in the works *Lacey on Caroline's carpet* and *Lacey and Super Zippy* while in *Trooper on Fran's rug* one of her two baby lambs lies on her friend's "lovely Indian-type rug with brocade and little mirrors".

The work *Snow and Dusty* features her two rabbits.

Lucy has a highly distinctive



impressionist style, and uses broad brushstrokes. "It's how I put the paint down, this is my signature, I'm a fast worker and I often finish a painting in one sitting," she says.

Even though Lucy was drawing horses before she could walk, she initially trained in graphic design when she finished school.

Dyslexia held her back in her career, and it was not until she was 27 that she entered art college.

She has not looked back.

**LUCY CULLITON, Oct 10-Nov 4, Jan Murphy Gallery, 486 Brunswick St, Fortitude Valley. [janmurphygallery.com.au](http://janmurphygallery.com.au)**

**Phil Brown is on leave.**