



*Wolf*

## **Cherry Hood**

Cherry Hood's subjects are posed full face, directly confronting the viewer. Each face is depicted with compelling realism, the particular focus on eyes and mouth creating a convincing illusion. Hood's portraits of young boys have a powerful psychological effect. Typically the boys in her paintings are depicted at an age before their features have fully formed. The soft vulnerability of their adolescent faces is startlingly real yet exposed as mere paint by the dribbles in the watercolour medium. The heads are bigger than life-size, monumental in contrast to the expected slightness of a child. The enlarged scale suggests proximity and closeness. In each visage Hood emphasises the vulnerability of youth at that moment before budding sexuality and adult responsibilities change and harden the face.

Source: National Portrait Gallery, Canberra