

Zandra Rhodes “Fashion Icon”: Portrait by Adrienne Doig



Adrienne Doig — Zandra Rhodes

Acrylic on wood

Set of 15, variable dimensions (largest figure 37 cm)

Australian artist Adrienne Doig is best known for turning the lens on herself through an ever-shifting array of materials — from souvenir tea towels and patchwork quilts to rag dolls, marble tablets and, most recently, wooden nesting dolls. In this joyful change of focus she trains her attention on one of her heroes: fashion legend Zandra Rhodes.

The nesting-doll format proved the perfect vehicle for an in-depth study of Rhodes’ career and designs. During a 2024 visit for the first “sitting”, Doig found Rhodes in her home studio, enveloped by her own exuberant fabrics, garments and works of art — signature pink hair glowing among it all. What began as a modest plan for a 10-doll set rapidly expanded; the sheer variety and complexity of Rhodes’ creations was too dazzling to compress.

Rhodes’ intricate detailing, high-voltage colour and unmistakable pink hair all lent themselves beautifully to the nesting form, allowing Doig to become gleefully forensic with pattern and character. The resulting set of fifteen dolls — from a large figure in a bright yellow floral jumpsuit to one barely 2.5 cm tall — shows Rhodes across different moments in her career, while faithfully channelling the quirks of her personal style and the intricacy of her designs. Playful yet exacting, the work reads as both portrait and homage: a bright, affectionate celebration of an icon whose world of colour, charisma and pink-haired bravura nests perfectly inside Doig’s own.

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