

Minerva,

"Dear Daniel, I can't think of anything worth writing, I just write to you so you know I am alive,"

Adele Warner

20 August - 6 September 2026

Dear Daniel,

I can't think of anything worth writing, I just write to you so you know I am alive, while abroad, I have found the ideal travelling companions - one, an earth tiger, and the other, a fire rat. Together, we navigate streets in perfect triadic harmony.

Wading through crowds that have congealed in the consistency of a non-newtonian fluid, rhythmic lights illuminate our path. They circulate from atop the eiffel tower; the eye of Sauron at the centre of the panopticon of my holiday. It scrutinizes to make sure I am enjoying the Paris experience, while the city mimics the performance back at me. I appease it by saying, yes I am taking it all in!; scents of tobacco and laundry powder and swans in river water and bodies pressed tightly together on the metro, and no, I haven't eaten at Bouillon (this week). The light skips over me, for now.

I wonder why people insist on walking so slowly, rat kings psychically bound by a desire to document and preserve. I feel disdain for people mediating their \$5,799 All Inclusive Seven Stop European Holiday Experience through a six inch screen, and then immediately feel guilt for the hypocrisy. My illusion of not participating in the Industrial Tourism Complex does not make my experience more Real, nor I a superior consumer. But really, it's like they have no sense of urgency. Don't they know that some people have everything to see?

Side stepping the crowds, I catch my reflection blurred in the Irisology shop front. It is the third I have walked past on this street. "Here, you are the work of art! Your uniqueness, colours and details are our inspiration". I'm unsure if I agree with self-reification as a vacation activity, capitalising our desire to show ourselves off like a product, the dimensions and details.

Sometimes I think that I would also like to pay €99 for a minimum-wage retail employee to tell me that I am beautiful and interesting.

Thankfully, I've already consulted my Chinese zodiac chart, and know that I am a wood rabbit. www.china-sichuan-restaurant.com.au/horoscope knows me well; team-player, cheerful, selfish.

Adele Warner (b. 1999) received the Brett Whiteley Travelling Art Scholarship in 2024 and undertook the awarded three-month residency at the Cité Internationale des Arts, Paris, where the works in this exhibition were developed. She holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the National Art School, Sydney, where she was awarded the Parkers Excellence in Painting award in 2022. Recent group exhibitions include *Myth Makers*, Woollahra Gallery (2026); *Horny Jail II*, Nasha (2025); *Melbourne Art Fair*, Minerva (2025); *Babylon*, Laila (2025); *Sydney Contemporary*, Minerva (2024); *Girl artists orbiting big dicks*, Airspace (2024), and *Cybermancy*, Firstdraft, (2024). This is Adele's third solo exhibition with Minerva, following *good times... and great classic hits!* (2025) and *Views of Paradise* (2024).

Minerva, 8 Kellett St, Kings Cross
Thursday - Sunday 12-5PM
gallery@minervasydney.com
minervasydney.com
[@minervasydney](https://www.instagram.com/minervasydney)

