

THE SOUND OF  
 LAUGHING  
 HAPPINESS  
 FRIVOLITY  
 AMUSEMENT  
 CHUCKLING  
 SNORTING  
 MIRTHFULNESS  
 CHORTLING  
 CACHINNATION  
 GIGGLING  
 GUFFAWING  
 JOULARITY  
 CACKLING  
 TITTLING  
 ALL ARE FORBIDDEN  
 INTERDIT  
 VERBOTEN  
 UNSANCTIONED  
 UNALLOWED  
 OUT OF BOUNDS  
 VETOED  
 TABOO  
 BANNED  
 PROHIBITED  
 UNAUTHORIZED  
 PRECLUDED  
 OUTLAWED  
 BARRED  
 RULED OUT  
 WARNED OFF  
 EXCLUDED  
 OFF LIMITS



# Beauty within

An artist and an author have filled their old-world home with eclectic artworks and objects

>> Words Eliza Hope >> Photography Mark Taylor

From the outside, White Lodge – the charming Victorian-era home of Greer and Ross Honeywill, in Woodend – conjures up images of garden parties with ladies in lace and laughing children careering around plum trees on tricycles.

However, wonderful secrets lie beyond the traditional exterior of this home. Alterations over the years have created a more open and light-filled interior and it is brimming with an enviable collection of contemporary art and furnishings.

But the real beauty lies in how impeccably it works as the perfect backdrop for Greer's own intriguing and beautiful artwork.

"Everything in the house has a connection to what we have done," Greer says. "Every piece has a meaning beyond its innate qualities. And we do use the house as a kind of stage. I like to move and change things around – nothing is fixed."

Greer is an artist and Ross is an author and consumer behaviourist. They both work from home and the house has been carefully designed and arranged to encourage and provide space for each of their pursuits.

This includes an office each in the house and a separate weatherboard cottage for Greer's studio.

"The studio is the original manager's cottage. The previous owners





**Artist in residence**  
Greer Honeywill's sculpture and wall art next breathe life into the living room

**Open plan**  
The casual dining area is a bright and breezy space (below)



**Chic ingredients**  
Antique birdcages and a bold artwork give the kitchen character



**Room with a view**  
Boxed window seats in the main bedroom capture the pretty garden (left)

**Traditional retreat**  
The main bedroom is a spacious, timeless sanctuary in neutral tones (top right)

**Victorian age**  
The garden complements the charm of the Victorian-era home (above right)



Artwork by John Glass



extended it and added two rooms and a bathroom. Because I am interested in the domestic and am attracted to places with layers of history, it is perfect for me," Greer says.

The house is set in a lush garden, which is a lovely combination of old, such as the ancient plum trees and wisteria, and new, including rejuvenated sections by garden designer Michael McCoy. A spectacular hedge shaped in gently undulating waves – a true organic sculpture – is one such feature.

"When we first arrived, this hedge had been badly cut by the previous owner. It just wasn't straight, so Michael McCoy suggested we shape it like this and I love it," Greer says.

Easily the best room in the house is the library/living room. Whether reading a book in one of the armchairs covered in soft, worn white leather, >>



**Lunar eclipse**  
Greer's sculpture *To Look at the Moon* makes a bold statement in a corner

Artwork by Robert Finney

Artwork by Greer Honeywill

Artwork by Euan Heng



#### In the wings

Birdcages and a scooter are some of the things used in Greer's work (above)

#### Writing on the wall

Greer's wall text makes a striking artwork (top right)

#### Chapter and verse

A large built-in bookcase showcases a collection of books and treasures (above, far right)

>> or contemplating the garden from the large picture window, or examining some of Greer's artworks, this room is a genuine sanctuary.

The built-in bookshelves provide the long-awaited home for Greer and Ross' books and other treasures, including an antique typewriter that belonged to Greer's uncle. "This is the first time in 30 years that our books have been together in one place," Greer says.

This room is filled with light during the day, while at night a beautifully diffused light is cast by the extraordinary and dramatic Mariano Fortuny lamp in one corner.

The magnificent dining room was originally two rooms. The rich yellow walls, along with high-backed chairs, a marquetry table and wall sconces, create a splendid opulence.

"It's as close to red as you can have a yellow without creating orange," Greer says. "When the western sun comes into the dining room the colour just comes to life."

White Lodge is a success on so many levels. It provides both a stimulating and peaceful place for Greer to visualise and develop her art and for Ross to write.

The easy flow between the communal spaces is perfect for entertaining and the understated interior decorating works to complement rather than compete with the beautiful art. "I can definitely feel there's been a lot of laughter in this place," Greer says. "And even though the layout is a bit topsy-turvy, it is a really lovely house to live in." 🌿

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INTERMIT  
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## postscript



with

Greer Honeywill

Did you need to buy new furniture when you moved here?

Yes! We'd never lived in a house this big. When we first moved in our furniture looked miniature in the large rooms.

Did you make any changes to the main bedroom?

In addition to adding an ensuite, we replaced the bay window with french doors that are more consistent with the doors through the rest of the house.

What have you done to the kitchen?

We redid the kitchen about seven years ago. It was a very country-style kitchen with lots of timber that didn't work. I especially love that you can look out at the garden while at the sink.

Do you have a favourite piece of furniture?

I love the tin chandelier in my bedroom. It's most likely Spanish folk art. I bought it at Miguel Meirelles, in Malvern.

Where is your favourite spot in the house?

Definitely at the table under the window, in the library. I spend a lot of time there and the light is beautiful.



#### Hello sunshine

A bold, bright yellow makes a statement in the dining room