

# A picture of power

## ART

### Marie Sansom

PORTRAIT artist Janis Lander had just one hour to capture the ambiguity of busy Balmain State Labor MP Verity Firth.

Lander, who belongs to Portrait Artists Australia, said her aim was to portray how politicians were always on show and their dress and facial expressions were monitored.

“With women in high-pressure jobs like that, I like to have this balance of the feminine in an ultra-masculine kind of environment, which politics is,” Lander said.

“I like the fact she is this lovely, smiley, blonde woman in a very masculine environment.

“I like to see the way women deal with these situations and she does it really well.”

Lander said the MP had “a lovely, caring energy”.

“She’s charming, she’s really controlled and she has got a lot of warmth.”

In the portrait, Ms Firth is shown in her ministerial offices holding a Bill for education funding she hopes to get passed.

“It was a sketchy kind of image. I wanted to show her in action and of (her) being excited in reading the Bill,” Lander said.

She chose to paint Ms Firth because of her portfolios of education and women.

Portrait artists were given the theme



**Janis Lander with her portrait of Verity Firth at Parliament House.**

“Parliament Objects!” and invited to play around with it.

Other sitters included Drummoyne State Labor MP Angela D’Amore, Strathfield Labor MP Virginia Judge and North Sydney Liberal MP Joe Hockey, in what has become a time-honoured tradition. The results are on display in the Fountain Court at State Parliament and until April 30.