CATHERINE ASQUITH
ART ADVISORY

WENDY STOKES

Blended Geographies / Parallel Landscapes

October to December 2021

#LIVEWITHART©

Blended Geographies / Parallel Landscapes

This selection of works crosses geographical boundaries past and present; between Australia and France.

In recent years Wendy Stokes has developed a constantly evolving body of work thoughtfully bridging geographies of special meaning to her. Her work draws directly from rural childhood, her coastal surrounds of 5 decades and her ongoing interest from research during a Cite des Arts residency in Paris.

This research was a lived journey locating parallels in sites between the late Claude Monet and the artist, especially the Giverny garden and the coast of Étretat on the Normandy Coast. They presented strong parallels conjuring deep meaning connected to her childhood and life. Stokes thoughtfully manipulates such a register of experiences, where memories become fragments, glimpses fractured by time, where forms float, yet remaining undefined, keeping the readings open to the viewer to find their own reading of 'sense of place'.

For Stokes "The canvas acts as a filter through which light, space and mark, hover and suspend reflecting nature's intensity, pause and fractured moments; punctuated by experiences one takes and recalls within and between place".

(Interview between Bridget Purtill, Curator Glasshouse Regional Gallery and the artist for catalogue Within and Between -Walking in the space of Landscape,2019)

“We tend to think of landscapes as affecting us most strongly when we are in them or on them, when they offer us the primary sensation of touch and sight. But there are also the landscapes we bear with us in absentia, those places that live on in memory long after they have withdrawn in actuality, and such places- retreated to most often when we are most remote from them- are among the most important landscapes we possess.”

(Robert McFarlane pg 198 The Old Ways Penguin; 2012)

Retracing Site Giverny, 2014
acrylic and oilstick on canvas
183cmx750cm polytyph
$30,000 (for suite)
$6800 (individual panels)

Retracing Site Giverny, 2014
acrylic and oilstick on canvas
183cmx750cm polytyph

In situ (right)

“Punctuated Silence I”
Acrylic & oilstick on canvas
123 x 123cm
AU$4800

“Punctuated Silence II”
Acrylic & oilstick on canvas
123 x 123cm
AU$4800

“Punctuated Silence III”
Acrylic & oilstick on canvas
123 x 123cm
AU$4800

"Softly Softly I"
Acrylic & oilstick on canvas
152 x 123cm
AU$6000

(Paired with Softly Softly II: $11,000)

"Softly Softly II"
Acrylic & oilstick on canvas
152 x 123cm
AU$6000

(Paired with Softly Softly I: $11,000)

“Winter Garden II”
Acrylic & oilstick on canvas
91 x 71cm
AU$2100

"Winter Garden III"
Acrylic & oilstick on canvas
91 x 71cm
AU$2100

Stokes practice has moved seamlessly over the past 4 decades between painting, drawing and printmaking mediums; shifting effortlessly in scale from intimate pieces to immersive polyptychs. One medium informs the other, both intuitively and intellectually although not always in a set order. Having successfully exhibited in both significant commercial and museum gallery contexts; her work has proven its merit across these mediums having been selected as a consecutive finalist, received awards and been acquired for National, State and Regional Gallery Institutions; namely:

- Painting: The Glover Prize; EMSLA, The Fleurieu Water Prize, Country Energy Landscape Prize; Sunshine Coast Art Award; Fishers Ghost Award;

- Drawing: 3 times finalist in The JADA prize and acquisition and the Dobell Prize for Drawing;

- Printmaking: 2 x MPAC Print Prize, Mornington Arts Centre; Fremantle Print Prize, Fremantle Arts Centre; Henri Worland Print Prize, Warrnambool Regional Gallery and acquisition; Seoul International Print Biennale, National Museum of Modern Art Seoul, Korea; 2x Swan Hill Regional Gallery Print Award, Swan Hill Regional Gallery; Mosman Art Prize; Gold Coast City Art Prize, Gold Coast City Gallery

COLLECTIONS

Institution Collections

National Gallery of Australia
Art Gallery New South Wales
Warrnambool Regional Gallery
Tamworth Regional Gallery
Grafton Regional Gallery
Bathurst Regional Gallery
Gosford Regional Gallery
Port Macquarie Regional Gallery, Glasshouse
Coffs Harbour Regional Gallery
Newcastle University
Charles Sturt University
Parliament House, Canberra
Print Council of Australia
Australian Secondary Schools Project
Print Council of Australia
Artbank

Corporate Collections

Shell Company Australia, London, UK
State Bank of NSW
National Australia Bank
Australian Bank
AMP
Ford Australia
IBM
Law Institute of Victoria
Lend Lease Development
Sanyo
Mercantile Mutual
Elders Group
Carlton Breweries
Australian Pacific Tours
Price Waterhouse
ANZ Bank
Australian Wheat Board
Jones Lang Wootton
NZI

Corporate Collections cont'd

Transfield Collection
Chancellery, Melbourne University
ETSA, Adelaide
Qantas
Sandoz
Bank of S.A
Crowne Melbourne
McLaren Vale Wines, SA

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