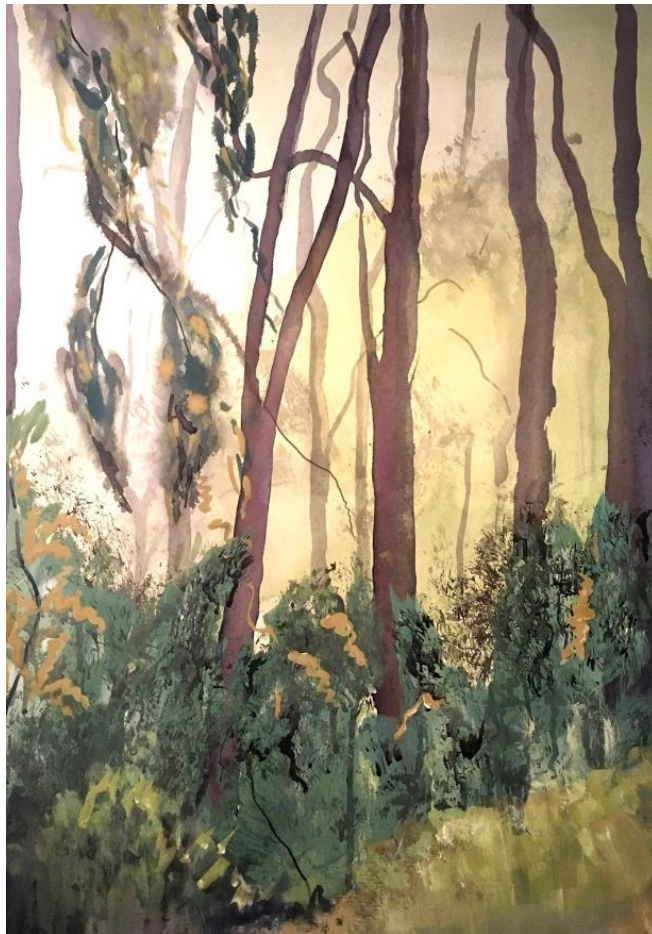


Bridget Seaton - NEWSLETTER – October 2020

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING IN THE STUDIO

In August I entered an ink painting “Amongst Jarrah” for the annual MCAA awards and was delighted to pick up an award for Best Contemporary Work winner. Since then the focus over the last couple of months has been acrylic painting and I have been working on a body of work depicting the forests and woodlands in the wider Perth region using a cooler palette and experimenting with the complimentary relationship between yellows and purples. As my paintings have progressed the wildflowers have come out and are featured in some my paintings. Some paintings were started in response to the bush prior to the wild flowers, but after visiting a similar area a week later and seeing the explosion of colour I could not resist adding the yellows and whites what dominate the understory at this time of year. I cannot help but be influenced by the seasons and subtle changes that occur in the bush. “Amongst Jarrah” below was painted well before the wild flower season began in early winter – no flowers in this one!



“Amongst Jarrah” Ink and gesso on paper

When I paint, I generally don't listen to music as I am easily distracted and find that I need silence in order to concentrate. However when completing general tasks such as tidying up and stretching canvases I like to listen to podcasts. I have discovered a wonderful podcast called '*Talking with Painters*' where Maria Stoljar interviews Australian painters and discusses their life and art. It's a fascinating and inspiring programme and to date there are almost 100 episodes to listen to. Here is the link <https://www.talkingwithpainters.com/>

Making sketchbooks

I am very much into making my own sketchbooks at the moment. After making a large accordion book that documented the collaborative *Curiously Creative Sketchbook Challenge* (that I ran during Perth lockdown period in April), I was inspired to make more accordion books and use them when out painting in the bush. When out on day walks, I don't mind lugging my rather large 50 page sketchbook with me but I had a 5 day bush walk coming up and I up wanted to make my painting kit as light as possible. Carrying an overnight pack with 5 days of food and a sleeping bag etc is heavy enough so every extra gram counts. An accordion sketchbook is a perfect lightweight solution as it is simply a long piece of paper that is folded and then sandwiched between card which acts as a rigid surface to lean on. This type of sketchbook can be completed in sections and assembled at a later date, so this makes for a perfect solution for travelling light. The accordion sketchbook can also be used as a display book where all pictures can be viewed as a whole, and I like the concept of this to document a journey. It also has the added advantage of giving me the choice of painting one really long painting stretching over 5 or 6 folded pages – I haven't done this yet, but I think it would be fun to do.

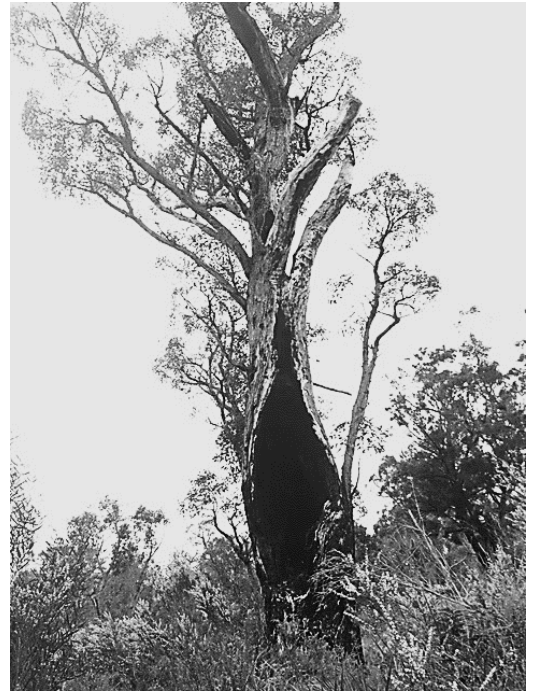


Above – my accordion sketchbook completed whilst on the Bibbulmun track 25th -30th September

BUSH TRAVELS

I recently completed 5 days walk on the Bibbulmun track in the Walpole region from Mount Pingerup to Northcliffe. This is a beautiful walk that traverses diverse landscapes from the lush Karri forests to stunted open Jarrah woodlands, large granite boulders and open swampy planes. The region near Northcliffe has received a lot of rain recently and although we were blessed with good hiking weather, we had numerous boggy sections to complete. The beautiful landscape more than made up for having wet feet. I had time at the end of each day to paint and completed an accordion sketchbook that records the different landscapes. After immersing myself in the bush for almost a week I have stored up many memories and inspiration to fuel future artworks. I was particularly struck by the regeneration of some of the trees that were affected by the 2015 fires that swept through the area. I have an idea to make some prints based on some of my photos of the 'survivor' trees that I noticed.

Some photos and paintings from my 5 day walk on the Bibbulmun Track



WORKSHOPS/CLASSES

REGULAR CLASSES

Expressive Landscape Painting Class
Tuesdays 9 – 11:30am at Atwell Art Centre

Creative Collagraphy and Stencilling - 4 week printmaking course
Fridays at Canning Arts Group. 12:30-3.00pm

WORKSHOPS

Make Your Own sketchbook
Saturday 24th October 1:15 – 6:30pm at Glyde Inn, East Fremantle

Book Binding – Make 3 beautiful books from leather, book cloth and specialist materials
Sunday 15th November 10am -4pm at Glyde Inn, East Fremantle

AN ART QUOTE TO FINISH

“Great art picks up where nature ends.” – **Marc Chagall**