

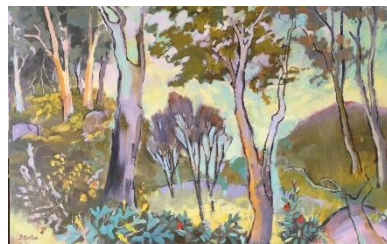
# Bridget Seaton – ARTIST NEWSLETTER – October 2022



Welcome to my spring newsletter, I have spent many happy hours painting outside in the bush over the last few months taking advantage of the cooler temperatures before summer makes plein air painting less comfortable. I have secured a solo exhibition for July 2023 so with that looming in the not-too-distant future I'm motivated to keep creating and have been quietly working away in my studio. I managed to sell a few paintings over the last couple of months and this has kept me motivated and clears space for new work.

## WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING IN THE STUDIO

**PAINTING** Although spring is well upon us the work that I am producing now is in response to walks done in winter & also my most recent jaunts into the bush with its spring flowers. Often I find that I am combining memories of the same place at different points in the year and I like this concept. Painting always has its fair share of problems to solve and recently I have been finding it difficult to actually finish a painting, I paint something and deem it finished only to wake up the next day and completely change it. Some paintings are executed with a loose plan and others just evolve – I enjoy both processes but find that the paintings with no plan take longer to finish. When working from memory or imagination there are so many ways one can resolve a painting and that is the tricky thing – resolving. If you look at the 3 photos of the same painting below, you can see how I moved things around and edited things out. The far right is the finished painting.



I'm pleased to be a finalist in the Melville Art Awards for my painting *Vestige*. Held at Wireless Hill Museum, the awards has a prize entry category for work inspired by Wireless Hill park. Keen to submit work in this category, I set out on a number of painting expeditions in the park which is state government listed as a "Bush Forever site". Although much of the park was cleared about 100 years ago, it regenerated from seed into the bushlands it is today & there are some ancient trees and plants still standing. Whilst painting quietly (I always seek a quite spot where no one can find me) it struck me that this was indeed a piece of remnant bushland, a reminder of what the Swan River surrounds would have been like before settlement, in a time when the river was known under its original name of Derbal Yerrigan. The painting is an amalgamation of 3 places that I sat & painted and is named *Vestige* as it represents a disappearing landscape of what once was.



**PRINTMAKING** Recently I took a workshop in Kitchen Lithography and in doing so discovered a versatile printmaking method that is very suited to my way of working. Kitchen Lithography is a nontoxic type of lithography that involves using common household items such as aluminium foil & uses Cola as a substitute for etching acid. I have been messing around trying out a few different techniques with this method and have set up a dedicated area for it in my laundry. It's quite messy and the first time I did it, I ended up with Coca-Cola all over my studio (not good for keeping the ants away). It's still early days but I am working at honing my skills in this method and am looking forward to doing much more in the summer when it's too hot in my studio to use acrylic paint



Some experiments with kitchen lithography

## BUSH TRAVELS

This year I haven't made any remote trips inland & I have certainly missed the tranquillity and that comes with being somewhere very isolated. Instead, my travels over the past few months have been quite close to home and there is plenty to see and explore on Perth's doorstep. My excursions into the forests of the Darling Range always give me plenty to think about and we recently completed a few days on the Bibbulmun track. We took a 'rest day' which was great for me as I managed to squeeze in about 5 hours of painting from the surrounds of Waalegh campsite. The flowers were out and it's a magical time of the year when the trees seems to dance in a sea of white & yellow flowers.

I have just returned from a 3-day self-created art retreat in the Dryandra Woodlands. It has been a long time since I spent time truly alone in the bush (without my partner and fellow bush walker Sebastien) and I really enjoyed having nothing to do except paint. When alone I find that I notice so much more, my senses are heightened and tuned to the here and now. I got quite a lot of work done and will be focussing on creating some paintings and prints from my studies of the Wandoo Woodlands in the weeks to come. When painting outside I often work in an accordion sketchbook as it is lightweight and folds up practically into A4. Sometimes I am painting separate paintings on each fold but at other times I like to paint across the entire length of the paper. This format is creeping into my studio practice and at the moment I am favouring the long and narrow canvas - perhaps not the most practical shape but it's capturing my interest.



accordion sketchbook painting done on location in the Wandoo woodlands. 7.30 am, pea flowers in the sunshine.

# EXHIBITIONS AND EVENTS

In terms of exhibitions, it's going to be a quiet run up to Christmas. However, I do have quite a lot of work from the last 2 years that is sitting idly in my studio. I have an idea forming to either have an open studio sale at my home or a pop up weekend exhibition as some point towards the end of the year (or early 2023). I will keep you posted if this happens. If you are interested in purchasing any of my artwork, then my studio door is always open for a visit and as I need to clear out the old to make space for the new, I will be offering discounts



some of my paintings for sale at a discount

## MELVILLE ART AWARDS – WIRELESS HILL MUSEUM

The Melville Art Awards is in its 46<sup>th</sup> year. The opening night is Friday 28 October 6-8pm at Wireless Hill Park. The exhibition runs until 20 November and is open Tuesday to Sunday 10am – 5pm. You can view my painting *Vestige* in the exhibition.

## CITY OF KALGOORLIE-BOULDER ART PRIZE

If you happen to be in the Goldfields then I have a painting on display in the art prize this year. Exhibition runs until 21<sup>st</sup> October.

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## WORKSHOPS/CLASSES

### REGULAR CLASSES

#### EXPRESSIVE LANDSCAPES - PAINTING CLASS

Tuesdays. 9-11.30am at Melville Arts at Atwell House – 4 weeks  
18 October – 8 November Call (08) 9330 2800 or book online  
BOOKINGS <https://melvillearts.com.au/classes/expressive-landscapes-paintingt4/>



#### LINO PRINTING WITH A TWIST - 4-WEEK PRINTMAKING COURSE

Fridays 12.30 – 3pm at Canning Arts Group – 4 – 25 November  
Explore symmetry, colour and experimental printing in this course that is suitable for any level.  
Call CAG on 9457 9600 or book online  
BOOKINGS <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing?eid=962773&>



## **NEW EXPRESSIVE LANDSCAPES - PRINTMAKING CLASS**

Term 4, I will be teaching MONOTYPE WITH CUT PAPER COLLAGE, and we will be taking a closer look at plants and natural forms in the landscape – a fun and accessible class for both beginners to advanced. All materials provided + the use of my printing press.

Tuesdays: 9 – 11:30am at Melville Arts at Atwell House – 4 weeks

15 November – 6 December Call (08) 9330 2800 or book online

<https://melvillearts.com.au/classes/expressive-landscapes-printmaking-t4/>



## **WORKSHOPS**

### **BOOKBINDING WORKSHOP**

**Sat 29 October at The Glyde-In Community Centre, East Fremantle.**

This workshop is a combination of art and craft and you come home with 2 beautiful handmade books.

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/bookbinding-with-bridget-workshop-tickets-419405903347>



### **SGRAFFITO IN THE LANDSCAPE ACRYLIC PAINTING WORKSHOP**

**Wed 16 November at Melville Arts at Atwell House 9.30am – 2.30pm.**

Sgraffito means to scratch back to reveal an underlayer and can be used effectively in acrylic painting to create interesting marks, textures and layering. Learn the tricks and techniques of the method and how it can be applied to landscape painting. Call (08) 9330 2800 or book online

<https://melvillearts.com.au/classes/sgraffito-in-landscape-ws/>



### **ACCORDION SKETCHBOOK AND PLEIN AIR PAINTING**

**Sunday 13 November 10am – 3.30pm at Canning Arts Group**

Make your own accordion sketchbook with a handmade cover and then try your hand at some plein air painting in the courtyard. Call CAG on 9457 9600 or book online

<https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing?eid=962731&>



Thanks for taking the time to read my newsletter, I hope to see some of you soon.