

BRIDGET SEATON ARTIST NEWSLETTER JULY 2023



The past few months have been interesting with some unexpected ups and downs. Melville Open Studios was a great success, I managed to sell some paintings, but the best part of the weekend was meeting so many people with an appreciation of the visual arts. Thank you to everyone who stopped by.

As a teacher my year is segmented into school terms. Term 2 began on a high with the open studio weekend and but ended on a low with a short hospital stay and the closure of Melville Arts at Atwell house. The closure of this association has been a huge blow to many of us and made me realise how important the community arts are. I have been teaching 5 classes a week there for about 10 years and this place really has become a huge and happy part of my life. Naturally I was concerned by the sudden impact this would mean to my income. However more importantly I was devastated at the sudden loss of community and saddened by the prospect of losing touch with all the familiar and friendly faces that made up this vibrant centre.

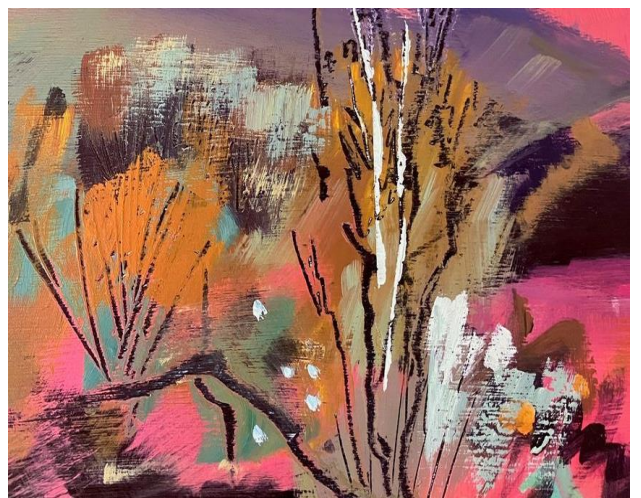
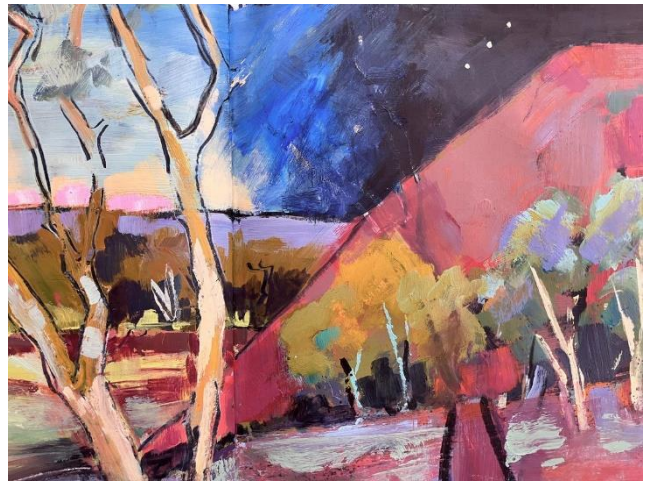
However all is not lost and there is some good news. The City of Melville is facilitating ongoing access to Atwell House for the creative community. This means that classes can continue but teachers will be responsible for taking bookings and promoting their classes. So things will be a little different, but I will still be there, paintbrush in hand teaching art. It is important to support the transition of this place right now - you can keep up to date and see what classes are running on the City of Melville's website. <https://www.melvillecity.com.au/things-to-do/museums-arts-and-culture/atwell-house>



My home studio

What's Been Happening in the Studio?

Aside from preparing for my solo show in July, I have been working on some new paintings in response to my last big camping trip to the remote ranges near Southern Cross at Easter. I was struck by the special light that falls at the end of the day, night falls swiftly and thousands of stars cast a magical light in the inky darkness. In an effort to capture this experience I have been painting the night sky and including the constellation of Orion's belt as they were a constant companion on our trip. Night sky is a first for me and I have been painting onto a very dark background. The paintings feature both night and day, the east and the west, an amalgamation of the things I see when back at camp after a days bushwalking. I am at the beginning of this exploration and find painting onto a dark background challenging but also exciting. Below are some of my sketchbook paintings exploring this theme.



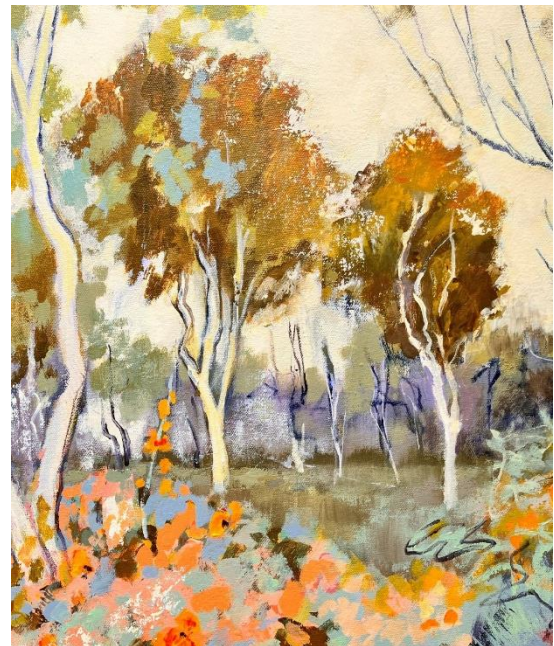
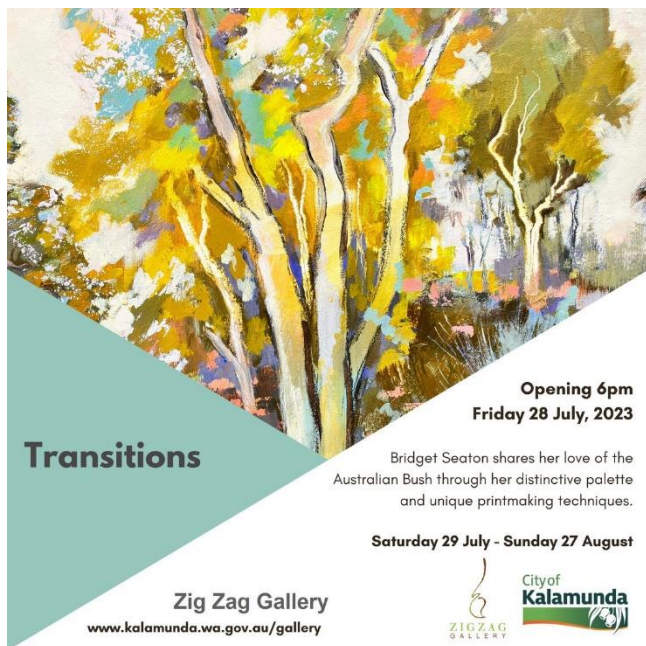
You can see more artwork on my website
<https://bridgetseaton.com/home.html>

Exhibitions

Winter Salon Print Show at Gallery 152 Avon Terrace, York 15 – 27 July

I am taking part in this group show that features work from West Australian printmakers including Stephen Castledine, Andrew MacDonald, Elmari Steyn & members of the Printmakers Association of Western Australia. <https://gallery152.com.au/index.ph>

SOLO SHOW - *TRANSITIONS* at Zig Zag Gallery, Kalamunda - 29 July 27 August



I am excited to be showing over 20 paintings & original prints all inspired by my bushwalks. This exhibition of new works has been over a year in the making and there are a number of events happening in conjunction with the exhibition such as an artists talk & workshops. I will be in the gallery for a residency from 4-7 August. **Everyone welcome at opening night on 28 July @ 6pm.** Visit my website or the gallery website for more info. See you there.

<https://www.kalamunda.wa.gov.au/event-details/2023/07/29/arts-culture/exhibition-transitions> <https://bridgetseaton.com/section/523257-SOLO%20SHOW%202023.html>



Bush Travels and Camping Adventures

Normally I have some adventures to share in this section of my newsletter, but it's been a little different this time. Due to some recent surgery I have been resting at home with strict instructions not to go bush walking for a month. Winter is normally the time when we do most of our bush walking in WA and I was looking forward to filling up pages in my sketchbook with bush scenes. Instead I have focussed on the beauty close to home and I have turned to my own garden for inspiration. My paintings are a little chaotic, but I enjoyed the process and it has made me appreciate the little patch of land that I live on. I have a walking holiday in Victoria in spring to look forward to but for now I'm painting my chooks and flowerpots.



Classes and Workshops

Bookings for my classes at Atwell house and are now made through Eventbrite.

EXPRESSIVE LANDSCAPES - ADULT PAINTING CLASS 15 Aug - 5 Sept at Atwell House.

This regular Tuesday class explores concepts of landscape painting with experimental exercises demos and guidance. Colour mixing, mark making, brushwork and more.

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/671896840537>

CHILDRENS ART CLASSES - I run 4 afterschool art classes for children at Atwell House and 1 at Canning Arts Group. Have a look at my Eventbrite page for all classes at Atwell House.
<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/o/artist-and-teacher-bridget-seaton-26920969831>

Please share if you know of any budding young artists who would be interested.

- Make Paint Create - Tuesdays (age 5 - 8)
- Drawing and Painting with Bridget - Wednesdays (age 9 - 13)
- Drawing and Painting with Bridget - Thursdays (age 8 - 12)
- Paint Draw Explore - Thursdays (age 10+)
- Art with Bridget – Fridays (Canning Arts Group)



PRINTMAKING WORKSHOP AT ZIG ZAG GALLERY - Mon 7 August

Try out the immediate and tactile technique of monotype printmaking in this half day workshop where we explore mark making and tone, taking inspiration from the textures and forms of the bush. **BOOKINGS** <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/645832220557>

ACRYLIC PAINTING WORKSHOP AT ZIG ZAG GALLERY - Sat 19 August

Learn colour mixing techniques & ways to approach the subject of trees using negative space, layering & simplification. **BOOKINGS** <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/662038995457>



Thank you for taking the time to read my newsletter. I hope to see some of you over the coming months. If you wish to get in touch I would love to hear from you, email is still the best way - just hit reply. Kind regards Bridget Seaton.