

Bridget Seaton - NEWSLETTER – 26 March 2020

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING IN THE STUDIO?

Term 1 is now prematurely over. During the last 7 weeks I have managed to keep painting in between the art classes that I teach and have even managed to squeeze in a bit of printmaking. I haven't had as much solid painting time as I did during the summer break but I have managed to complete a few paintings and have been experimenting with a few new ideas in my sketchbook.

I have recently bought a new toy – a portable good quality Italian made printing press! The aim is to use it so that I can finally print with a press at home and to use it as a teaching tool in my classes later this year. Although I do quite a bit of printmaking, I mainly print without a press and have adapted my methods and techniques to hand printing. I work often in the painterly process of monotype printmaking which doesn't require a press. (you can see an example of this below). I am looking forward to broadening my printmaking skills and discovering numerous ways of using my press. Watch this space!



'Melaleuca and Boulders'

Oil Monotype

BUSH TRAVELS

Over the Labour Day weekend I spent time camping at Cape Leeuwin National park and explored the Canal Rocks/Yallingup area. As the weather was warm, we spent our time walking near the coast and I did a bit of boulder clambering in order to reach some beautiful secluded coves. The boulders are fascinating on this part of the coast, worn with age into beautiful rounded shapes, some balance precariously on top of each other, often with large grooves and cracks. The melaleuca trees along the coast are particularly interesting with their stark silvery branches that are blown by the ocean winds into twisted shapes. Inside the melaleuca groves it is often quite dark and sheltered – a magical and mysterious world, home to many animals. This recent trip to the Leeuwin coastline inspired some recent prints such as the one shown above.

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS/CLASSES AND FUTURE EVENTS

All my classes and workshops have been cancelled due to the current Covid 19 outbreak and the future is very uncertain. I shall be immersing myself in my work and am grateful that creating art gives me much happiness. As a sole trader I can only hope that I am able to pick work up again when the world gets back to some kind of normal. As we are increasingly confined to our homes, it's important to keep creative and connected. I am fortunate enough to have a great studio at home and plenty of projects to immerse myself in but teaching in the art community has become a very valued and positive part of my life and I will greatly miss being able to teach over the coming months.

In the current climate I am now considering alternative teaching methods and will be running an online sketchbook challenge to anyone who wishes to join in. See below.

Curiously Creative Sketchbook Challenge – from the comfort of your home.

I will be running an online sketchbook challenge that encourages people to do something new in their sketchbook nearly every day or whenever they feel like it. I will post demonstration videos suggesting a different creative challenge 3 or 4 days a week (or more if I can manage it). I will include suggested instructions, ideas and tips. It would be varied, fun and embrace a wide range of art disciplines and subjects in accessible ways. I will create an online platform for people to post their work so that we can share our creations.

At this stage the idea is in its early stages and I hope to make it user friendly through simple technology - most probably a Facebook group. This would enable people to access the video clip demos and to share their work if they wish. I would keep it running week by week inviting people to join me in this creative project as and when they wish. Joining in with this sketchbook challenge will be free (although I may set up a link for people to donate a small amount if they wish). I need about a week to get myself organised but if you are interested please let me know.

Looking ahead to the future – My goal is to encourage people to use their sketchbooks and then, when we emerge from this pandemic, I would like to facilitate an exhibition in one of the community art centres for those who would like to showcase their work. It would make a fascinating exhibition, imagine if we had a collection of sketchbooks and enlarged photos of selected pages where people respond to the same thing on the same day in individual ways.

Sketchbooks have always been an important part of my life since I was a child – they are the visual diaries of my life. On the following pages I have photographed images from some of my sketchbooks ranging from back in 1993 when I was 18 and up to the present day. I hope they inspire you to join me in this sketchbook challenge.

I will write another newsletter in about 6 weeks – until then, stay well and keep busy. Feel free to drop me a line by email. I will leave you with a couple of quotes.

QUOTES

“Art is something that makes you breathe with a different kind of happiness.” ~ Anni Albers

“Art has always been the raft onto which we climb to save our sanity. I don't see a different purpose for it now.” ~ Dorothea Tanning

Top 1993 – my high school sketchbook age 18

Bottom — figure studies done during my Foundation Course in Art and Design in England 1994



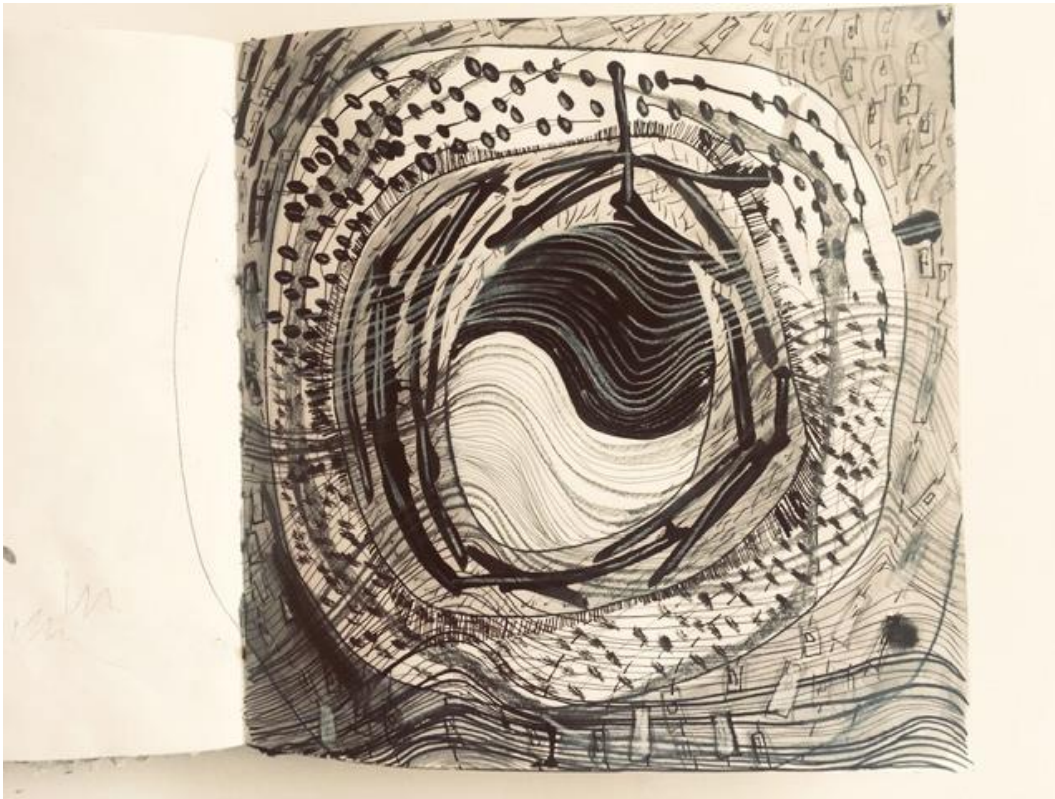
Top - Page out of my travel diaries when I first travelled to Australia as a backpacker 2000

Bottom – from when I was living in the volcanic Reunion Island 2005



Top – England – 2009

Bottom — Kennedy Ranges WA camping trip – plein air painting – July 2019



Top – Melaleuca trees in my local park – plein air - Feb 2020

