



Bridget Seaton - Artists Newsletter - Spring 2023

As usual its been a busy few months. Thanks to everyone who came to see my solo show Transitions at Zig Zag Gallery in August. If you missed the show you can hear me talking about it [here](#) in a radio interview with RTR FM and you can view it on my [website](#). I have also been working hard on keeping my art classes going since the collapse of Melville Arts at Atwell House. Atwell House is still a venue for visual arts and my classes are continuing there - (it's just under a different system - teachers now manage bookings and advertising) . Thanks to everyone who attended my classes in term 3, teaching is my bread and butter and it keeps me connected to community.

What's been happening in the studio?



Painting

My studio time took a bit of a back seat during August and September due to my exhibition and having family visiting from overseas. I am the kind of person who finds it really difficult to paint unless I am by myself so things slowed down for a while. I did however manage to snatch some painting time here and there and have nearly finished a mini series of paintings done in response to a trip in April to the rangelands near Southern Cross. I am calling this series Saltbush and Stars.

These paintings are entirely drawn from memory and some lean a little more towards abstraction. I have been listening to my inner voice rather than the voice of reason. The paintings feature both night and day on the same canvas, transparent trees, strange horizons and a letting go of painting what is supposed to be. This is how I see the landscape now when I paint - I paint different aspects of my lived experience of a place, mish mashing different elements together in a nonsensical way that I hope makes sense as a composition. Painting is always exciting especially when you don't quite know what you are doing. I love this quote by David Bowie that sums up this feeling.

“Always go a little further into the water than you feel you're capable of being. Go a little bit out of your depth and when you don't feel your feet are quite touching the bottom, you're just about in the right place to do something exciting.”

These paintings are not quite ready to go out into the world - I did contemplate entering one into an award, but for now they belong together as a group. I read somewhere that it is important not to let go of our paintings too soon - there is a truth to this. Each painting informs the next one, motifs are repeated, the colours in one dictate the colours in another, ideas are expanded on and a problem in one painting is solved in the next one. Here is a sneak peak of one of them and some details from others.





Exhibitions @ Events

Things are quiet on the exhibition front for me right now - I am still winding down from my solo show in August, and can't quite get my head around when the next one will be. It was a huge effort to put together an exhibition so I am sitting tight for now and just trying to focus on process as opposed to outcome. I did enter a couple of local council art awards but didn't make it through the selection process. Right now I am really enjoying my plein air painting. I find a patch of bush, sit down and paint what's around me. I have no expectations, I just open my sketchbook and paint, some paintings don't turn out well, but that's the beauty of working in a sketchbook, I just turn the page and start again.

STUDIO ART SALE

I will be having a studio art sale in November or December, this will be held at my home and will be a low key and invite only event, as a subscriber to my newsletter you are invited - stay tuned for more details. I will be selling some of my older works at a reduced price and there will be some new work to see as well as the chance to have a look through my sketchbooks. I have a catalogue of works for sale that are not featured on my website, send me an email if you would like to have a look.

Bush Travels and Camping Adventures



My lightweight painting kit for the 2 day hike at Mount Lesueur Nat Park



Friendly campsite visitor near York



sketchbook painting of York Gum near Paynes Find. Gouache on brown paper

Following some surgery in June, I had to take it easy and not do any long bushwalks for a while. I still went on camping trips but there was less walking happening and more sitting around than usual. Whilst frustrating, the upside of this was that I actually got more painting done from the comfort of my camp chair. I am now fully recovered and appreciating the bush and my ability to walk around in it more than ever. I did a 25km walk at Mount Lesueur National park over the long weekend and I couldn't have been happier. As we were camping overnight on the trail, I took limited art supplies and a fold out accordion sketchbook to paint in. Accordion books are changing the way that I paint. I love the fact that I can paint over a 3 or 4 page spread and this has prompted me to paint in an almost panoramic way, painting what is all around me, rather than just what is in front. I am getting a little more experimental with my plein air paintings now, choosing what to include and leaving out stuff that doesn't interest me. Image below is parts of my accordion book from the long weekend.



NEW MATERIALS - I have recently discovered water soluble graphite sticks, these are amazing to use as they combine line and shading with a watery effect. I have been using the graphite pencil with one or two coloured crayons to make quick studies, this medium lends itself very well to making rapid drawings. See image below.



I have just returned from a weeks holiday in Victoria where we spent time in the Grampians National Park. I managed to do some outdoor painting every day but I was faced with a whole new set of challenges that I am not used to. Aside from tackling different subjects that I am not comfortable with such as misty mountains, rivers and waterfalls, I had to contend with rain on my paintings, cold fingers, paint not drying and constant light changes. I felt like a beginner again and it reminded me that I need to get out of my comfort zone more often. The scenery was breathtaking - this was also due to the amount of steep steps we had to climb - but I definitely missed WA's sunshine. Here I am freezing cold and on top of the world trying to paint rocks.





CLASSES AND WORKSHOPS

Bookings for my classes at Atwell house and are now made through Eventbrite. Click the coloured buttons for more info or head to my [Eventbrite page](#) to see everything in one place.

EXPRESSIVE LANDSCAPES - PAINTING CLASS - 4 WEEKS 17 Oct- 7 Nov **Atwell House, Alfred Cove**

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

EXPERIMENTAL PRINTMAKING CLASS - 4 WEEKS - 14 Nov - 5 Dec

Atwell House, Alfred Cove

This term in Experimental Printmaking we try out the immediate and tactile technique of monotype printmaking exploring mark making and tone and line. Your choice Take inspiration from the textures and forms of the bush or bring your own subject matter.

BOOKBINDING WORKSHOP - SUNDAY 29 OCTOBER

The Glyde In Community Centre, East Fremantle.

We make two A5 books in this workshop. A classic notebook with a hard cover that you embellish yourself using traditional paste painting and gold detail and 60 page journal bound together using Secret Belgium Binding technique. This technique allows the book to open flat and is ideal for sketchbooks. All materials provided. There are just a two spots left in this popular workshop.

TRANSFER MONOTYPE PRINTMAKING WORKSHOP - SUNDAY 5 NOV

The Glyde In Community Centre, East Fremantle.

Learn the simple but effective printmaking method of transfer monotype and explore playful line drawing and mark-making techniques. Use professional oil based printing inks and papers and add a splash of colour with pigmented inks. Bridget will share her tips and techniques for loose drawing and will demonstrate each part of the printing process. Contact The Glyde In Community Centre for bookings and more info.

CHILDRENS ART CLASSES - I run 4 afterschool art classes for children at Atwell House and one at Canning Arts Group. Please share if you know of any budding young artists who would be interested.

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

Thanks for taking the time to read my newsletter. Next one comes out in January 2024.