

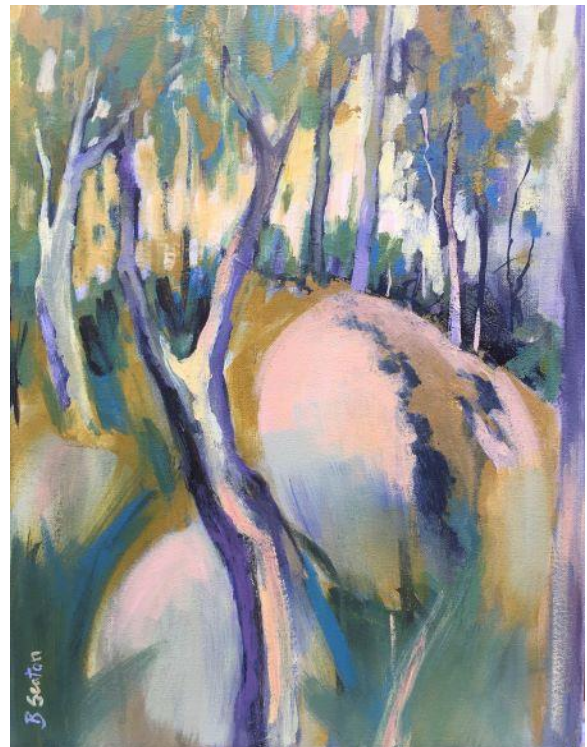
Bridget Seaton – ARTIST NEWSLETTER – April 2022

Welcome to my April newsletter, things have been very busy for me recently as I have been frantically preparing for two exhibitions and Melville Open Studios – all coming up in April/May. I hung my first solo show in early April in the Wheatbelt town of Ballidu and I am still preparing for the other events (the upcoming *Elemental Exhibition* in South Fremantle and the open studio where I will be displaying work at Atwell Gallery). All the artworks are complete but there is an awful lot of other things that go on behind the scenes. They say that when you work as an artist you spend more than half your time on admin and other stuff and I have certainly found that to be the case recently.

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING IN THE STUDIO

PAINTING

In preparation for upcoming exhibitions I have spent many hours painting the edges of paintings, attaching hooks, going to the framers, photographing work and making labels etc. Then there is the marketing side of things and of course my teaching. I have still continued making art but I have had to adapt to having less time. One of the things that I have been doing is painting plein air at Manning Park (Hamilton Hill) every Thursday morning after my outdoor yoga class. As well as brushing up on my observation skills it has been a really relaxing thing to do and has sparked a series of prints. In prep for my recent shows I have been reworking some paintings from about 12 months ago. I had a few paintings that I thought needed touching up and started out with the intention of just doing half an hour's work on them. Two days later, I had completely changed the paintings – it is a really exciting process because you are working on something old with new eyes. An example of this can be seen below. Below left, the painting in its original form and below right the reworked and finished image that I completed with fresh memories after revisiting the Jarrah forest this March.

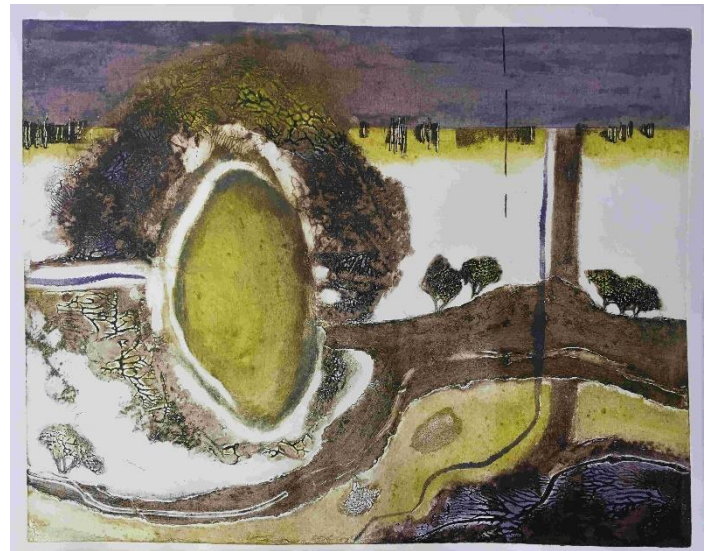


Granite Scramble

PRINTMAKING

As mentioned earlier I have been painting in Manning Park every Thursday after yoga. Yoga takes place under some wonderful trees and the view looking up is quite astonishing. I did a few paintings on site of the branches and then made a series of monotype prints about the experience. I experimented with layering and printing onto the paper 2 or 3 times using the ghost prints to create subtle tones and overlaps. Monotype printmaking is good when you are time poor because it's a technique that encourages experimentation and gives immediate results. Due to the fact that the ink only stays workable for about 1 hour it forces me to work fast and free. In total I have produced about 15 different prints but only a handful are keepers, such is the nature of printmaking.

Over summer I focused on improving my collagraph skills and produced a number of prints. I selected one to enter into the Beverley Art Prize Easter Show and was delighted to pick up first prize in the Printmaking section. The picture below right shows the print (*Infiltration*) when it was 90% finished. I added a few more areas of colour to it but forgot to take a photo of the finished piece.



Above – *Infiltration* – Collagraph

Left – *Look Up* – Monotype

BUSH TRAVELS

With all the planning and prepping going on for exhibitions as well as the hot summer that we had, I haven't been able to get away as much as usual. However, over Easter I revisited one of my favourite parts of the Bibbulmun track & escaped the crowds by doing a 3 day walk on the Pingerup Plains near Walpole. We walked about 55 kms over the three days and it was wonderful walking through the varied terrain as the landscape transitioned from forest to coastal plain with swamps, granite boulders and pockets of Karri forest. The landscape and weather were constantly changing and the view from the granite outcrops always featured the Broke Inlet and the sand hills beyond. I did a few paintings of trees, but it was only during the last few kms of the walk that an idea formed in my head for a new series of paintings. The word *transitions* came to mind, and I aim to make some paintings that combine the different landscapes and weather conditions that I walked through.

SOME PAINTINGS



PLEIN AIR PAINTINGS

Above: pages of my accordion sketchbook that I took on the Bibbulmun track – Gouache and Ink

Below: looking up into the tangled branches of trees at Manning Park- Gouache



Left: One of my paintings that will be hung in the Elemental exhibition at Earlywork Gallery (17-29 May)

Colour Me Happy, Wild Flowers and Sticks
Acrylic on Canvas 102 x 76cm

EXHIBITIONS AND EVENTS

QUIET PLACES @ BALLIDU LODGE ART GALLERY – 9th April – 30 June

This is my first solo exhibition and showcases a selection of my paintings and prints from the past 4 years. Ballidu is a friendly Wheatbelt town in the shire of Wongan/Ballidu and it was great meeting the locals on the opening night. The gallery is managed by the Ballidu Contemporary Arts Society and Pam Toster generously helped to organise the exhibition and assist with the hanging. If you are in the area on a Saturday, pop in and have a look. **Open Saturdays 10am – 1.30pm**

<https://www.balliduprogressgroup.com/ballidu-contemporary-arts-society> Flyer attached

ELEMENTAL @ EARLYWORK GALLERY, SOUTH FREMANTLE 17-29 MAY

Open Mon – Sun 10am-4pm Opening night 20 May 6.30-8.30pm - all welcome

Elemental is an exhibition of expressive paintings by myself and artist Laura Peden. The exhibition celebrates the natural landscape in urban and remote WA. I am displaying about 14 paintings including two series inspired by the National parks of Fitzgerald River (near Hopetoun) and Peak Charles (Norseman area) and the bumper wildflower season we had in 2021. This exhibition illustrates a shift in my work towards painting more than one experience of place with shifting vantage points and the amalgamation of views. I am giving a talk - *PAINTING MEMORIES* on Sunday 22 May 11am

<https://www.earlywork.gallery/bridget-seaton-and-laura-peden-elemental-17-29-may-2022/>

Find out about Laura & her work - <https://www.laurapedenart.com/event/165111/elemental>

MELVILLE OPEN STUDIOS – SAT 7 MAY – ATWELL GALLERY, ATWELL HOUSE

As well as having some of my paintings and prints for sale I will be doing a demo and a short workshop.


PRINTMAKING DEMO – 3-3.30pm

I will share some of the many Monotype techniques I use. A free demo but bookings are recommended.

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/monotype-printmaking-demonstration-tickets-296441904717>

SGRAFFITO WORKSHOP – 10.30am – 12pm

Sgraffito means to scratch back. Learn a fun palette knife technique and have a go at painting some of our beautiful native trees in this mini workshop. <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/sgraffito-trees-workshop-experimental-colour-and-mark-making-in-acrylic-tickets-294405403487>



**Elemental
@Earlywork Gallery
17-29 May 2022**

An exhibition of expressive paintings by Bridget Seaton and Laura Peden, *Elemental* celebrates the natural landscape in urban and remote Western Australia through colour, memory and feeling.

**OPENING NIGHT
FRIDAY 20 MAY
6.30-8.30PM**

WORKSHOPS/CLASSES

REGULAR CLASSES

EXPRESSIVE LANDSCAPES - PAINTING CLASS

Tuesdays. 9-11.30am at Melville Arts at Atwell House – 4 weeks
3 – 24 May BOOKINGS www.melvillearts.com.au (08) 9330 2800



NEW EXPRESSIVE LANDSCAPES - PRINTMAKING CLASS

Term 2, I will be teaching MONOTYPE/MONOPRINT

Tuesdays. 9 – 11:30am at Melville Arts at Atwell House – 4 weeks
31 May – 21 June



WORKSHOPS

BOOKBINDING WORKSHOP



Saturday 25 June at The Glyde-In Community Learning Centre, East Fremantle. Contact me for bookings. Eventbrite link coming soon.




The last week of June is Workshop Week at Melville Arts @Atwell House and I will be running a short workshop on Tuesday 28th June. More info coming soon on the Melville Arts website www.melvillearts.com.au (08) 9330 2800

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

BRIDGET SEATON
www.bridgetseaton.com






Melville Open Studios
Saturday 7 May
Atwell Gallery
Atwell House
586 Canning Highway
Alfred Cove

paintings and original prints
painting workshop 10.30am-12pm
free printmaking demo 3-3.30pm
<https://www.melvilleopenstudios.com/activities>

QUIET PLACES
Ballidu Lodge Art Gallery 9 April—30 June
An exhibition of landscape paintings & original prints
by Bridget Seaton www.bridgetseaton.com



Ballidu Lodge Art Gallery, Fairbank Street, Ballidu, WA
Open Saturdays 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
or by appointment anytime (contact Pam Toster 0427 088 885)

