



MELISSA BOUGHEY
Cross-Pollination



Melissa Boughey *Cross-Pollination*

17 October - 11 November 2023

Opening event: Saturday 21th October, 1 - 3 pm

Flinders Lane Gallery is pleased to present this latest exhibition of new works by West Australian landscape artist Melissa Boughey. In preparation for her upcoming solo with FLG, 'Cross-pollination', painter Melissa Boughey has travelled extensively, exploring the divergent landscapes of Tasmania and the East MacDonald Ranges -Tjoritja. When combined with her pre-existing knowledge of the place she calls home in the southern regions of Western Australia, Boughey's practice becomes a meditation not only on the unique qualities of each environment, but also of how the experience of place is internalised. 'Cross-pollination' seeks to capture something of the sensation of being immersed in a new landscape, of witnessing its geography, colours and light with fresh eyes but also through the lens of past experiences.

"Cross-Pollination is a series of works, conceived in different places, and imagined while crossing the Nullarbor Plain. They carry the remnants of prior experience, the current physicality of place and the emotive effects of memory. Ideas that emerge from your sub-conscious while you are in the process of painting is a precious thing to hold onto.

2023 has been a year of some disruption, big projects, and momentous occasions. Interspersed with seasonal farm commitments, time has been spent on the road, traversing from the south-west of WA to Tasmania and back again, with a central Australia painting intensive thrown in.

I can only paint what is inside of me at the time and works thought/dreamed of in one place become about another, a process of transference; memory, feeling, nostalgia. A cross-pollination of ideas emerges within the process of painting; responding to the physicality of paint & surface with tension, colour, harmony, surprise."

- Melissa Boughey

Melissa Boughey completed a Bachelor of Arts at Curtin University in 1994 before moving to Southern WA where she and her family run a small farm vineyard and cellar door. In the last decade Melissa has focused on her arts practice, holding many group and solo exhibitions, as well as being selected finalist in a number of national shows including the City of Stirling Art Awards (2023), Muswellbrook Art Prize (2021, 2019), The Paul Guest Prize for Drawing (2016), Kogarah Art Prize (2015), Albany Art Prize (2015), Lloyd Rees Landscape Prize (2015) & Fleurieu Art Prize (2011) amongst others.

She currently works from her home studio, overlooking pristine rehabilitated wetlands, and takes inspiration from her immediate surroundings. She exhibits regularly in Melbourne, Sydney and regional Western Australia. Her work is held in the Busselton Health Service, Mental Health Unit, WA, The Office of the Public Sector, Government of Western Australia and private collections in Australia, Germany, Spain, Switzerland and France.

Cross-Pollination

Founded on the human experience of abstracted musing, the word reverie captures that curious state where mind and body briefly disengage from each other. While the mind wanders and ponders, the rest of the body goes about its tasks, with the eye unconsciously or imperfectly perceiving external objects.

Melissa Boughey attests to occasionally inhabiting this interesting, meditative zone during her creative work. This was evident during recent travels from her home in south-west Western Australia, taking in Tasmania and Central Australia. Boughey found that the imagery in the work she was making during and in the wake of these journeys was site-specific – yet, at the same time, those locations seemed to percolate into one another. As she made a painting or work on paper, she was dealing with what was directly in front of her eyes, responding with her senses, but thoughts, feelings and memories of other locations were simultaneously emerging, unbidden, and being intuitively layered into the work. Cross-pollination was underway.

Boughey’s practice includes working on paper en plein air, as well as more formal production with oil paints on canvas in the studio. Much of her outdoor work is a playful yet strenuous experimentation: she dips large sheets of paper into available bodies of water (a waterfall here, an inlet there) before working on the dampened surfaces; or she leans right into a large piece of paper to apply ink, charcoal, watercolours or pastel. She likes to work on site and respond to the various sensory stimuli – concerned not so much with how a scene presents itself, but with being open to the emotions and memories that arise.

It is then and there, as she works, that a reverie might manifest. She describes this flow of making as a precious experience. Throughout her career, Boughey has allowed this process to naturally evolve into what she describes as making annotations, in the sense that her work distils essence. More and more, she finds herself not focussing on defined outcomes: ‘You can get really stuck in trying to produce a specific image, fighting to get that image to make sense. I am more interested in creating a feeling of place.’

For *Cross-Pollination*, the special places she has engaged with include gorges in the East MacDonnell Ranges (Tjoritja) in Central Australia and Tasmania’s Hartz Mountains and Central Highlands. Through her treatment of, for example, the fall of light, the intercession of a tree-like form, the texture of a rockface, or rendition of alpine plateau foliage and misty atmospheric conditions, she somehow manages to relocate the viewer to positions within those landscapes. While working outdoors in Tjoritja, she found the magnificent gorge was almost too overwhelming to contemplate; she went for a walk and focussed instead on a tree stump with extraordinary, beautiful patterns and markings made by termites. ‘I find the big, broad view is not what I am interested in. I prefer a close-up, as if you are sitting within it all, rather than the landscape being “out there”.’

Catalogue essay by Andrew Stephens, 2023



From Arve River to Miena, 2023
oil on linen, 157 x 198cm, unframed
\$12,000 AUD



Sitting in Tjoritja, East Mac Ranges (Ochre Hill Medley I), 2023
 oil on canvas, 135 x 110cm, (138 x 113cm framed)
 \$6,900 AUD



Sitting in Tjoritja, East Mac Ranges (Ochre Hill Medley II), 2023
 oil on canvas, 135 x 110cm, (138 x 113cm framed)
 \$6,900 AUD



Sitting in Tjoritja, East Mac Ranges (Ochre Hill Medley III), 2023
oil on canvas, 135 x 110cm, (138 x 113cm framed)
\$6,900 AUD



"The 'Sitting in Tjoritja (East Mac Ranges)' paintings are significantly about the energy of a place. An afternoon sitting in the creek bed, two plein air sketches completed on site. I could really sense the structure of paintings I wanted to do in the home studio; but with the energy and freshness of a sketch. This place had an openness, a buzz and this is what I hoped to convey."

- Melissa Boughey



State of Flux, Symbiosis, 2023
oil and beeswax on canvas, 150 x 150cm, unframed
\$9,500 AUD



Sum of Parts, Interlude, 2023
oil and beeswax on canvas, 150 x 150cm, unframed
\$9,500 AUD



Cross-Pollination (Arve River Campfire), 2023
 mixed media on 300gsm Arches, 114 x 150cm, unframed
 \$4,700 AUD



Cross-Pollination (Silver Birch Walk, Morse ode), 2023
 mixed media on 300gsm Arches, 114 x 150cm, unframed
 \$4,700 AUD



"The large works on paper are instigated by an immersion in the stream, inlet, water course - sometimes at home or another significant place. The sodden paper is then able to pick up pigment, ink and charcoal to stain and create the base layer. Further ink, pastel and graphite are added in the studio and it is during the process that the subject might shift. In one work, random mark making reminded me of the dot-dash morse code abstraction of being in the silver birch forest in the Hartz Mountains, Tasmania. I followed this lead. In another of the series, I had been flicking through my sketchbook and discovered the structure of the Arve River Campfire was present. Allowing these shifts to happen, following a lead is important in my work. Cross-Pollination also refers to plant matter, biodiversity, what is endemic. Or the seed of an idea (from one place) planted in another environment.."

- Melissa Boughey



Cross-Pollination (Parry's Inlet, where the osprey feeds), 2023
mixed media on 300gsm Arches, 114 x 150cm (122 x 158cm charcoal-stained oak frame)
\$5,900 AUD



Hartz Mountains (Glacial Lakes and Coral Fern), 2023
oil on canvas, 103 x 93cm, framed
\$4,000 AUD



Hartz Mountains (In the Alpine Plateau), 2023
oil on canvas, 103 x 93cm, framed
\$4,000 AUD



Hartz Mountains (In the Midst of Mist, Silver Birch), 2023
oil on canvas, 103 x 93cm, framed
\$4,000 AUD



Artist's photo



Day 1 Tjoritja, Facing N'Dhala Gorge Face, 2023
mixed media on paper, 44 x 61cm, (51 x 68cm framed)
\$1,200 AUD



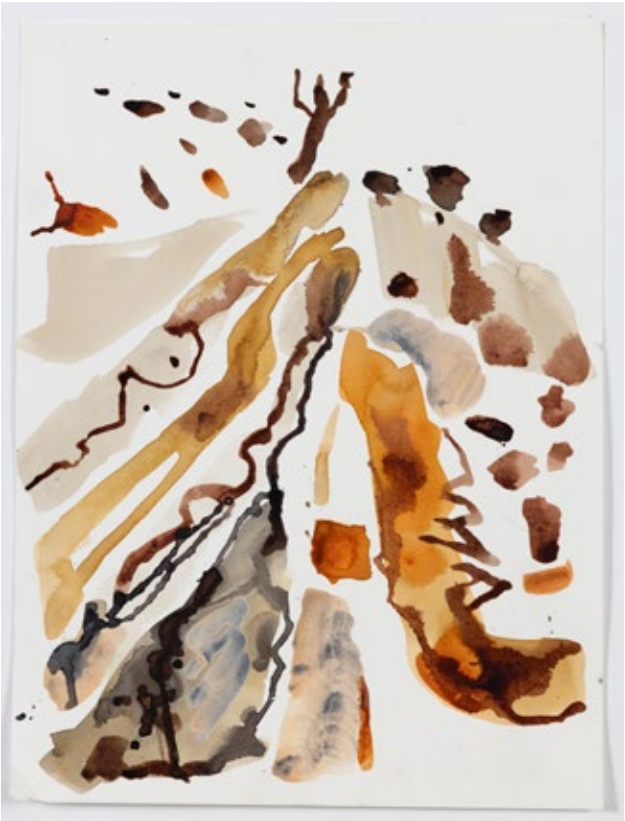
Day 1 Tjoritja, N'Dhala Gorge, facing north, 2023
mixed media on paper, 44 x 61cm, (51 x 68cm framed)
\$1,200 AUD



Day 3 Tjoritja_In the periphery, 2023
mixed media on paper, 44 x 61cm, (51 x 68cm framed)
\$1,200 AUD



Drawn In (riverbed to ochre cliff), 2023
mixed media on paper, 42 x 29.5cm, unframed
\$400 AUD



Drawn In (riverbed to ochre cliff) II, 2023
mixed media on paper, 42 x 29.5cm, unframed
\$400 AUD



Termite Markings I 2023
mixed media on paper 42 x 29.5cm, unframed
\$400 AUD



Termite Markings II 2023
mixed media on paper 42 x 29.5cm, unframed
\$400 AUD



Ross River Homestead (Window View) I, 2023
oil on board, 17 x 63cm, framed
\$1,200 AUD

Ross River Homestead (Window View) II, 2023
oil on board, 17 x 63cm, framed
\$1,200 AUD



End of Day (Palette Notes) II, 2023
oil on board, 21 x 46cm, framed
\$950 AUD

End of Day (Palette Notes) I, 2023
oil on board, 21 x 46cm, framed
\$950 AUD



After Trephina Walk I, 2023
gouache on board 25 x 35cm, framed
\$950 AUD



After Trephina Walk II, 2023
gouache on board 25 x 35cm, framed
\$950 AUD





Artist's photos



Photo by Susan Simonini

MELISSA BOUGHEY CV

EDUCATION

1994 Bachelor of Arts (Fine Art) | Curtin University Western Australia
High Distinction - Drawing, Painting Major, Visual Culture

SOLO & DUO EXHIBITIONS

2023 Cross-Pollination, Flinders Lane Gallery, Melbourne, VIC
2022 Destination Unknown, Curatorial&Co, Sydney, NSW
2021 Small Wonder , Flinders Lane Gallery, Melbourne, VIC
2019 Painter to Painter: A Conversation Between Friends (with Jane Tangney), Whitespace Gallery, Fremantle WA
2019 Eutierria: Moments in Nature, BOOM Gallery, Geelong VIC
2017 Close to Home (with Andy Quilty),Margaret River Gallery, Margaret River WA
2017 Cross Country, Turner Gallery Engine Room 2, Perth WA
2017 Traverse, Art2Muse, Doubleday NSW
2017 Bush; walking, Desert; thinking, Small Spaces, Redfern Sydney NSW
2014 Lightscape, Middle Gallery, Butter Factory Studios, Denmark WA
2014 Paddock & Periphery, Willoughby Park, Denmark WA
2012 Wetlands, Hills & Paddocks, Butter Factory Studios, Denmark WA

SELECT GROUP EXHIBITIONS & EVENTS

2023 Wonderground, BFS Collective, Butter Factory Studios, Denmark, WA
2023 Open Borders, Regional Arts Triennial, Curated by Annette Grant, Lia McKnight & Jane King, John Curtin Gallery, Perth, WA
2022 Open Borders, Curated by Peter Usher, Butter Factory Studios, Denmark, WA
2021 Threshold, Southern Art Trail, BFS, Denmark, WA
2020 Darling, Small works group show, Curatorial+Co, Sydney, NSW
2020 Earth Cry, Butter Factory Studios, Denmark, WA
2020 Pop-up, Introducing Melissa Boughey, FLG, Melbourne, VIC
2019 Land + Marks, Southern Art Trail, BFS, Denmark, WA
2019 Group Show, Studio Gallery Group, Melbourne, VIC
2019 Essense of Rottnest, Janet Holmes à Court Gallery, West Perth WA
2019 Unbound, Margaret River Gallery,WA
2019 Surface, Butter Factory Studios, Denmark WA
2018 Taking Flight, BNW#25, Butter Factory Studios, Denmark WA
2018 Summer Projects, Boom Gallery, VIC
2018 Periphery, BFS, Denmark WA
2017 PCWK9, Nyisztor Studio & Gallery, Melville WA
2017 Interior, Great Southern Art Trail, Butter Factory Studios, Denmark WA
2017 Lost Horizons, Alpha Gallery, Erskineville NSW
2016 Greens Pool - The Visual, 20 x 20 exhibition, Event Curator, Denmark WA
2016 Artist Open House Fremantle, Curated Art Selected Homes, Fremantle WA
2016 Margaret River Gallery at Kidogo, Selected Artists, Kidogo, Fremantle WA
2016 Living Gondwana: A Sense of Place, 3 Day Environmental Immersion, Balinjup WA
2016 Scene, Nyisztor Studio & Gallery, Melville WA
2016 Totem, Southern Art & Craft Trail, Great Southern WA

SELECT GROUP EXHIBITIONS & EVENTS cont

2015 Brave New Drawings 20 x 20, Event Curator, 10 Artists, Butter Factory Studios WA
2015 Exposed, Southern Art & Craft Trail, Great Southern WA
2015 Cossack Art Awards, City of Karratha WA
2014 Everything is a Map, Butter Factory Studios, Denmark WA
2014 Growth, Southern Art and Craft Trail Event, Moombaki Wines, Denmark WA
2012 Decade: 10th Anniversary of the Southern Art and Craft Trail, Vancouver Arts Centre, Albany WA
2011 A4 Art: Brave New Works, Butter Factory Studios, Denmark WA

AWARDS

2023 Finalist, City of Melville Art Awards, Wireless Hill Museum, Ardross, WA
2023 Finalist, City of Stirling Art Awards and Exhibition, Perth, WA
2022 Finalist, Kalgoorlie Boulder Art Prize, Shire of Kalgoorlie Boulder, WA
2021 Finalist, Muswellbrook Art Prize, Muswellbrook Regional Arts Centre, NSW
2019 Finalist, Muswellbrook Art Prize, Muswellbrook Regional Arts Centre, NSW
2016 Finalist, Paul Guest Drawing Prize, Bendigo Regional Gallery, VIC
2016 Finalist, Marie Ellis Drawing Prize, QLD
2016 Finalist, Brisbane Art Prize, QLD
2015 Highly Commended, Lloyd Rees Landscape Prize, Tasmania
2015 Finalist, City of Albany Art Prize, WA
2015 Finalist, Kogarah Art Prize NSW, Judge: John McDonald
2015 Finalist, Lloyd Rees Landscape Prize, Tasmania
2014 Finalist, Mandorla Art Award, Linton & Kay, WA
2011 Finalist, Nannup Art Prize, WA
2011 Highly Commended, Fleurieu Peninsula Water Prize, SA

COLLECTIONS

Busselton Health Service, Mental Health Unit, WA ;
The Office of the Public Sector, Government of Western Australia.
Private Collections in Australia, Germany, Spain, Switzerland and France



Level 1, The Nicholas Building
cnr 37 Swanston St and Flinders Lane
MELBOURNE 3000
WWW.FLG.COM.AU
INFO@FLG.COM.AU
+ 61 3 9654 3332

Tue - Sat 11am - 5pm
Photo credit: Bo Wong