

# AFFORDABLE ART FAIR

SINGAPORE 10-12 NOVEMBER 2023



**SARAH BIRTLES**  
ART + ADVICE

*Hello,*

Thank you for joining me at Affordable Art Fair, Singapore. Please enjoy the tremendous talent and work within this exhibition. We're thrilled to share it with you in person.

All artworks are for sale. I'd love to chat to you and help find your perfect match!

*Sarah*



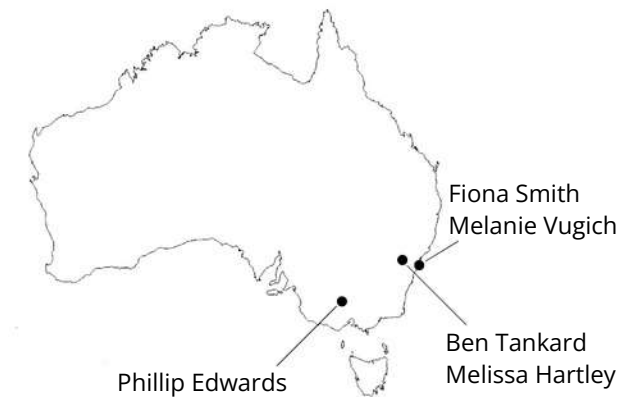
# AUSTRALIA

We are based in the Blue Mountains, 1.5 hours from Sydney on the land of the Dharug and Gundungurra peoples.

Our artists come from all over Australia. Their studios are found near idyllic sunny beaches, on the busy streets of Sydney, in the dramatic Blue Mountains and nestled in quiet snow country.

Infused with our brilliant sunlight and antipodean colour palette, their paintings are inspired by our ancient landforms, diverse bird life and native flora.

For Aussies, these will bring to mind a magpie's warbling song, a banksia's striking form, bush-walking views and humorous banter. For those yet to visit, we hope it inspires you to take some of the best Australia has to offer home with you.



Blue Mountains



Opera House, Sydney



Bronte Beach, Sydney



Mount Buffalo National Park

# FIONA SMITH

It shouldn't surprise anyone that Fiona Smith paints birds. She was raised on the fringes of a national park in Sydney, where the wildlife was far more plentiful than willing human playmates. With no urban playgrounds nearby, her childhood centred around forging friendships with the feathered and furred creatures that strayed onto her parents' property, set on McCarrs Creek in Sydney's Northern Beaches.

Fiona left that idyll to study journalism at Bathurst, in the Central West region of New South Wales, and returned to Sydney to forge a career in media, becoming a prominent business reporter and columnist for the Australian Financial Review newspaper. During that time, she studied part-time at the Julian Ashton Art School in Sydney and also attended workshops and classes with some of Australia's most successful contemporary artists.

Fiona now works full-time as an artist and her oil paintings primarily focus on elaborate and patterned bird works. The birds appear in interior settings, posed on furniture and objects and against vintage and antique wallpapers. The effect is to show the natural beauty of the bird while expressing something of its personality.





## FROM THE ARTIST...

Birds can span the boundary between the natural world and our human-made environments. They pass easily between the two, reminding us of our own connection to nature as they visit us on our balconies or follow us in the garden.

I want to create objects of beauty that also pay homage to some of the incredible designs that have turned houses into homes over centuries. It is thrilling to unearth the accomplished handiwork of women and men whose names are usually only familiar to those who haunt antique auctions.

Fiona Smith



**The Peace Bird - Great White Egret 2023**

Oil on canvas

90 x 60cm

S\$3400

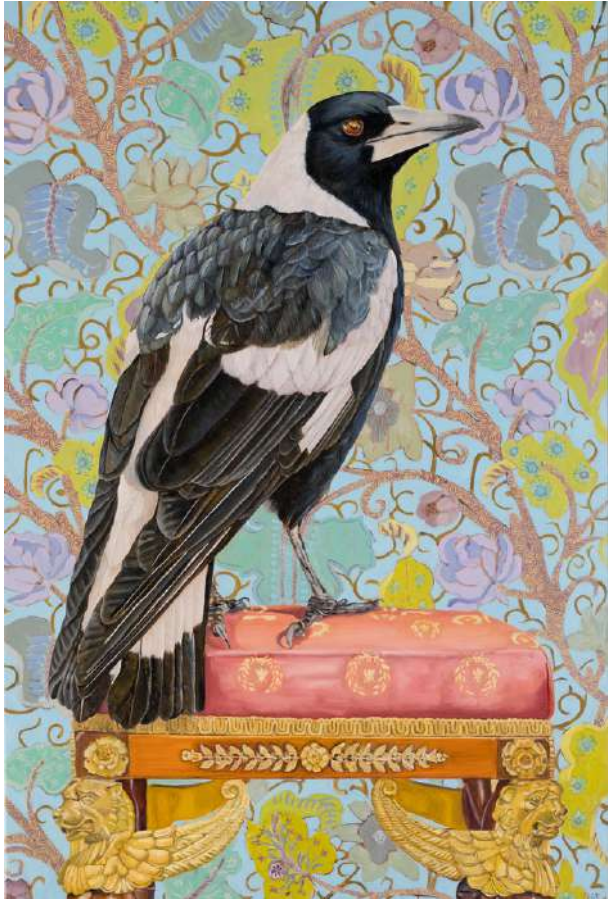


**Jungle King - Macaw 2023**

Oil on canvas

90 x 60cm

S\$3400



**Spellbinder - Magpie on Freddie's Footstool**

2023

Oil on canvas

90 x 60cm

S\$3400



**Madame Indiennes 2023**

Oil on canvas

60 x 50cm

S\$2200





**Duet - The Great Racket-tailed Drongo**

2023

Oil on canvas

60 x 50cm

S\$2200



**Sopranos - Budgies on a Singer 2023**

Oil on canvas

60 x 50cm

S\$2200





**Sitting on a Sunbeam - Pink Cockatoo**

2023

Oil on canvas

60 x 50cm

S\$2200



**Couturier Kookaburra 2023**

Oil on canvas

60 x 50cm

S\$2200



**Sweeties 2023**

Oil on canvas  
60 x 50cm

S\$2200

# MELISSA HARTLEY

Melissa Hartley's depictions of flowers, fruit and other household objects suspend time in an ode to the golden age of 17th century Dutch still life painting.

Melissa's detailed labour offers us an alternative to the clamour of disposable society to update and discard, urging us to slow down and to reflect on beauty all around us and appreciate the precious nature of our time.

Favouring the use of chiaroscuro, she creates high tonal contrast between her shadowy charcoal backgrounds and illuminated subjects.

Melissa has been a finalist in many art prizes, including the Kilgour Prize, Mosman Art Prize and EMSLA Still Life Award. In 2017 she won the North Sydney Art Prize's Award for Painting.





**The Cosmos and the Beetle 2023**

Oil on Italian linen  
45 x 60cm

S\$3,540



**Bountiful** 2023  
Oil on Belgian linen  
40 x 30cm

S\$2,340



**Golden Flight** 2023  
Oil on Belgian linen  
40 x 30cm

S\$2,340



# BEN TANKARD

Ben Tankard is a painter living and working in the Blue Mountains. He worked for 15 years in a bookstore prior to becoming a full-time artist five years ago. Books and art have been lifelong obsessions and Ben often combines the two.

The primary artistic inspiration for his works is twentieth century artist Jasper Johns, who took iconic images such as the American flag and recreated them as abstract paintings, rich with texture. Ben takes popular book covers and boardgames and recreates them on canvas in a dramatic way, with thick overlapping layers of paint, drips, splatters and splashes. This contest between the original clean designs and the expressionistic paintwork results in fresh, energetic works that also appeal to our sense of nostalgia.

Ben studied Fine Arts at the University of Western Sydney and has been a finalist in the Mosman Art Prize, Sulman Prize, Calleen Art Award and the Gallipoli Art Prize, and was the winner of the 2019 Hawkesbury Art Prize.





## MELBOURNE 2023

Monopoly streets large enough to walk on, dotted with the oversized hotels and houses up to your waist were a magnet for visitors at the Melbourne Affordable Art Fair this year. Entirely hand-built and painted by Ben Tankard, the installation was the result of many months of preparation.

National media also joined the buzzing atmosphere, with ABC News reporting that one of his paintings sold while it was still on the easel and yet to be completed!

"I wanted to create something really fun and playful." Ben commented, "There's a sense of randomness and unpredictability in Monopoly, similar to life - a roll of the dice can lead to fortune, disaster, mundanity or the very strange and unexpected."





**Monopoly 46 2023**

Acrylic on canvas

122 x 122cm

\$5,100



**Monopoly 47 2023**

Acrylic on canvas

122 x 122cm

S\$5,100



**Monopoly 48 2023**

Acrylic on canvas  
122 x 122cm

\$5,100

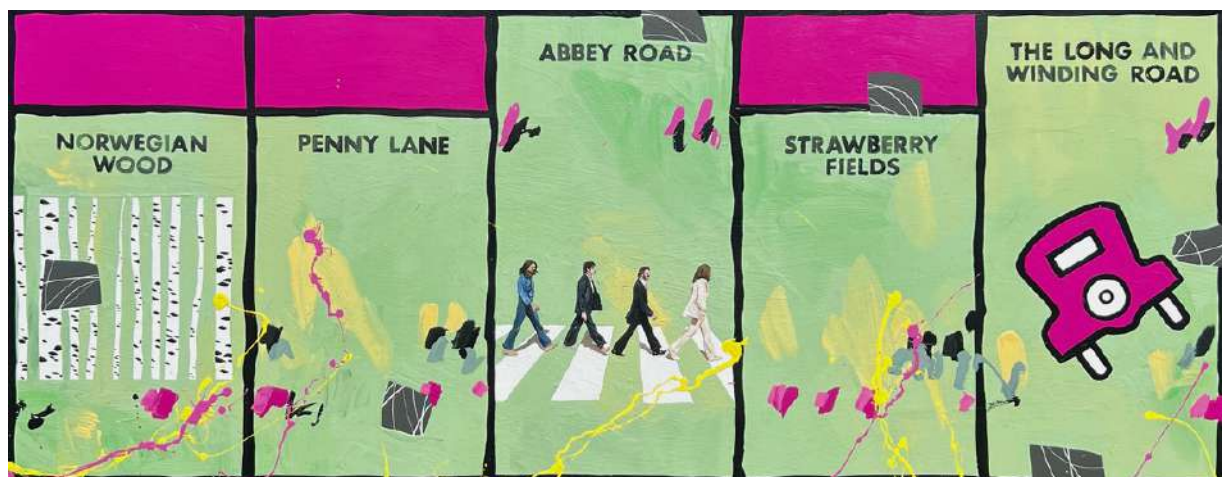




**Monopoly 49 2023**

Acrylic on canvas  
122 x 122cm

\$5,100



**Beatles Monopoly 2023**

Acrylic on canvas  
61 x 152cm

S\$1,980



**Royals 2023**

Acrylic on canvas  
61 x 152cm

S\$1,980

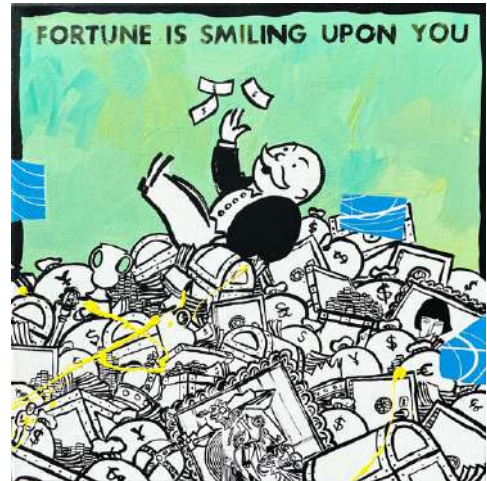




**Everyone's a Winner** 2023

Acrylic on canvas  
46 x 46cm

S\$690



**Fortune** 2023

Acrylic on canvas  
46 x 46cm

S\$690



**No Dancing** 2023

Acrylic on canvas  
46 x 46cm

S\$690



**Sunshine in a Bag** 2023

Acrylic on canvas  
46 x 46cm

S\$690



**Players Gonna Play** 2023  
Acrylic on canvas  
46 x 46cm

S\$690



**Humility** 2023  
Acrylic on canvas  
46 x 46cm

S\$690



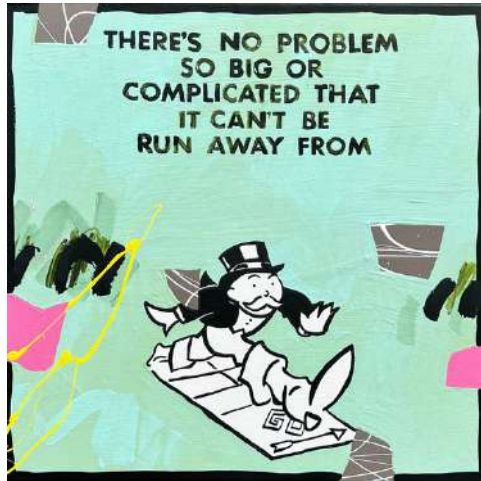
**Take the Money and Run** 2023  
Acrylic on canvas  
46 x 46cm

S\$690



**Only Happy When It Rains** 2023  
Acrylic on canvas  
46 x 46cm

S\$690



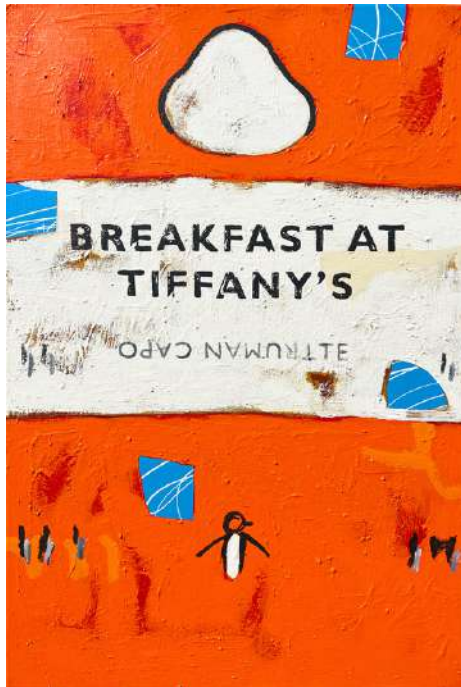
**No Problem** 2023

Acrylic on canvas

46 x 46cm

S\$690

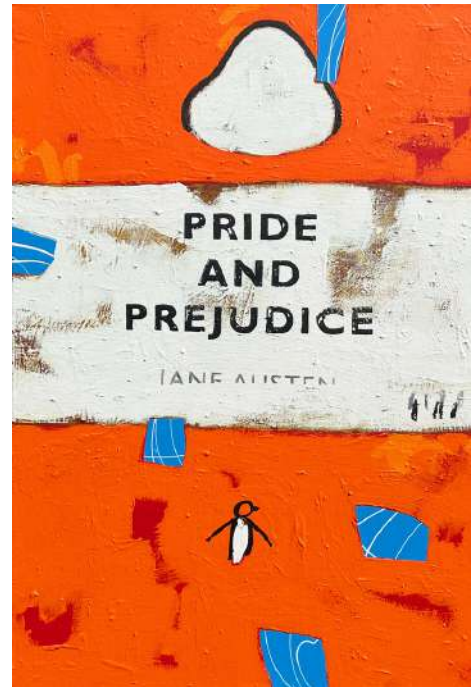




**Unpopular Penguin 837 2023**

Acrylic on canvas  
76 x 51cm

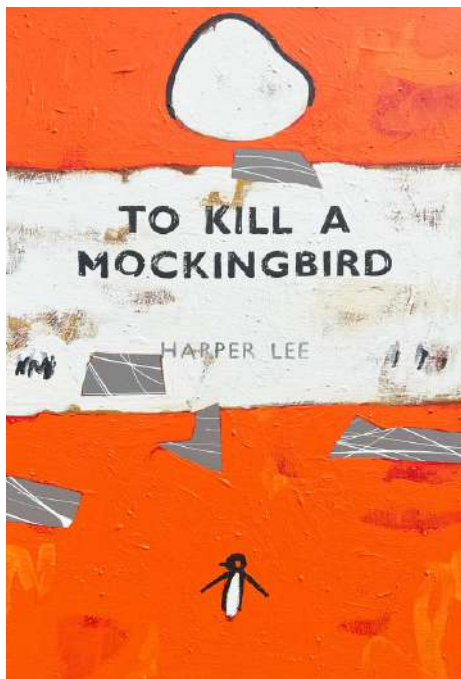
S\$800



**Unpopular Penguin 838 2023**

Acrylic on canvas  
76 x 51cm

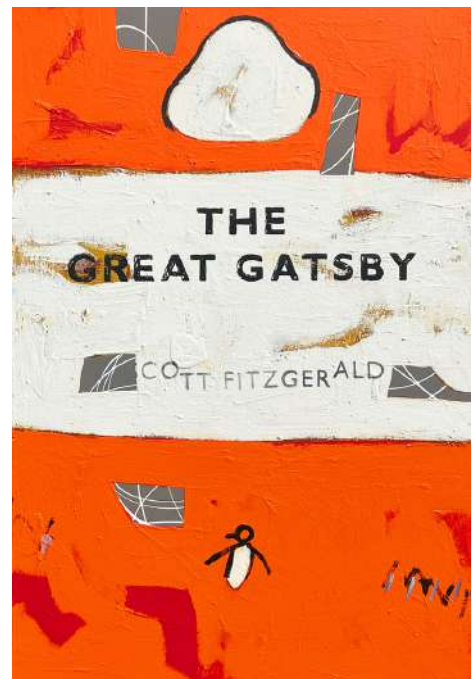
S\$800



**Unpopular Penguin 836 2023**

Acrylic on canvas  
76 x 51cm

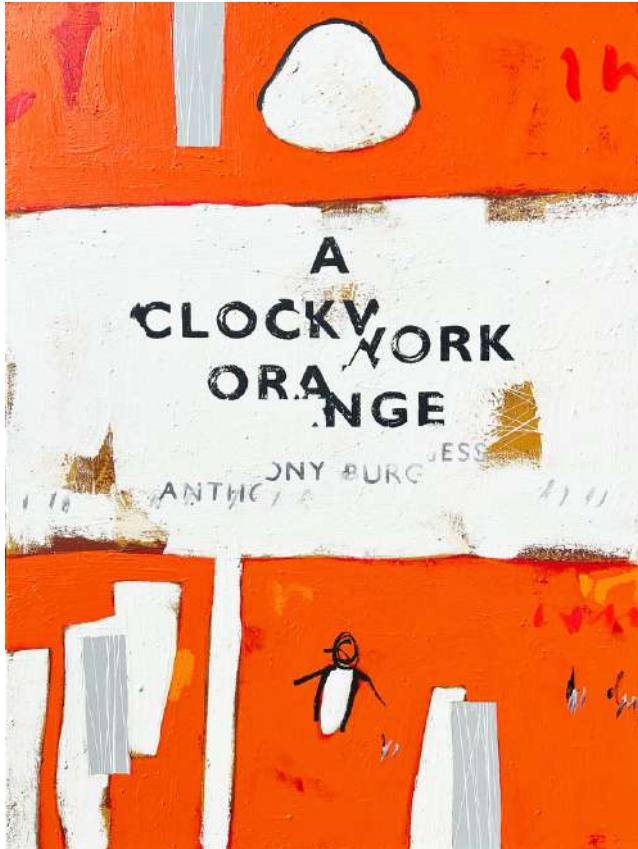
S\$800



**Unpopular Penguin 839 2023**

Acrylic on canvas  
76 x 51cm

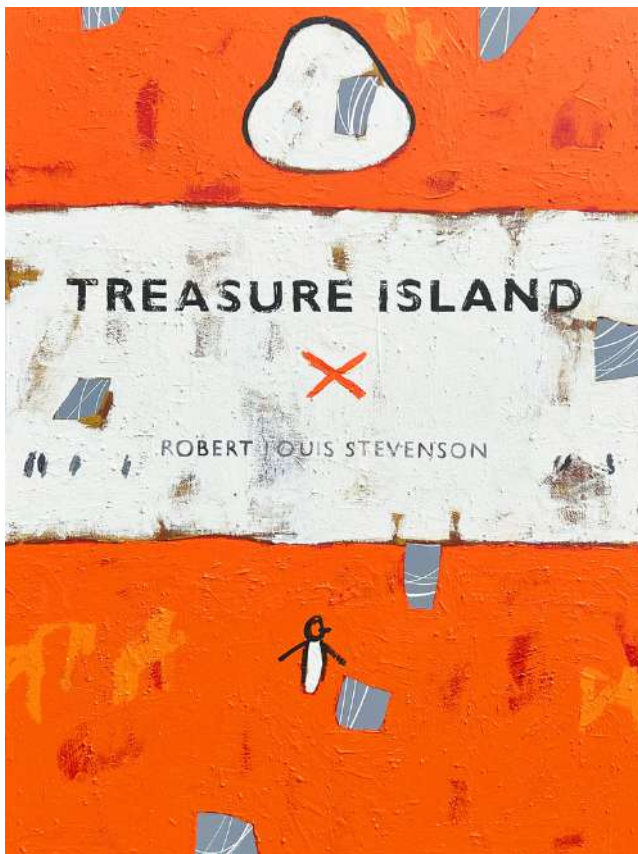
S\$800



**Unpopular Penguin 834 2023**

Acrylic on canvas  
101 x 76cm

S\$1700



**Unpopular Penguin 835 2023**

Acrylic on canvas  
101 x 76cm

S\$1700



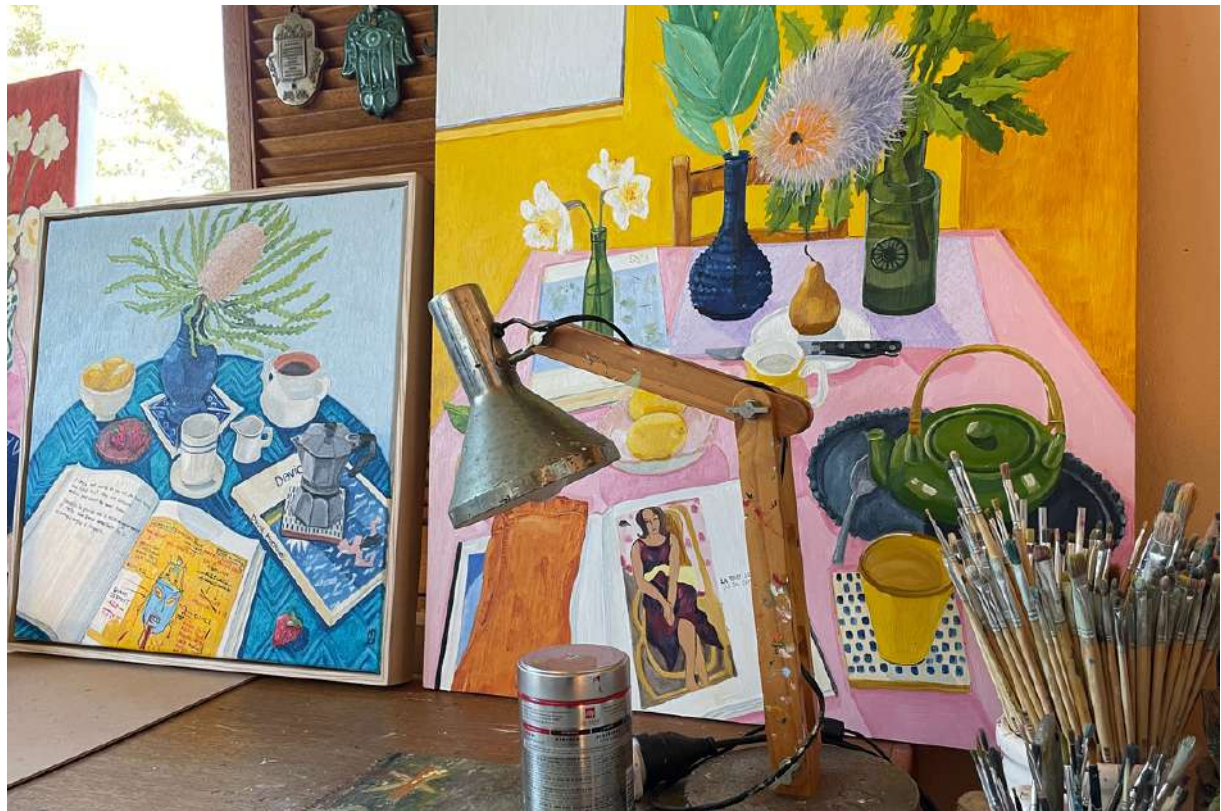
# MELANIE VUGICH

Melanie Vugich grew up in the New South Wales town of Broken Hill then spent time in Adelaide, Sydney and London before venturing to Italy. She fell in love with Florence and lived there for 25 years, working as a fabric designer for high-end fashion labels and painting in her spare time.

Relocating to the Sydney suburb of Bronte in 2010, Melanie now paints full-time and focuses on the still life genre, which allows her to celebrate the beauty of Australian native flowers and everyday household items.

In May 2023, Melanie's work appeared on the cover of popular Australian magazine *frankie*. She has also been featured by *Vogue Australia* and appears in *STILL LIFE*, by author/curator Amber Creswell Bell, which was published by Thames & Hudson Australia in 2021 and features over 40 prominent Australian artists.

Melanie's work is held in private collections around Australia and in Denmark, Italy, France, Germany, London, Singapore and the US.





## FROM THE ARTIST...

Each year my partner and I head to his Calabrian hometown, where we have a small house and savour the opportunity to break our usual routines and relax with longtime friends. Life slows to a leisurely pace and fresh inspiration is found in simple things... Lazy beach days, strolls through bountiful orchards, visits to local produce markets and dinner at rustic restaurants present an abundance of colour and beauty that I capture via photos and illustrations.

Back in my Sydney studio a few weeks later, my work naturally takes on a distinctly Italian flavour. Shades of rust, gold and pink serve as the backdrop for new tablescapes, with handpainted Italian ceramics, fleshy fruits and art books from my Calabrian library set amid banksias and king proteas.

I love the juxtaposition; the coming together of my two homes; the way vintage and modern everyday items sit in harmony on my dining table. I also love that these paintings are being shown in Singapore, my favourite city to stay for a few days on those long trips from Sydney to Italy and back!

Melanie Vugich





**Summer Fruit & Chianti for Two** 2023

Oil on canvas, framed in oak  
100 x 100cm

S\$5,000



**Spring is a Glorious Thing** 2023

Oil on canvas, framed in oak  
100 x 100cm

S\$5,000



**Banksia Beauty on  
Florentine Cloth** 2023  
Oil on canvas, framed in oak  
80 x 80cm

S\$4,000



**A Dreamy Morning with  
Milton Avery** 2023  
Oil on canvas, framed in oak  
80 x 80cm

S\$4,000



**Freshly Picked Flowers & Blue Hues** 2023

Oil on canvas, framed in oak  
60 x 60cm

S\$2,800



**Milky Tea & Picasso's Mother and Child** 2023

Oil on canvas, framed in oak  
60 x 60cm

S\$2,800





**Strong Coffee with You & Matisse 2023**

Oil on canvas, framed in oak  
60 x 60cm

S\$2,800



**King White Protea on Tuscan Gold 2023**

Oil on canvas, framed in oak  
60 x 60cm

S\$2,800



## OSCAR de la RENTA x VUGICH

In 2021, Melanie was contacted via Instagram by a press agent asking if she would be interested in designing some fabric prints for a New York fashion label. Once she had responded with a 'Yes', Melanie learned the label was Oscar de la Renta and has since had the pleasure of working directly with Co Creative Director Laura Kim and Juliana Schisano, Manager of Fabric Research & Development.

Over the past two years, Melanie's prints have been worn by numerous celebrities, including Sarah Jessica Parker, Kristen Davis, Dr Jill Biden, Mariska Hargitay and Paris Hilton.

All images courtesy of Oscar de la Renta.

# PHILLIP EDWARDS

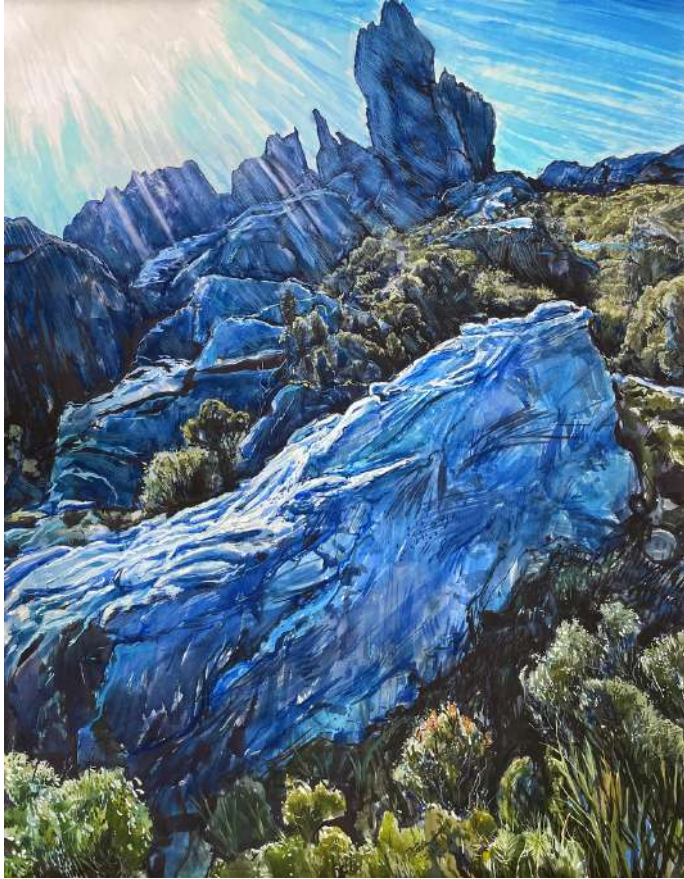
The rolling hills, deep valleys and tiered waterfalls of Victoria's West Gippsland region are where Phillip Edwards first developed his affinity with the natural environment. Now based within the vibrant Daylesford arts community, Phillip's connection to the great outdoors is ever present in his dynamic landscape work.

"When I hike in back country, I'm totally present in a contemplative way," he explains. "For me, my paintings capture that invisible energy behind all things... A mystical encounter with beauty."

Having dedicated the past 30 years to his art practice, Phillip has held multiple solo shows and participated in many group exhibitions.

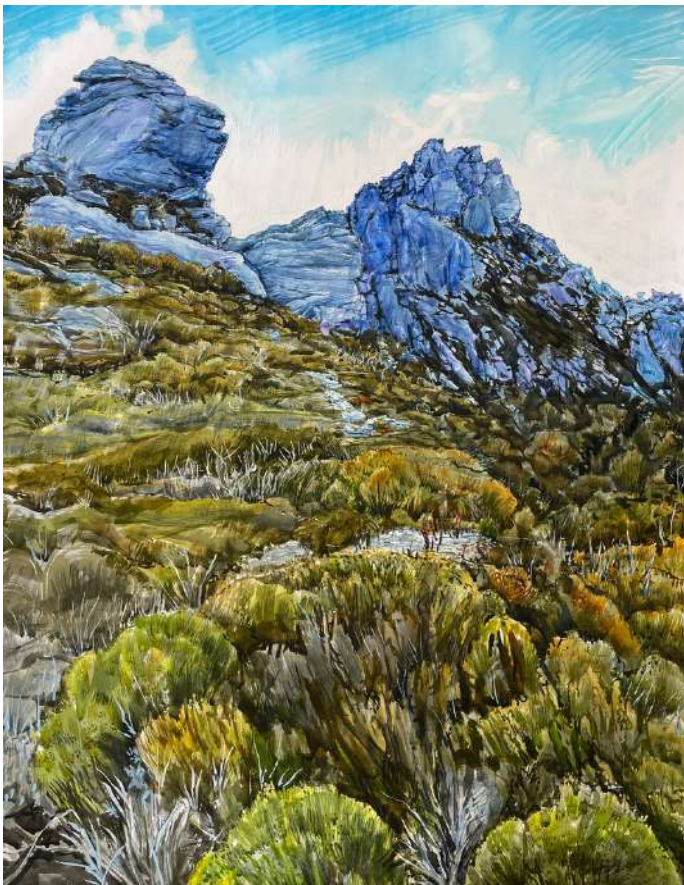
As a 2018 finalist of the prestigious Wynne Prize, hosted by the Art Gallery of New South Wales, Phillip was awarded the Trustees Watercolour Prize. He has also been a finalist in the Calleen Art Award, Flow Contemporary Watercolour Prize and the Lester Prize for portraiture.





**Faded Memory Renewed** 2023  
Watercolour mixed media  
115 x 90cm

S\$4,200



**Wild Ultramarine** 2023  
Watercolour mixed media  
115 x 90cm

S\$4,200





**Buffalo Ramble** 2018  
Watercolour mixed media  
115 x 90cm

S\$4,200



**Ice, Water, Air** 2019  
Watercolour mixed media  
115 x 90cm

S\$4,200



**Glory Above, Glory Below** 2023  
Watercolour mixed media  
115 x 90cm

S\$4,200



**Dull Lights Glow** 2019  
Watercolour mixed media  
115 x 90cm

S\$4,200



**Morning First Breath** 2021

Watercolour mixed media

115 x 90cm

S\$4,200



**Buffalo's Quiet Attraction** 2017

Watercolour mixed media

115 x 90cm

S\$4,200

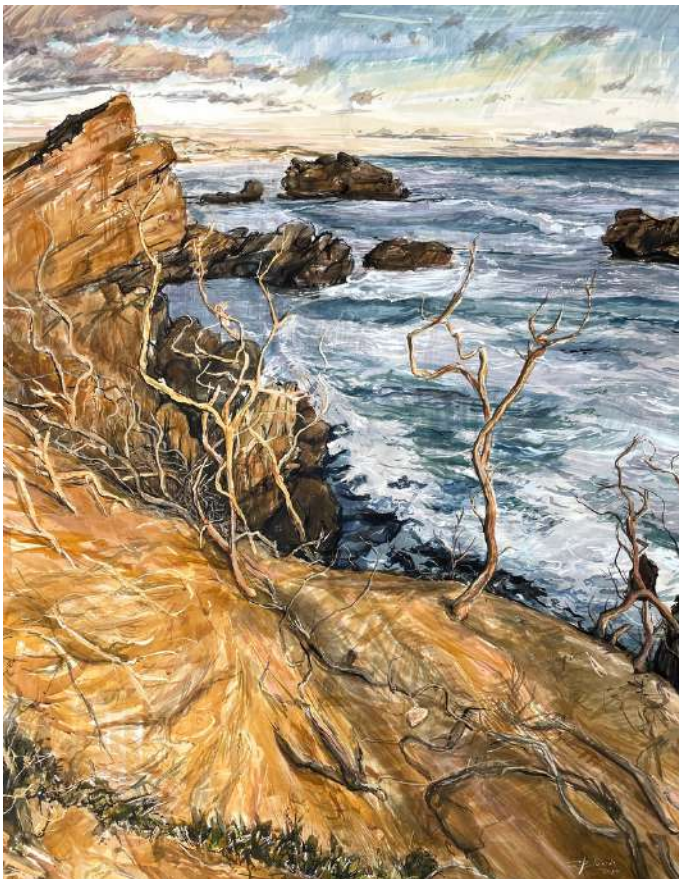


**With Returning Time** 2018

Watercolour mixed media

115 x 90cm

S\$4,200



**The Craggs (Port Fairy Victoria)** 2020

Watercolour mixed media

115 x 90cm

S\$4,200

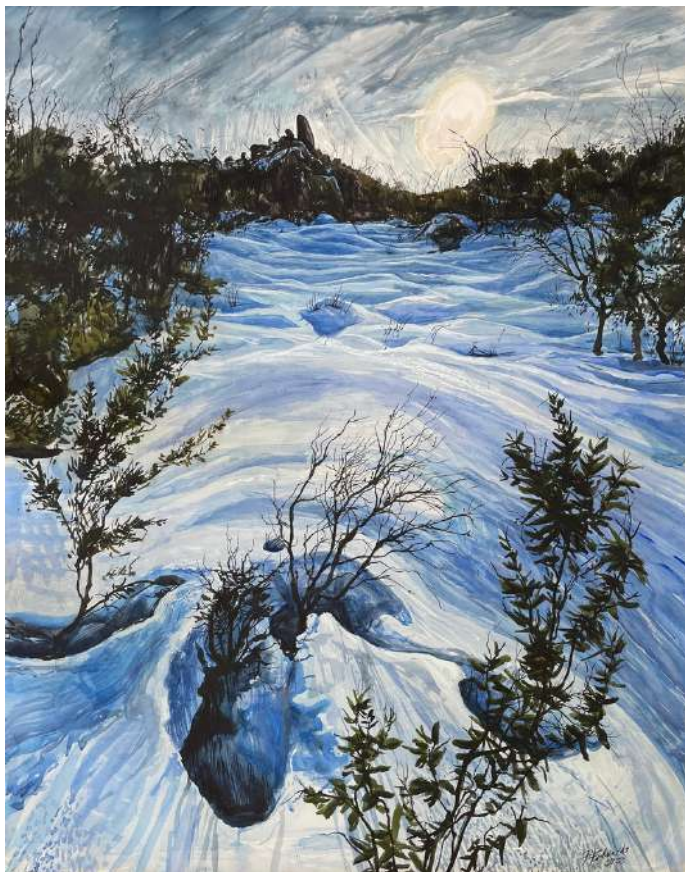


**Division of Air and Sky 2023**

Watercolour mixed media

115 x 90cm

S\$4,200



**Glory in Blue-Grey Light 2023**

Watercolour mixed media

115 x 90cm

S\$4,200



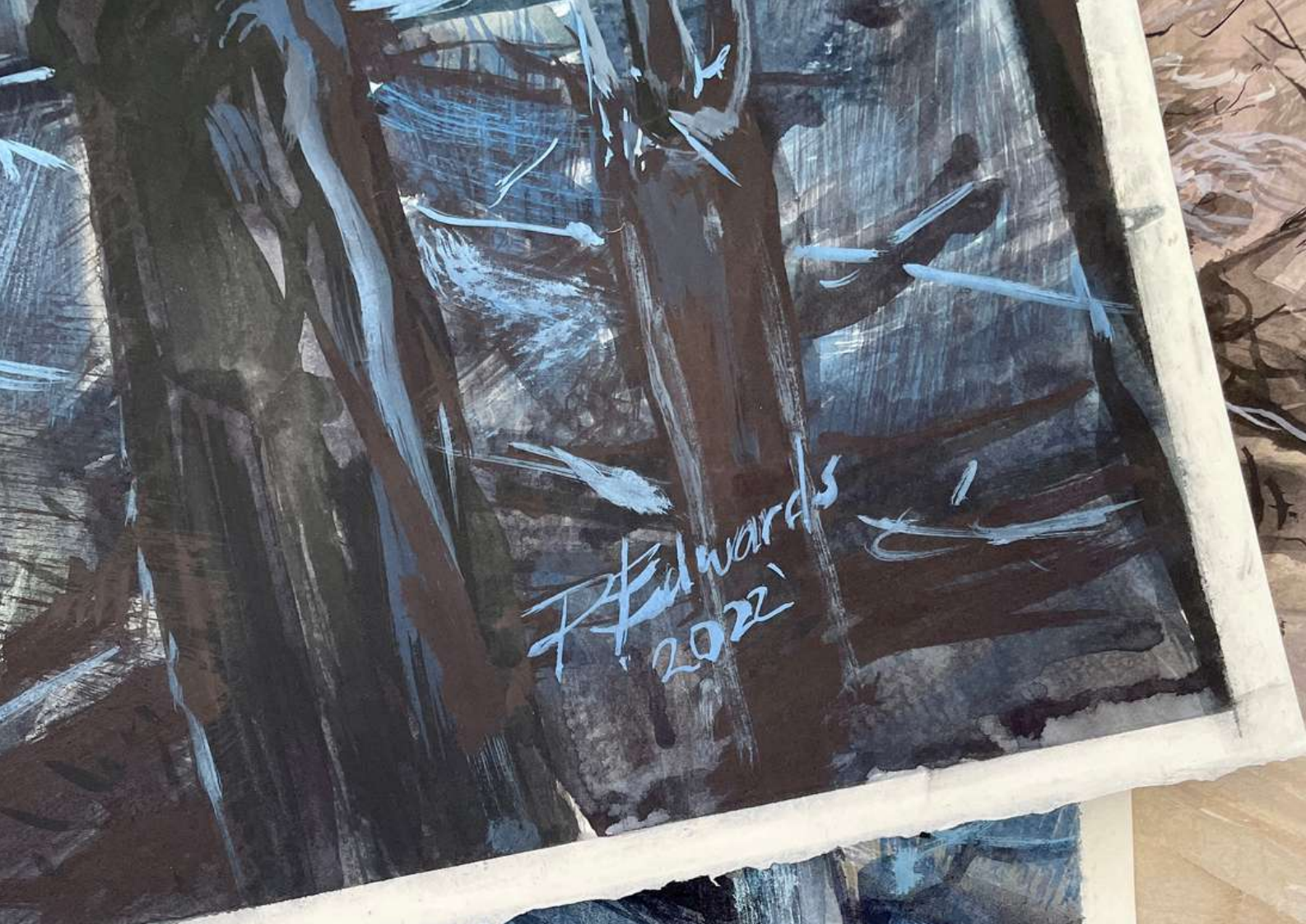
**Hidden Monolith** 2019  
Watercolour mixed media  
115 x 90cm

S\$4,200



**Subtle Tones of Being** 2018  
Watercolour mixed media  
115 x 90cm

S\$4,200



Edwards  
2022



Edwards  
2022

Edwards  
2019



**Wild Glory** 2023  
Watercolor mixed media  
76 x 57cm

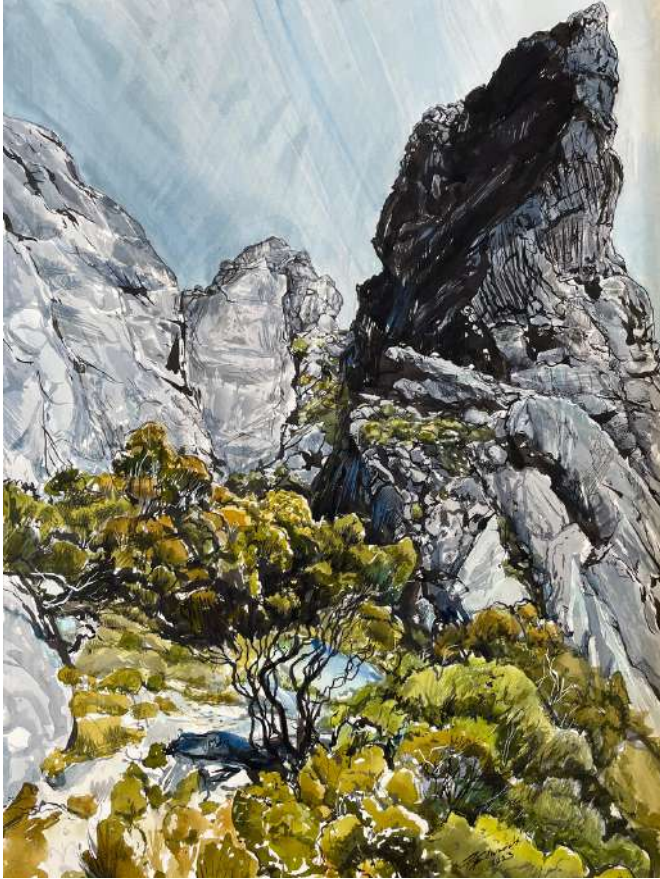
S\$1,150



**The Glorious Diversity** 2023  
Watercolor mixed media  
76 x 57cm

S\$1,150





**Track View (Western Arthurs Range)**

2023

Watercolor mixed media

76 x 57cm

S\$1,150



**Low Light...Green Belt** 2023

Watercolor mixed media

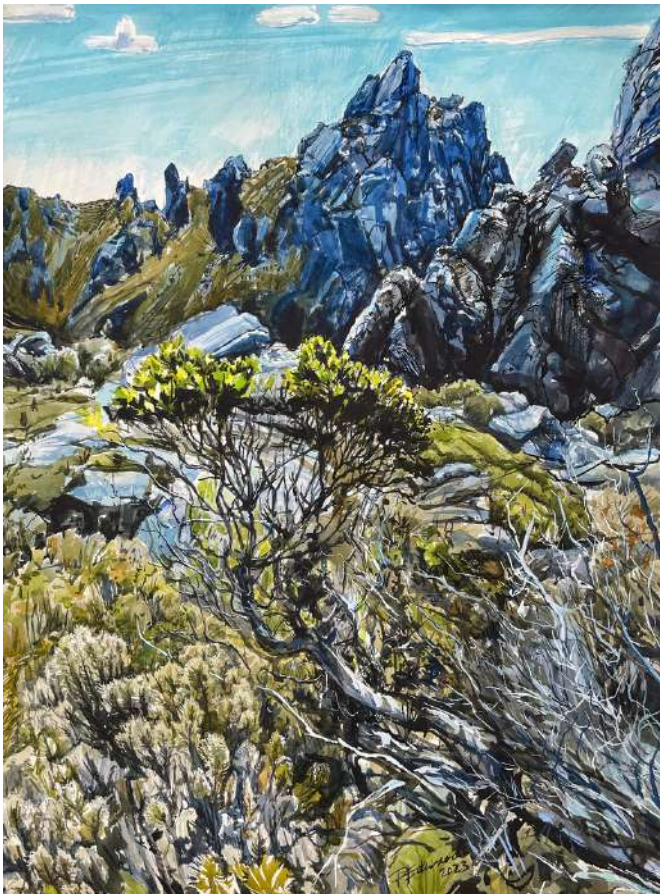
76 x 57cm

S\$1,150



**Rising Gully** 2023  
Watercolor mixed media  
76 x 57cm

S\$1,150



**Summer Peaks** 2023  
Watercolor mixed media  
76 x 57cm

S\$1,150



**Moment's Connection** 2023  
Watercolor mixed media  
76 x 57cm

S\$1,150



**Buffalo Beauty** 2022  
Watercolor mixed media  
76 x 57cm

S\$1,150



**Brachina Gorge** 2018  
Watercolor mixed media  
76 x 57cm

S\$1,150



**Hang On - Hovea** 2022  
Watercolor mixed media  
76 x 57cm

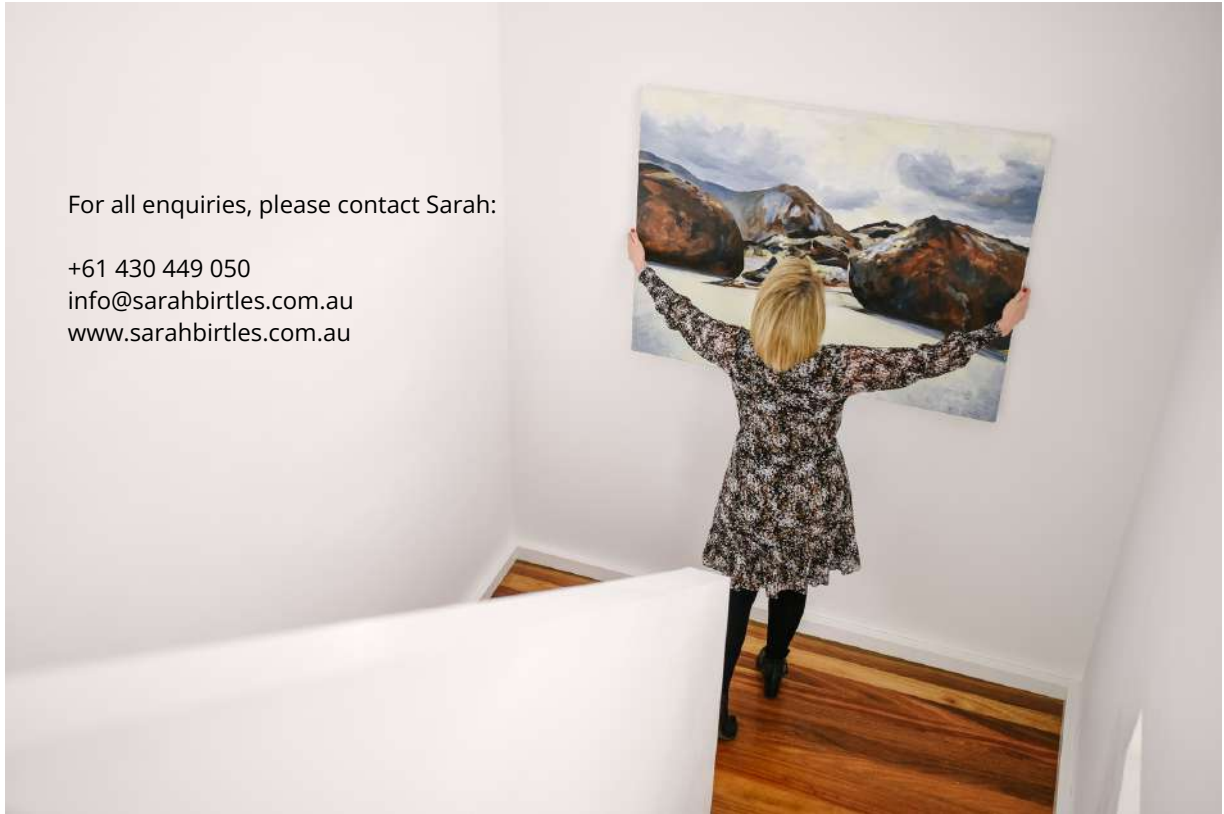
S\$1,150

For all enquiries, please contact Sarah:

+61 430 449 050

[info@sarahbirtles.com.au](mailto:info@sarahbirtles.com.au)

[www.sarahbirtles.com.au](http://www.sarahbirtles.com.au)



**SARAHBIRTLES**  
ART + ADVICE



Affordable Art Fair  
F1 Pit Building, 1 Republic Boulevard  
Singapore 038975  
10-12 November 2023