



The Sun  
The Moon and  
The Stars  
Are Within You

Paintings by Rebecca Wilson  
2021-2022



# The Sun, The Moon and The Stars Are Within You

American painter Joan Mitchell (1925 -1992) famously said, *'I carry my landscapes with me.'* This exhibition ***The Sun, The Moon and The Stars Are Within You*** is a collection of landscape meditations in paint and a response to each work in words. They are reflections of my inner landscape, nature's landscapes and the connections between both.

English painter, Howard Hodgkin (1932 - 2017) astutely observed that *'Words can make it difficult to realise the experience of another form.'* Regardless, it seems that all visual artists are expected to explain their creative output in words, to some degree. The concept of taking reflective meditations and experiences of natural landscape and transforming those into physical objects is challenging, but my goal has been to manifest something positive that did not exist before, both in images and words.

Poet and painter Etel Adnan (1925 - 2021) said that she saw each of her paintings as complete poems and that she felt *'Art has a political function in the sense that it brings something life-enhancing, a desire for life.'* My landscape meditations are a political resistance to the negativity surrounding us. The intention has been to deliberately push back against the overwhelming darkness of the pandemic, the period during which these works have been made. This exhibition is a call to remember that life continues until it does not and that we should celebrate this strange gift while we have it.

The physical act of painting this series has involved playing with layers of colour and shapes which create the illusion of mass moving within the square in all directions, creating relationships and tensions.

The joy and beauty of colour and mark making eagerly infused in the works is a political comment, seeking to evoke a positive response from the viewer and remove us momentarily from the negativity bombarding our everyday lives while pondering philosophical questions about existing in this world.

Surfaces are broken with line and brushwork while circular or oblong motifs emerge. These motifs might represent at the same time cellular existence, organic forms found in natural landscapes including the sky, or perhaps some illusive spiritual cosmos, all of which are interconnected. Conversations spark within the paintings and between them. There is an attempt to achieve simultaneous stillness and movement in this dialogue as questions and contemplations are posed but not always answered. Resolutions are dictated by the paint and the image itself when there is nothing left to be said. The words that are inspired in response to these works echo the contemplations of existence and the contradictions of life also found in the paintings.

Through this body of work, I am reminding myself to feel the Sun on my face, because there is no other experience like connecting to this life force. That I should look up to the stars of the night sky and know that we are the same carbon matter. That I should feel the Moon's pull as it shifts the planet's waters and mine and, in the Moon's light, I should remember that these powerful entities are ancient and within us all.

Rebecca Wilson



## **Emerald Way # 1**

Only your heart knows

How

Many

Beats

It has hidden inside.

The first sound of an

Existence.

Which it cannot

Be

Without.



## **Dreamscape #2**

Rejoice

In the mirage.

Quench this strange thirst  
On ghost like memories and

Floating charms that

Only ever disappear.

Call in those memories  
As if they are soft pillows

And let them carry me

Home.



### **Ephemeral Night # 3**

It felt like

A

Softness

I have never known.

The stars embedded me

Safe in nature's arms.

And

There was nothing more

To know.



## **Earthscape # 4**

Be.

Still.

Find the Moon's light.

Within.

Let it be

A poem

A story

A song.

And waste your heart on fear

No longer.



## **Delight # 6**

She found

Joy.

The light that cannot be pulled

Into

Darkness.

But exists

Because

Of

It.



## **Silent Dreams # 5**

Cold quiet.

Map its lines

Softly among us.

Hear its dreams

And let the stars shine

Behind your eyes.



## **Vibration # 7**

All

Seems

Sound-less.

But her lines hold

The sound of colour,

A sun that refuses not to shine.

Because of it

The cage of her heart is brightly filled

And it dives her into every

Tomorrow.



## **Evolution # 18**

Scratch

Scratch

Scratch

At my heart.

It keeps beating.

Scratch

Scratch

Scar.

It gets stronger.

Ever defiant

With much more to tell.



## **Moonlit Hopes # 14**

Like a

Baby.

The

Moon

Tipped

Her over.

Made her

Drunk.

And she slept a thousand sleeps

Until she was alive

Again.



## **Reflection # 16**

She speared the light

And it tricked her.

There was

Nothing.

There were no straight lines.

Just reflections

Of reflections

Of reflections.

Then the light speared

HER

And she shone like a diamond.



## Elevation # 8

Light.

Lightning.

Lighten

-ing.

Light

In.

It struck her, she was in the rainbow.

And every light beam was in her.

Every ash of her ancestors

Was under her feet

Lifting her along.



## Electric Sound # 19

Your

Force field

Of colour.

Buzzing. Moving

Changing

Who you are.

Repel.

Absorb.

Repel.

Reject.

Form.

Transformed.



## **Floating Joy # 12**

With you.

This

Tickle of

A floating joy.

Life's lavender kisses

And blue roses

Blanket us with perfume

And keep us buoyant.



## **Metamorphosis # 20**

Egg.

Seed.

It starts with.

It ends with.

The flesh of fruit

Energizes, sustains us.

A gift from the Sun

Its sweetness runs in our blood.

Our blood runs in it.

Nature wins us another day.



## **Harmony # 10**

Fill

Up and hold

This gift

Of breath,

The

Brightness of

The

Heart,

A fleeting moment of

Forever.



## **Celebration # 13**

The Earth.

She rolled along

The Earth.

And felt it in her hands.

What

Is

This?

Life

Itself.



## **Lightness # 17**

Real.

Not real.

She held on to

Nothingness.

And it gave her

Strength.

Real.

Not real.

Then nothingness disappeared.

And that too, gave her strength.

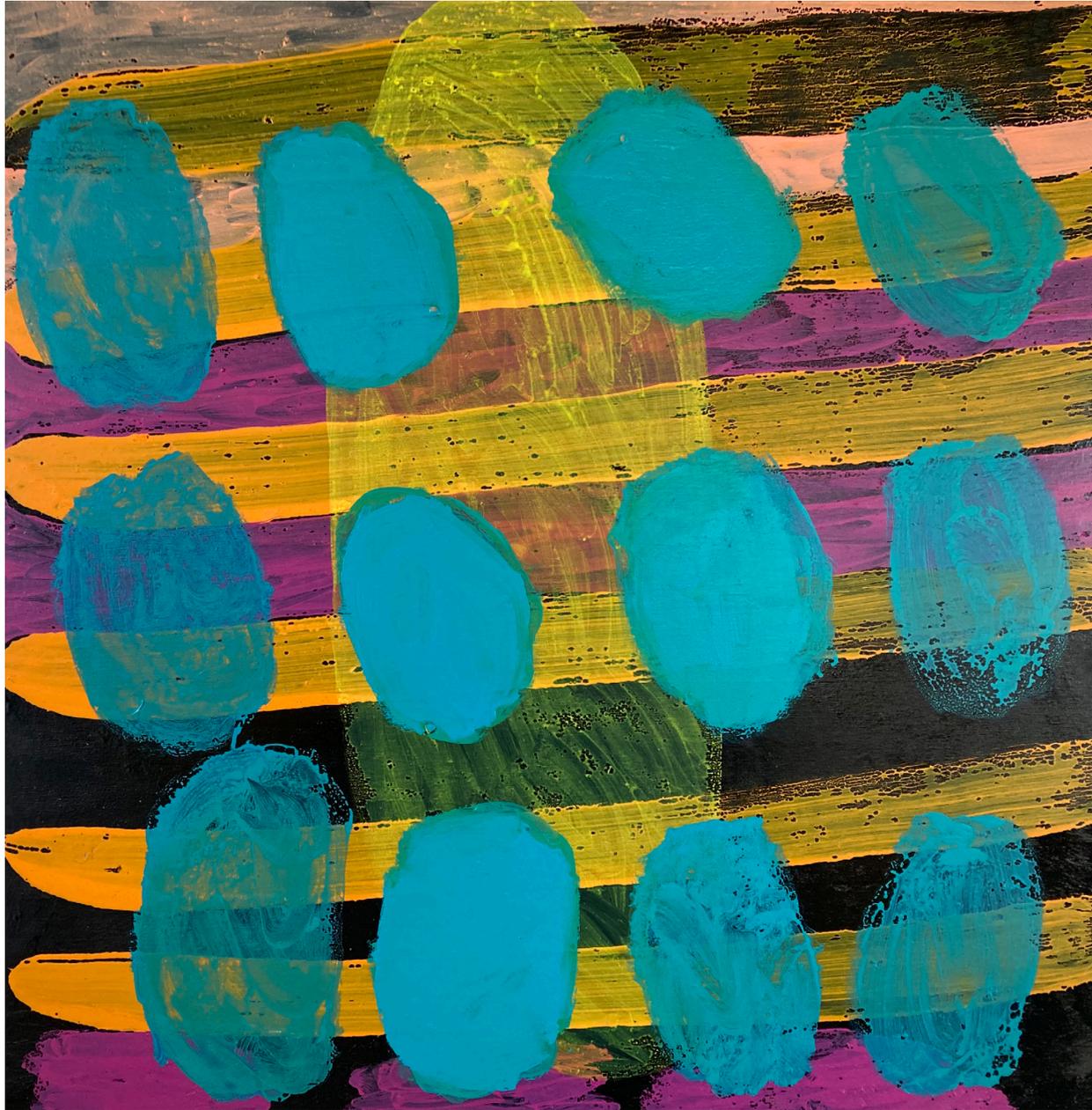
Real.

Not Real.



## **Golden Meditation # 23**

Holding still.  
Yet always moving.  
Feeling your way  
Life, like leaves  
unfurls its gifts  
And we dance  
among its sadness  
and its joy until  
it is crisp, dry matter  
and we turn to dust.



## **Being # 11**

You are  
Held by the Earth.

She said,

Do  
Not  
Be  
Afraid.

The Sun

The Moon

And the Stars

Are within you.



## **Everywhere # 15**

Outside

Is

Inside.

Is

Outside.

Everlastingly ephemeral.

Importantly insignificant.

Life weighed her down

Until she could laugh

And live her days.



## **Elevation # 9**

Hope.

Like a silk cocoon.

The strength of steel.

This

Feeling.

Rise

It

Up.

Scurry

Scurry.

Rest.

Rest.



## **Light of Abundance # 22**

Vibration.

Let it hum.

Be the moved

And the mover.

Fill them with light,

From deep within.

Let it glow

And glow.

# Rebecca Wilson

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## Tertiary Education

2002 Master of Art (Fine Art), UNSW, College of Fine Arts, Sydney  
2000 Bachelor of Art (Fine Art), National Art School, Sydney  
1994 - 1997 Advanced Diploma Fine Art, National Art School, Sydney

## Arts Employment

2017 – 2018 Communications & Project Officer Arts Out West (Regional Arts Development Org.) Bathurst	2011 – 2016 Teacher Arts & Design TAFE Western Institute NSW Orange and Bathurst Campus
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## Selected Exhibitions (Groups shows not listed here)

2021 Myth-Making, Heroes and Villains; Bathurst Regional Art Gallery

2021 The Kate Kelly Collection; Gang Gang Gallery, Lithgow

2018-2019 A Portrait of Landscape and Time in Hill End: Myth-Making, Heroes and Villains;  
Gang Gang Gallery, Lithgow, Grenfell Art Gallery, Leichhardt Library, Sydney

2018 Parallax Art Fair, Kensington Hall, London

2015-2018 Kate Kelly: Sister of an Outlaw; touring exhibition Sydney, Blackheath, Parkes,  
Forbes, Orange, Grenfell, Wangaratta

2007 Australianism; Mary Place Gallery, Sydney

2007 The Blake Art Prize finalist; National Art School

2005 Nocturnal (photographic installation); Poh Chang Art Gallery, Bangkok

2001-2 The Blake Art Prize finalist; S.H Ervin Gallery (included in Blake national tour)

## Publications

2021 Kate Kelly - the true story of Ned Kelly's little sister (Allen & Unwin 2021)

2020 Reflections on Australianism (self published catalogue)

2018 A Portrait of Landscape and Time in Hill End: Myth-Making, Heroes and Villains  
(self published catalogue)

2015 Kate Kelly: Sister of an Outlaw (self published catalogue)

## Public Speaking Engagements

2021 In-conversation with Jenny Barry (Bathurst Reader's & Writers Festival Organiser), Gang Gang Gallery,  
Lithgow Book launch Kate Kelly (A&U) and exhibition The Kate Kelly Collection;

2021 Exhibition in-conversation with Sarah Gurich, Director, Bathurst Regional Art Gallery  
Myth-Making, Heroes and Villains

2018-2019 Artist floor talk at each exhibition venue; A Portrait of Landscape and Time in Hill End, Myth-Making,  
Heroes and Villains; Sydney, Grenfell, Lithgow

2018 Artist/author talk; Kate Kelly: Sister of an Outlaw; London's Central Library, Kensington London

2015-2018 Artist talk; Kate Kelly: Sister of an Outlaw; Sydney, Grenfell, Parkes, Orange

2015 Guest Speaker Rural Arts Symposium; Forbes River Arts Festival

## Professional Development

2021 Bathurst Writers Festival - Kate Kelly (Allen and Unwin 2021) Selected as 'Great Festival Read'

2021 Commissioned article 'Kate Kelly's role in her family's infamous history has been overlooked for too long.'  
Published The Guardian Australia (01/03/2021)

2021 Commissioned article 'Reclaiming Kate Kelly - the true story of Ned's little sister' Published Australian  
Financial Review (26/03/2021)

2021 Facilitator 'Writing History' Workshop - for Varuna Writer's House Blackheath conducted at Gang Gang  
Gallery, Lithgow

2017 Artstate Lismore - Art Conference & Festival attended as AOW arts worker

2016 - 2021 Creator and presenter of podcast series ART VOX; Interviews with artists & cultural storytellers

2016 Red Gate Gallery Art Residency; Beijing, China

**Media** - Multiple articles and interviews with Wilson are available on her website which includes national TV  
appearances, radio interviews on national ABC and commercial radio stations, articles in national broadsheets  
and overseas publications plus she has been interviewed for multiple commercial podcast recordings.

**Collections** - Wilson's artwork is held in the Bathurst Regional Art Gallery Collection and private collections  
around Australia and overseas.



