

Patrice Wills

Art Life - Slow Lane



Long time since I sent an update.

I'm in the slow lane down here on the coast but am still showing up in the studio regularly.

Each morning starts with a walk with Poppy, where I am reset by the river, the ocean and the horizon.

I'm pulled out of my introspection by ongoing work at Bundanon Art Museum, and Exec board duties for our Regional Arts Development Organisation - South Coast Arts.

Sprinkle in some environmental and humanitarian activism, supporting community arts initiatives, and a growing interest in ceramics via the Shoalhaven Potters.

Life is very full.



Nature as Mirror $60 \times 60 \text{ cm}$ oil on poly. A finalist in the palette prize at Gallery Alchemy.

Currently listed in my stockroom.



Mina Mina is an older work that was recently rehomed when auctioned for First Nations children's disability services on Dharug land at the Barefoot Fashion Show during NAIDOC week.



I'm just finding my way with Ceramics every Monday at Shoalhaven Potters.
For now I only share my successes and failures on Instagram.
@mythinkingheart



I've been involved in supporting the development of a local art space in Culburra, and have hung some plein air paintings in group shows there. These paintings are made on site on Fridays when the Shoalhaven Plein Air painters meet.

This one is in my stockroom.



Was fun to have a few paintings included in the Open Fields arts festival in Berry. Both works are now available in my stockroom.



Each year I donate a painted pony to the Incognito Art show to raise funds for charity. But I also love to paint ponies, and these are usually snapped up from Instagram or my stockroom. This little taffy fella features heavily as I drive past him most days.

However the biggest news is the arrival of my first grandbaby. Nothing could have prepared me for the joy and love of this new role.





Painting of my daughter Tashi Rose while I was waiting for the call!

Photo of me as a Mimi in those first precious weeks.

I relocated to the Shoalhaven almost two years ago. Upon arriving I painted prolifically and jumped into every local opportunity. Now that I'm familiar with the territory, I'm retreating back to the basic often forgotten foundation of creating for myself, not for others.

This means protecting my energy and pulling back from art prizes and local exhibitions to focus on developing an authentic body of work, strengthening my oeuvre and seeking out a solo exhibition during 2026. Stay tuned!



This work is currently a finalist in the prestigious Fishers Ghost Art

Award 2025 at Campbelltown Arts Centre.

Available through the gallery, \$600

'Portal' oil, stoneware, canvas panel. 30 x 30cm

Two 9x5 inch plein air landscapes representing different aspects of the same place, sit embedded in a sculptured mount as an extension of the land. This enables the work to be seen in the round, inviting investigation, and offering different entry points, like a portal into an expanded world of sea and sky.

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It's an isolated job to be an artist. The algorithm on socials no longer serves artists well, so connecting one's art with new audiences is challenging.

So I appreciate all of you who have signed up to this email newsletter. Please pass it along, and nudge anyone who may enjoy some art in their inbox to join up.

As usual my work and process is most easily found on my website and instagram.

Web: https://patricewills.com/

Insta: @mythinkingheart



'Freedom is Inside of Me' oil on poly 100 x 80cm.

Available on my website. Painted from a story from my youth.

2026 is my year of the fire horse according to the Chinese zodiac. My creative life is going to light up, jump the fence and run. That's the plan.

Patrice Wills

[she/her]

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I acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders as the Traditional Owners of the land and waters on which I live, and pay respect to Elders, past and present. Sovereignty has never been ceded.

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