

Ends of Eras



Uncle Wes Marne 25/4/1922 – 31/8/2024

A proud Bigambul man and elder of the Dharug community will be missed by so many. He was very dear to me, and I am feeling adrift at his passing.

When I relocated to the south coast, he told me about a most beautiful place that he had spent some time in as a young man. As it happens, that is exactly where I had moved to on Jerrinja Wandi Wandian country.

I am so grateful Uncle was able to come stay with us in those final months. Here he is with Ned and I fishing on the jetty. It was the last time I saw him; however I can still feel his presence here, and hear his wisdom in story and song.

(image shared with the permission of the Marne family)

I became parent in 1995 !

A long era dominated by raising kids, and now my last baby of four, has turned 18 and is finishing school. It feels like I'm passing through a final ring of fire, even though I understand that the endless responsibility and worry of motherhood never really ends, despite the sense of letting go, and feeling lighter as I move into the next chapter.

The energetic cost of raising children is immense and the impact this has on mothers in the arts immeasurable. Women may be able to have it all, just not at the same time, at least that's been my experience.

However, I try to believe that all my experiences that have brought me to this point have worth, and that worth is bound to flow into my artistic practice in some way..... watch this space!



Crookhaven river on Jerrinja Wandj Wandj country

While my family passes through these life milestones a few other things have been happening:

Copes Portrait Prize

Time again for this biannual prize hosted by Bowral Art Gallery. This year I submitted a portrait of Rona Glynn-McDonald, a proud Kaytetye woman, CEO of 'Common Ground', Director of 'First Nations Futures', Musician, Producer and DJ.

I've known Rona since she was a little girl in Kindy. Always destined to be a changemaker and it was great to catch up to do her portrait earlier this year.

'Rona' (oil on polyester 93 x 66cm)



Colour and Texture at Shoalhaven Regional Art Gallery.

Keen to get involved locally I'm enjoying learning the creative lay of the land down here. I've joined the Shoalhaven Art Society and am thrilled that this painting won second prize in their 57th annual exhibition. I have a few other paintings also hanging, so get along and see it if you can. Its on until November 16th.

'Ebb & Flow' (Oil on linen 50 x 40cm)

A painting of my son by the shore where the tide ebbs and flows at the mouth of the river. It captures the pleasure of watching the sea and sky, where time feels limited and limitless, for the sea has endless beginnings, and hence is the perfect place for an adolescent to dwell, on the threshold of crossing from boyhood to manhood.



Shoalhaven Open Art Prize

The bi annual Escape Arts Festival is a week long program with an open art prize at the Ulladulla Civic Centre in which this painting hung.

'The In Between Place' (Oil on polyester 90 x 60cm)

The shoreline is a place where worlds collide. It is the threshold between the tamed and untamed, the known and unknown, night and day, high and low, earth and sky, death and life.



It's been good to have a few works left from my solo exhibition earlier in the year, as I've been able to sprinkle some of them into art prizes providing the work with new audiences and reach.

Lane Cove Art Award
'Making It Through'
(Oil on polyester 80 x 80cm)

At Gallery Lane Cove

This painting is inspired by passing in silence and reverence through the sacred Arrernte gorge 'Inarlanga Pass' at sunrise at the beginning of a challenging 30km hike, where these miraculous trees rise up from their rocky desert beds reaching for the sun.

Now listed on my website



Fishers Ghost Art Award

October 26 to Dec 6th.

Always such a big event on the art calendar at Campbelltown Arts Centre.

I've been selected for the open and traditional categories in the past, but this year I was thrilled to be selected for the Contemporary category.

'In the Elements'
(Oil on polyester 83 x 83cm)

This painting expresses how connecting with the landscape, feels in your body. How the experience, and the relationship with nature and the elements, shapes one's inner world.

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I don't have any plans for the rest of the year except to reclaim my studio once Ned has finished his HSC study residency, and to continue to paint my surrounds.

The Shoalhaven Plein Air painting group I meet up with on Fridays are having an exhibition in November through to January at The Common South Coast in Culburra.

Thanks for keeping in touch
Patrice



Getting to Know You
Mixed media on paper
90 x 50cm