

Media Release

“Common Ground”

Artworks of the Flinders Ranges and Arkaroola Belinda Street, Glen Callaghan & Kelly-Ann Lees

2 local landscape painters. A 10 day ‘leave pass’. A ute full of art materials.

10 days away from everyday life’s distractions to allow full immersion into the landscape for artistic inspiration and output is a rare luxury. As many artist’s must, we juggle the time in between work, home and family to fulfill our art practice, so this was an exciting and precious opportunity. Driving over 4000kms in total, this certainly was an epic undertaking!

The Flinders Ranges is South Australia’s largest mountain range. Its iconic natural amphitheatre, Ikara (Wilpena Pound), stands out in the vast landscape as the centre piece to the National Park. Rugged mountain ranges, spectacular gorges, sheltered creeks lined with river red gums– it was a visual feast for 2 painters from Newcastle!

We set out each day to explore the area, armed with our art materials and our fly nets (it was just our luck that there happened to be a fly plague the week we were there!). We would take photos, do quick sketches, and move on to explore further. As we became more familiar with this new landscape we would set up our easels for longer periods to paint.

As our journey took us further north, the landscape noticeably became more rugged. Arkaroola Wilderness Sanctuary features rugged mountains, towering granite peaks, magnificent gorges and mysterious waterholes, the home to over 160 species of birds and the shy and endangered Yellow-footed Rock-wallaby.

For the past 12 months, we’ve been back in the studio, creating artworks of this unique landscape. The studio is invariably where the layers of imagination and memory creep in to further the experience and to capture the essence of the landscape. It is often more about capturing the ‘thought of a landscape’ rather than to depict the overt reality.

Upon returning, local sculptor Kelly-Ann Lees was invited to exhibit with us. Her steel, pyramid forms so beautifully mimic the mountains of Arkaroola, to which she has also visited in the past. For Kelly, this new body of work was a chance to revisit this theme and to take inspiration from the paintings that Glen and I were creating to help form a new vision.

On display at CStudios are over 70 artworks consisting of paintings, drawings, prints and sculpture in a variety of media and on varying scales.

Where: CStudios Art Gallery
738 Hunter St, Newcastle West

When: Opening night – Saturday Nov 8th, 2014 from 5-7pm
Exhibition runs until 30th Nov

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