

K E R R Y J O H N S



THE WAY OF THE FOREST

ARTSITE GALLERY, SYDNEY

6 - 28 OCTOBER 2018



THE WAY OF THE FOREST

Look at any group of trees and you will see they naturally fall into an aesthetic arrangement. It is beautiful to see how they interact visually as one moves through and around them. I think this is worth celebrating.

In these paintings I have responded to the motif of trees, using a practice that allows the subject to point its own pathway through the making of the painting. I wanted to find imaginative ways to develop each painting according to the prompts of the motif itself. This open approach resulted in paintings that differ in language as I try to remain receptive to the possibilities of each subject.

Forests have long been my focus. I find the beguiling interaction of trees with one another a delight to my eye, the character of the individual tree capable of moving my affections, and the synthesis of the whole compelling.

I have begun most of these paintings in front of the motif *en plein air*, and continued the forming of the painting in the studio. Often a solution has to be found by once again setting up the easel in front of the complexity and the chaos of the living subject. It has been a matter of finding the right way for each painting, when to work from life and when to work on the painting surface.

I have felt drawn to the visual complexity of the bush, trees in profusion presenting a rich field for abstraction. In the intriguing relation of forms there is pleasure for the painter's eye, subtlety as well as intricacy, abstraction as well as accepted appearance.

Painting will always be an assembly of colours, tones and marks on a canvas, yet I also want the colours, tones and marks to form a real correspondence with my subjective experience. I want not only a visual resolution in the painting but a poetic realisation of my engagement with the subject, in this case the way of trees and forest.



Rocky Glade acrylic on canvas, 70 x 80cm 2018



Ancient Dweller acrylic on canvas 70 x 80cm 2018



Beyond the Forest acrylic on canvas 70 x 80cm 2018



Calling to Mind acrylic on canvas 90 x 110cm 2018



Frost Hollow acrylic on canvas 80 x 70cm 2018



Sky and Shadows acrylic on canvas 80 x 95cm 2018



The Way of the Forest acrylic on canvas 70 x 80cm 2018



Spreading Tree acrylic on canvas 60 x 60cm 2017



A Group of Colourful Trees acrylic on canvas 60 x 60cm 2017



Edge of the Farm acrylic on canvas 50 x 50cm 2017



Moruya Forest acrylic on canvas 60 x 60cm 2017



Sunlit Trunk acrylic on canvas 50 x 50cm 2017



Sinuous Forest acrylic on canvas 50 x 50cm 2018



Garden Shadows acrylic on canvas 50 x 50cm 2018



Dense Bush acrylic on canvas 50 x 50cm 2018



Brown Snake Gully acrylic on canvas 50 x 50cm 2018



Leaning Banksia acrylic on canvas 50 x 50cm 2018



Green Trees, Mt Majura acrylic on canvas 50 x 50cm 2018



Chaos of a Coastal Forest acrylic on canvas 60 x 60cm 2018



K E R R Y J O H N S

kerryjohns.com

Born in 1947 Kerry Johns grew up in coastal Queensland. After graduating as an art teacher she studied painting with John Ogburn in Sydney then continued intensively studying and drawing from the Old Masters in Europe over a two-year period. She has exhibited consistently in commercial and public galleries over the last forty years in Australia and overseas, including major solo exhibitions in the Regional Galleries of Broken Hill, Caloundra, Penrith and Coffs Harbour and in Ezair Gallery New York.

She has won several awards including the Eutick Memorial Still Life Award 2016, M16 Drawing Award second prize, 2015 and the Basil Sellers Art Prize in 2008. She has been a finalist in national prizes including Paddington Art Prize, Calleen Art Prize, EMSLA, Fishers Ghost, Kedumba Drawing Award, NSW Parliament Plein Air Painting Prize. Johns works from a studio in rural Bywong near Canberra and is represented by Artsite Galleries, Sydney.

- 2018 *The Way of the Forest*, Artsite Gallery, Sydney* [solo]
- 2018 NSW Parliament Plein Air Prize (finalist)
- 2018 *In the Company of Trees*, Coffs Harbour Regional Gallery*
- 2018 Calleen Art Prize, Cowra (finalist)
- 2017 Eutick Memorial Still Life Award (finalist)
- 2017 *The Lie of the Land*, Artsite Gallery, Sydney*
- 2017 *In Plain Sight*, Ivy Hill Gallery, Wapengo, South Coast*
- 2016 Eutick Memorial Still Life Award (winner), Coffs Harbour Regional Gallery, NSW
- 2016 *On the Spot* (with Vicki Hersey) Form Studio & Gallery, Queanbeyan
- 2015 *Forest Subjective*, Form Studio & Gallery, Queanbeyan*
- 2013 *Under Southern Skies*, Charles Hewitt Gallery, Sydney*
- 2012 *Taking Place*, Chapman Gallery, Canberra, ACT*
- 2011 *New work*, Ivy Hill Gallery, Wapengo NSW*
- 2010 Calleen Art Prize, Cowra (finalist) NSW
- 2009 *New work*, Ivy Hill Gallery, Wapengo NSW*
- 2008 *New work*, Katoomba Fine Art, Katoomba NSW*

- 2008 Basil Sellers Art Prize Eurobodalla (winner)
- 2008 Paddington Art Prize, Sydney (finalist)
- 2007 *Art of the South East*, Moruya, NSW
- 2006 Basil Sellers Art Prize, Eurobodalla (finalist)
- 2006 *Passages*, Katoomba Fine Art, Katoomba NSW*
- 2005 Kedumba Drawing Award (acquired, Kedumba Collection)
- 2004 *Landmarks*, Ezair Gallery, New York*
- 2004 *Land out of Time*, Penrith Regional Gallery, Penrith
- 2003 *Returning*, Caloundra Regional Art Gallery, Qld
- 2002 *Homeground*, Fremantle Arts Centre, Fremantle, WA
- 2002 *All the wild ephemera*, Ezair Gallery, New York*
- 2002 *Memory & Mountains*, Penrith Regional Gallery, Penrith*
- 2000 *Homeground*, with Marianne Penberthy, Caloundra Regional Art Gallery, Qld
- 1999 *Blue Air; Red Earth*, Broken Hill City Art Gallery, NSW.