



LOOK

Drawing and painting in remote places
by Debbie Mackinnon

Look for things that others may overlook...

Look Harder

Look Longer

Look Deeper

‘Saper vedere’: know how to look, was the motto of Leonardo da Vinci, and it’s a mantra I have adopted for myself.

2021 offered me time for reflection - long periods of enforced lockdowns and no opportunity for travel. Time to mostly stay close to home and connect with the natural landscape on my doorstep. I made each daily lockdown walk really count, with all my senses alert to the world around me. Drawing outside became a wonderful routine which I looked forward to each day. It is a privilege to stop and notice tiny daily changes as the seasons slowly revolve.



I made no advance plans, but merely drew the things that caught my attention, as I walked or sat in the landscape.

Ordinary things become extraordinary as soon as you pay attention to them. I have a determination to stay curious and allow new insights to emerge in my drawings.

Seeing should be an active process- that might mean noticing a new bud emerging; glimpses of unexpected colour; interesting shapes and patterns; shifting light and shadows; how weather and time affect the natural world or simply watching rocks merge into ocean as the tide ebbs and flows. Truly nothing in the landscape remains static.





L to R:

Come With Me

You Are Here

Standing Steady

28 x 33 cm each

acrylic on birch panels

\$850 each

Beach walks always provide escape and solace. Each time something new is revealed, something changes, something is hidden- perhaps a metaphor for our uncertain times.



Coastal studies

My sketchbook accompanied me on all these mindful walks. Drawing is visual thinking, and a wonderfully effective tool to achieve a powerful engagement with the natural world. The observing and thinking is a slow process, although my sketchbook drawings are mostly fast and loose. I add random marks with paint or collage to the sketchbook pages before I set out, to give my imagination something to work with. I welcome imperfection in these drawings and merely look for the beauty and joy of being in the moment. However it is extraordinary that making a simple drawing can fuse the memories of each place into my head in such a powerful way.





Lost in Thought
 23 x 43 cm
 Acrylic on birch panel
 \$700



The Sound of Silence
 23 x 43 cm
 Acrylic on birch panel
 \$700

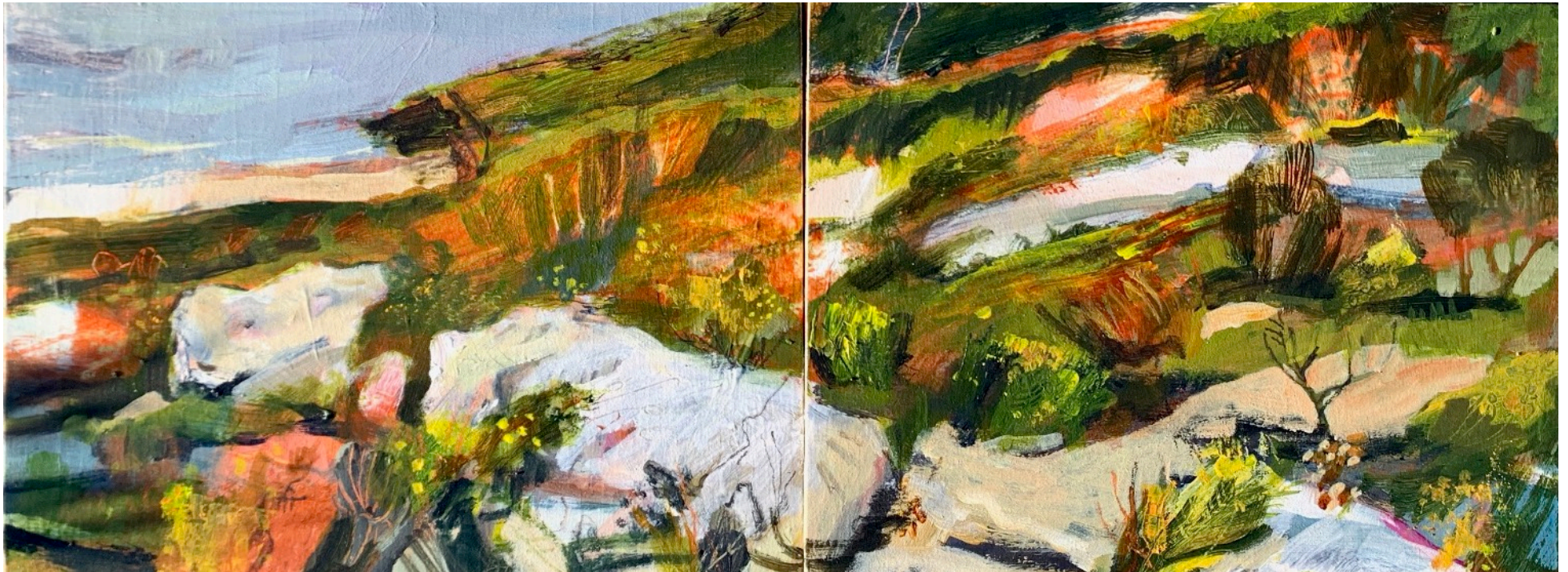


Visible Invisibility

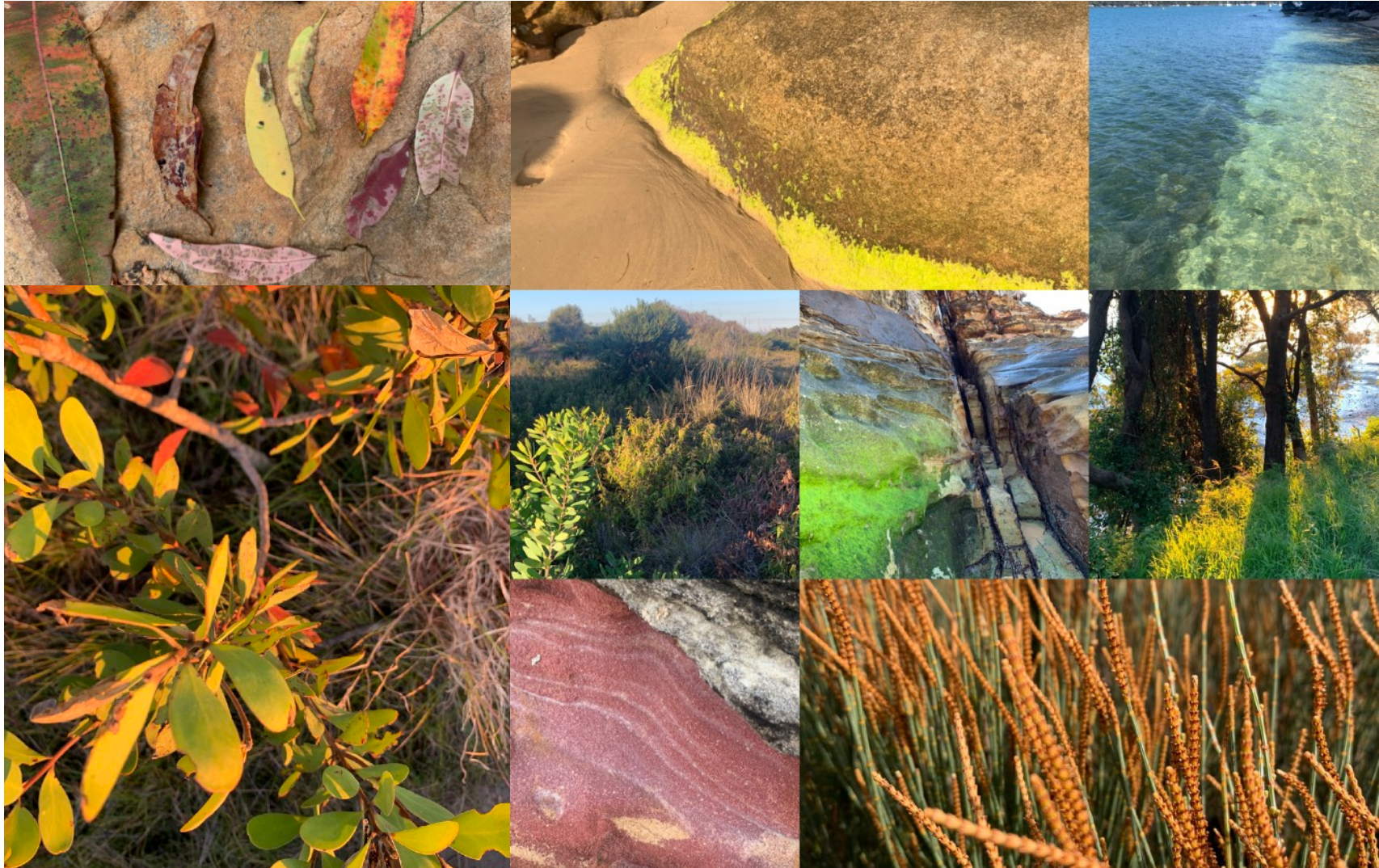
33 x 83 diptych

Acrylic on birch panel

\$1500



In order to see more, you have to get out into the world and actively see things. How you look is as important as what you are looking at. Things you notice one day may not be there the next. You have to remember and store up those things for later. You never know when they may emerge in your work.



My walks revealed so many glimpses of unexpected colour...

The First Days of Spring

63 x 63 cm

Acrylic on birch panel



This painting was selected as a finalist in
the Hawkesbury Art Prize 2021





Stay Awhile

Acrylic on canvas

93 x 123 cm

\$4600



Stand Upright And Be Strong

Acrylic on birch panel

63 x 63 cm

\$2200 ●



All These Years

Acrylic on birch panel

63 x 63 cm

\$2200



Rockpool Magic

Acrylic on birch panel

23 x 23 cm

\$550



Never Hurry through The World

Acrylic on birch panel

63 x 63 cm

\$2200



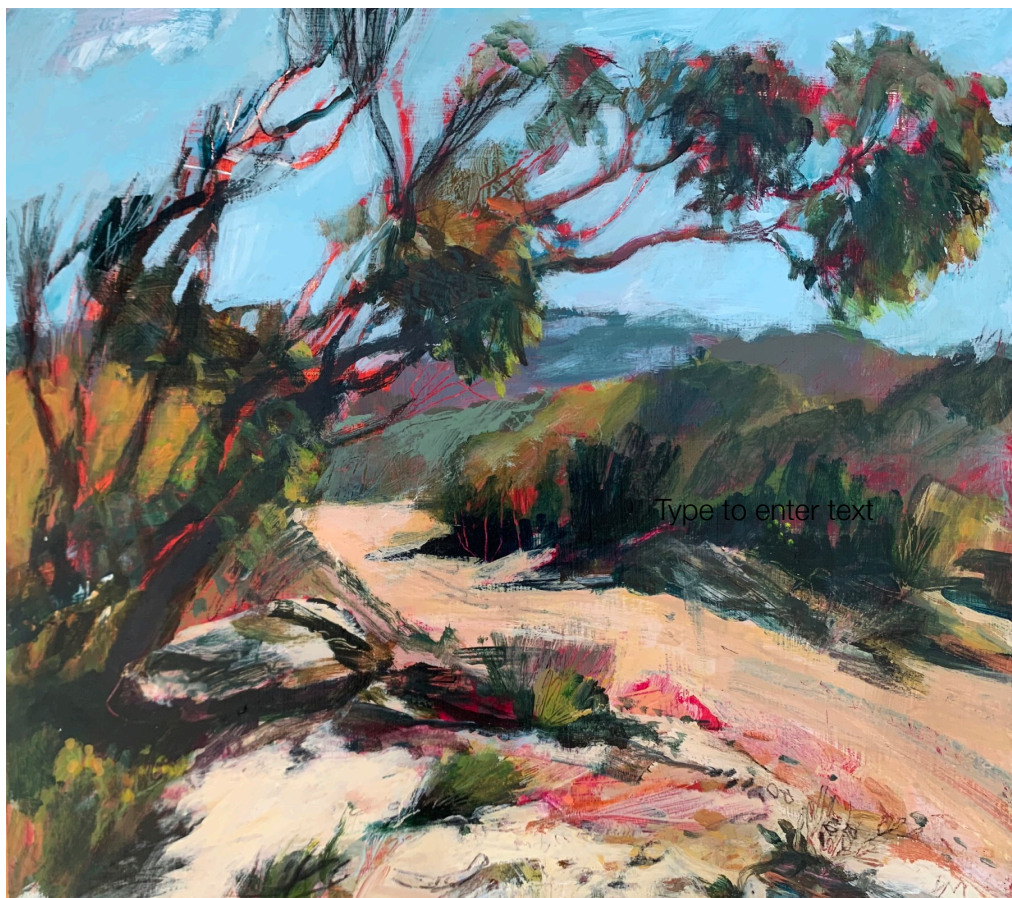
When I Am Amongst The Trees

Acrylic and mixed media

on birch panel

83 x 100 cm

\$3800



I Am Blessed

Acrylic on birch panel

43 x 53 cm

framed in Tasmanian Oak

\$1400 ●

Type to enter text

Free the Spirit

Acrylic on birch panel

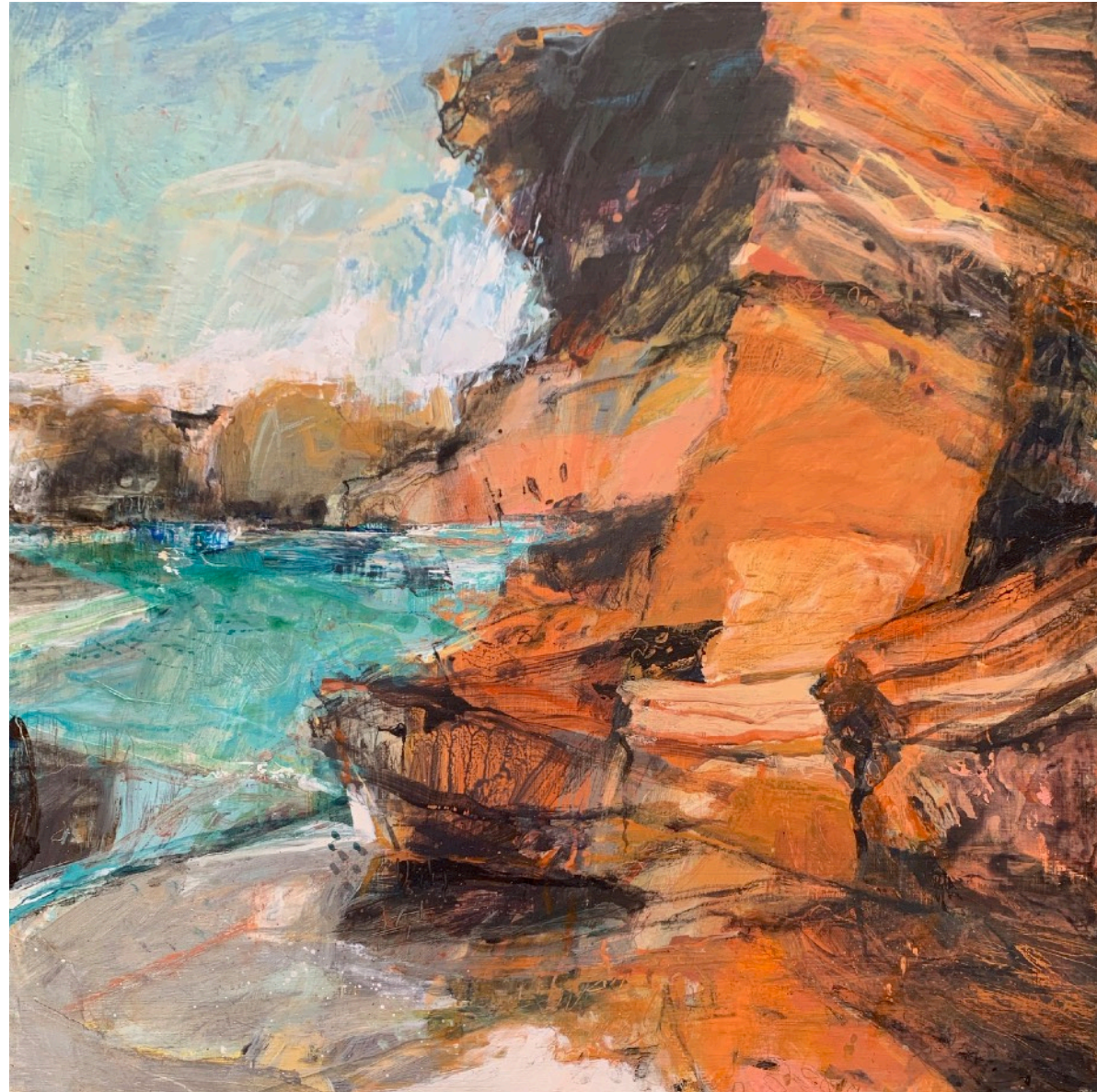
35 x 55 cm

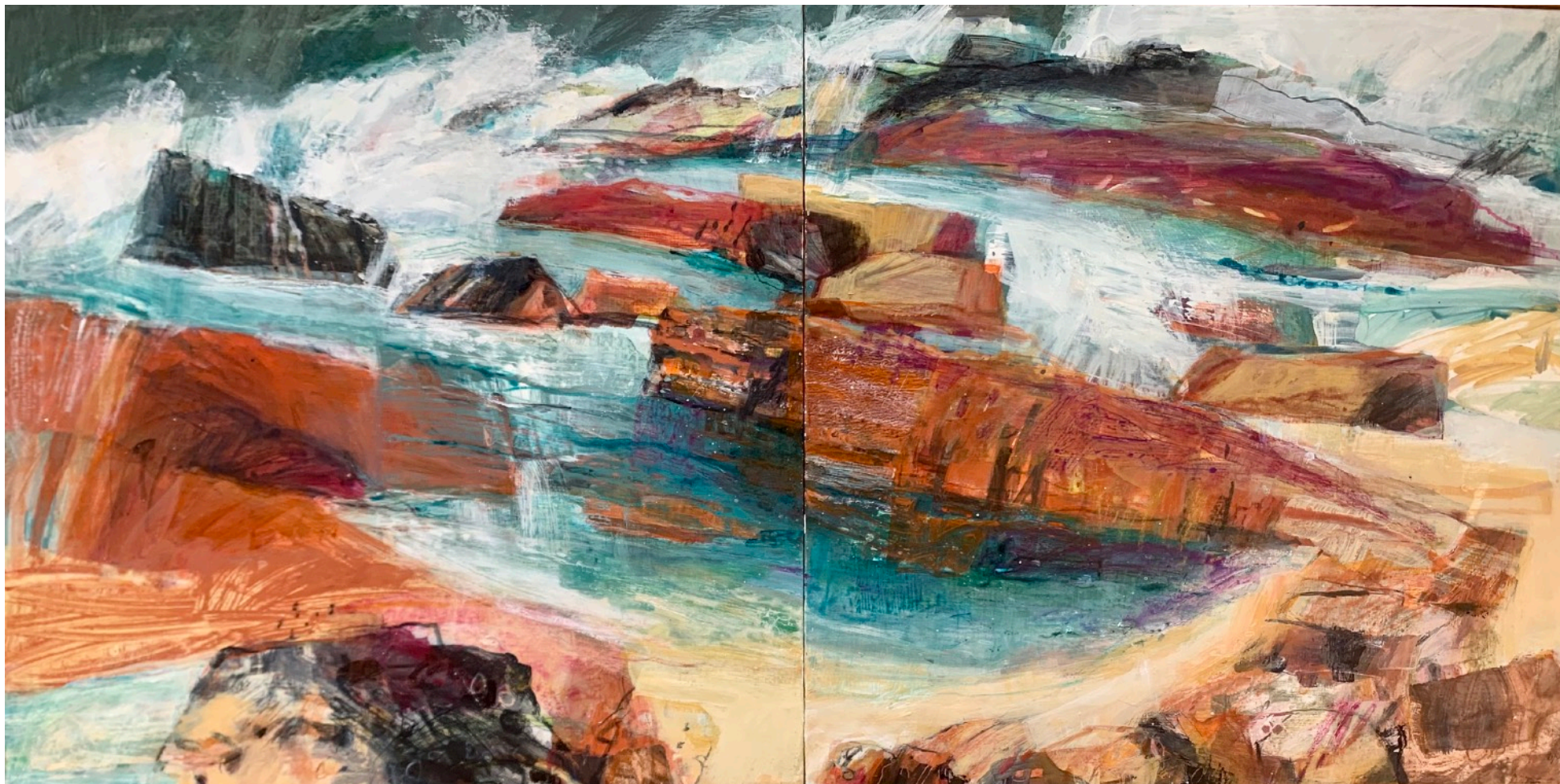
in white tray frame

\$800 ●



Nowhere Else But Here
Acrylic on birch panel
63 x 63 cm





Waves of Possibility

Acrylic on birch panel

63 x 123 cm Diptych





1



2



3



4



5 ●



6

A3 works on paper 29 x 42 cm

Mixed media - watercolour, gouache, ink and collage with ink and pencils and charcoal on smooth hot press paper

Work available unframed \$490 each or framed on request



Rise & Fall

Acrylic and mixed media on A3 paper
56 x 66 cm framed
\$750



7 ●



8



9

Works on paper, unframed, right.
\$490 each
29 x 42 cm , mixed media,
on smooth hot press paper

Salt, Wind, Prayer
Acrylic on birch panel
63 x 63 cm
\$2200 ●





Look And Look Again

Acrylic on birch panel

40 x 44 cm

\$1150



Such A Day

Acrylic on birch panel

43 x 63 cm

\$1600



The Tide Rises, The Tide Falls

Acrylic on birch panel

63 x 63 cm

\$2200 ●



The Best of All My Days

Acrylic on birch panel

63 x 63 cm

\$2200 ●



Once In A Golden Hour

Acrylic on birch panel

103 x 123 cm

\$4950 

Selected as a finalist in
Gosford Art Prize 2021

**“Painting from nature is not copying the object;
it is realising one’s sensations”.**

Paul Cezanne

In a year of keeping one’s distance, it may have been the best way for me to make work, totally removed from distractions. Bush walking along remote coastal tracks, has led me to observe and listen more intently to nature. I have always felt a deep affinity for the natural world, and worry about our careless mistreatment of it. My drawings and paintings celebrate the beauty and wildness that is all around us, especially when we take the time to really look.



LOOK

will be showing at Art Gallery on Darling
307 Darling Street, Balmain NSW 2041 Australia

22 - 27 February 2022

Opening hours 10am - 3pm Tuesday and Wednesday
10 am - 5 pm Thursday - Sunday

All work is framed in Tasmanian Oak shadow box
frames, unless noted otherwise.

Payment can be made via credit card, direct bank
transfer or by Pay Pal.

Shipping can be arranged worldwide on request

All enquires to Debbie Mackinnon

email debbie@debbiemackinnon.com

phone +61 419295271

[instagram.com/debbiemackinnon](https://www.instagram.com/debbiemackinnon)

website debbiemackinnon.com

