

UNFOLDING

A SOLO EXHIBITION
BY DEBBIE MACKINNON

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An exploration of liminal spaces in remote landscapes by Debbie Mackinnon

‘Liminal’ is defined as a transitional space where something new might reveal itself. In the landscape, ever changing forces of weather, seasons, light, tides, and time of day constantly shift the boundaries—nothing remains static. After many Covid lockdowns, I was so keen to leave behind what was local and familiar, and explore further afield. My travels this last year, have taken me to some incredible wild places in Australia. I walked and swam in tropical Lord Howe Island; explored the rugged shipwrecked coast of King Island; hiked through the wilderness of the Tarkine Rainforest in NW Tasmania; spent time absorbing the sound of silence in the East MacDonnell Ranges, Northern Territory; I stayed at two art residencies - firstly on the sweeping plains of the Monaro, near the Snowy Mountains and lastly at the very tip of the Mornington Peninsula in Victoria. My paints and sketchbook came with me every time.





Above: Drawing rock pools, Mornington Peninsula

The rhythm of walking into remote locations allows me time to absorb and explore mark making outside. Walking and drawing allows real contemplation of the landscape - a wonderful combination of physical and mental activity.

With every step, the landscape unfolds before me - my observations are a continuing and profound dialogue with the natural world. This is a slow process of

Right: Hand made concertina books, Northern Territory

contemplation set against fast and loose mark making with foraged tools. I am part of the landscape as I draw it- not just recording what I see but immersing myself in it, actively using all my senses...

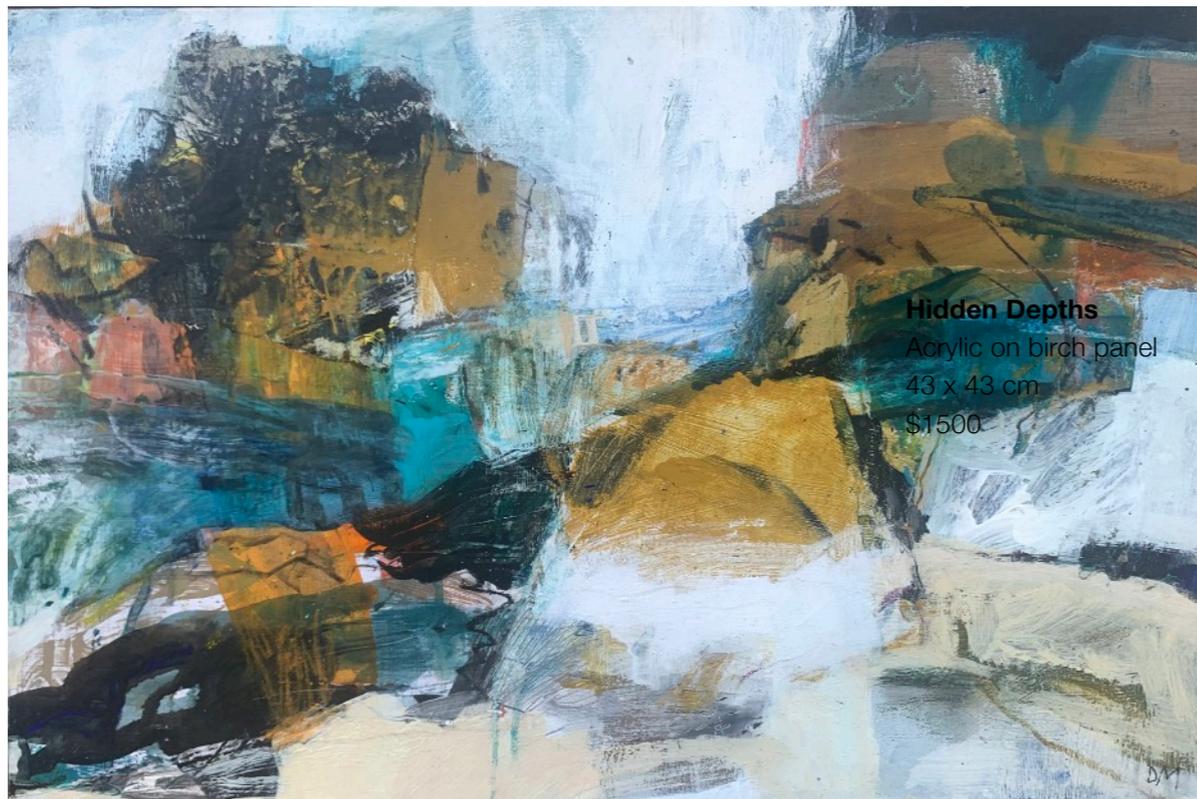
My long concertina books speak of that ongoing connection. They slowly emerge as an unfolding landscape - a place that does not exactly exist in reality, although there are real observations and truths within it.



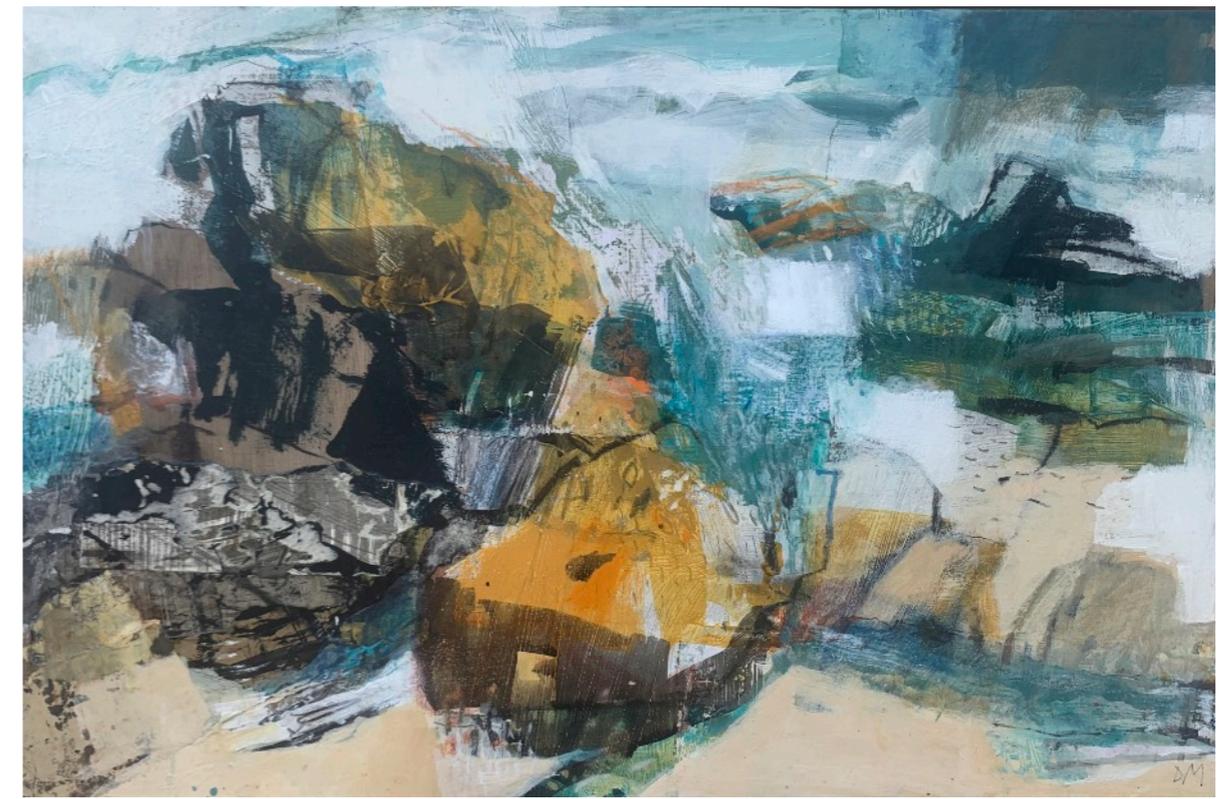
At the coast

Working outside on a beach means I am truly exposed to weather, light and the rhythms of the tides. As each tide rises and falls, new rocks or reflections appear or disappear. My work reflects that sense of covering up and then revealing something; what is seen and what is unseen. I often have to make quick decisions and choices and rely on my intuition.

I just accept what the coastal landscape is telling me, before the encroaching tide washes my paints away! The mindfulness of observing this shifting coastal landscape gives me a real sense of gratitude for what nature provides. A time to feel at one with the world and see it as a generative landscape and not a dysfunctional one.



Hidden Depths
Acrylic on birch panel
43 x 43 cm
\$1500



Deep Emotional Pull
Acrylic on birch panel
43 x 63 cm
\$1950

2nd prize WINNER of Art In The Open 2022

Transient Beauty
Acrylic on birch panel
43 x 63 cm
\$1950



Plunge Pool

Acrylic on birch panel

43 x 43 cm

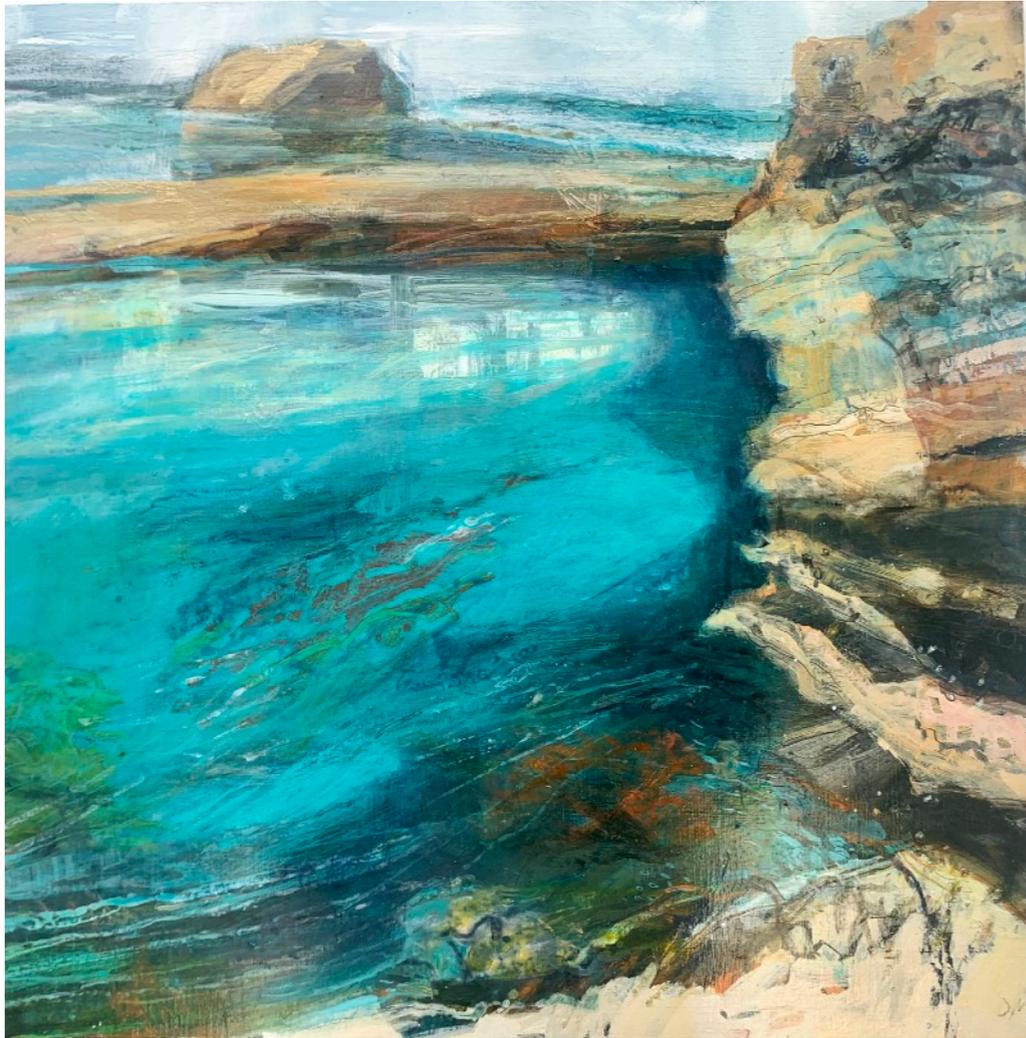
\$1500 ●

Peace In A Difficult World

Acrylic on stretched poly cotton

83 x 83 cm

\$3500



Hidden Depths
Acrylic on birch panel
43 x 43 cm
\$1500 ●

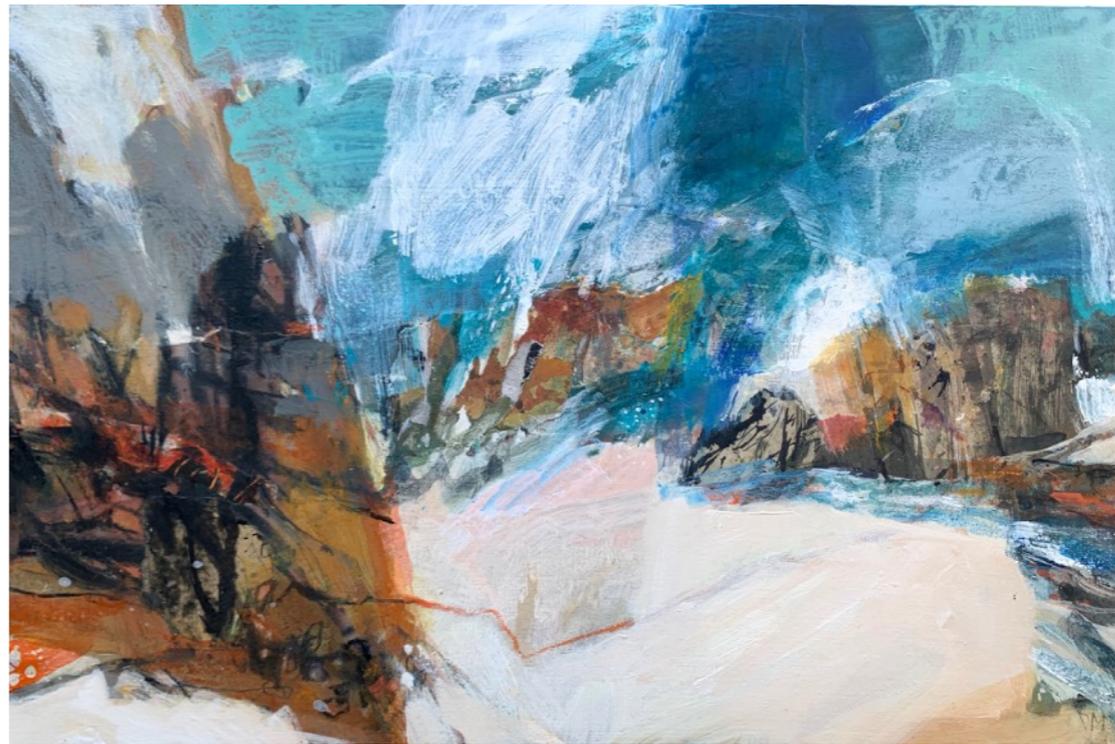
I've Been Where You Long To Be

Acrylic on birch panel
63 x 63 cm
\$2800 ●



Quietly Waiting

Acrylic on birch panel
33 x 43 cm
\$1250



Out Of The Blue
Acrylic on birch panel
43 x 63 cm
\$1950 ●



The Sea Has Many Voices

acrylic on poly cotton

122 x 137 cm

\$6800 ●

' A threshold is not a simple boundary; it is a frontier that divides two different territories, rhythms and atmospheres. Indeed it is a lovely testimony to the fullness and integrity of an experience or a stage of life that it intensifies towards the end into a real frontier that cannot be crossed without the heart being passionately engaged and woken up.'

John O'Donohue

I love the process of construction, deconstruction and reconstruction by tearing paper and reassembling the parts to create a new whole.



Each & Every Day

Mixed media on 300 gsm Arches Paper

62 x 76 cm , framed

\$1650



Crossing Over

Mixed media on 300 gsm Arches Paper

62 x 76 cm , framed

\$1650 ●

**Breathe The Salty Air**

Mixed media on 300 gsm Arches Paper
62 x 76 cm , framed (as on previous page)

\$1650 ●

I have created a series of large scale abstracted rock pool works on paper that will be floating in a hanging installation in the exhibition. This is one of a collection.

Rockpool

Mixed media on 300 gsm Arches Paper
56 x 152 cm

POA ●



I made many unfolding concertina books while exploring how the landscape unfolds, especially as the tide ebbs and flows. These artist books will be available to view at the gallery during the exhibition.

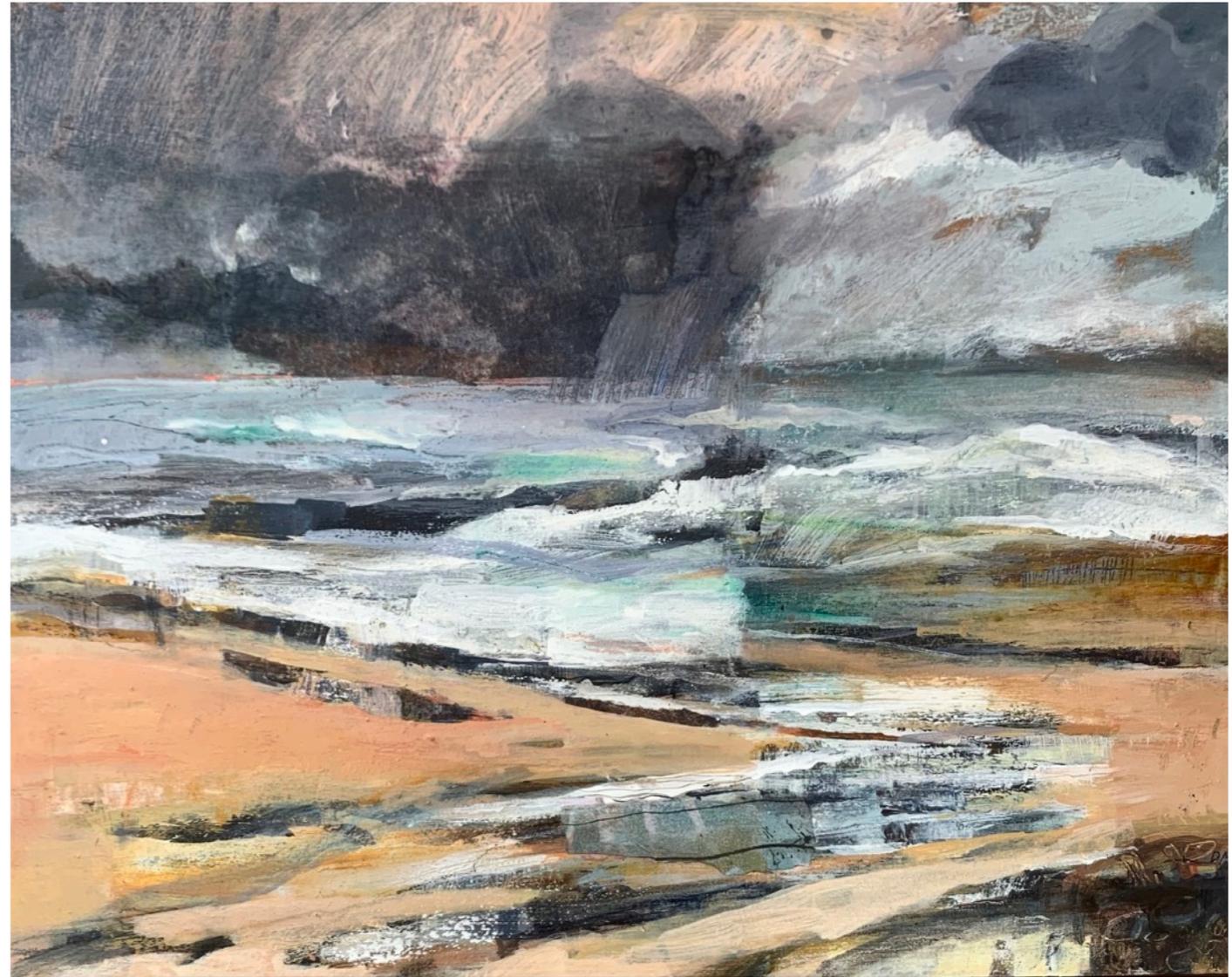




Working outside as a storm sweeps in on the wild West coast of Tasmania - nothing between me and Argentina! (And yes I did get Very wet.)

This Too Will Pass
Acrylic on birch panel
43 x 53 cm
\$1650 ●

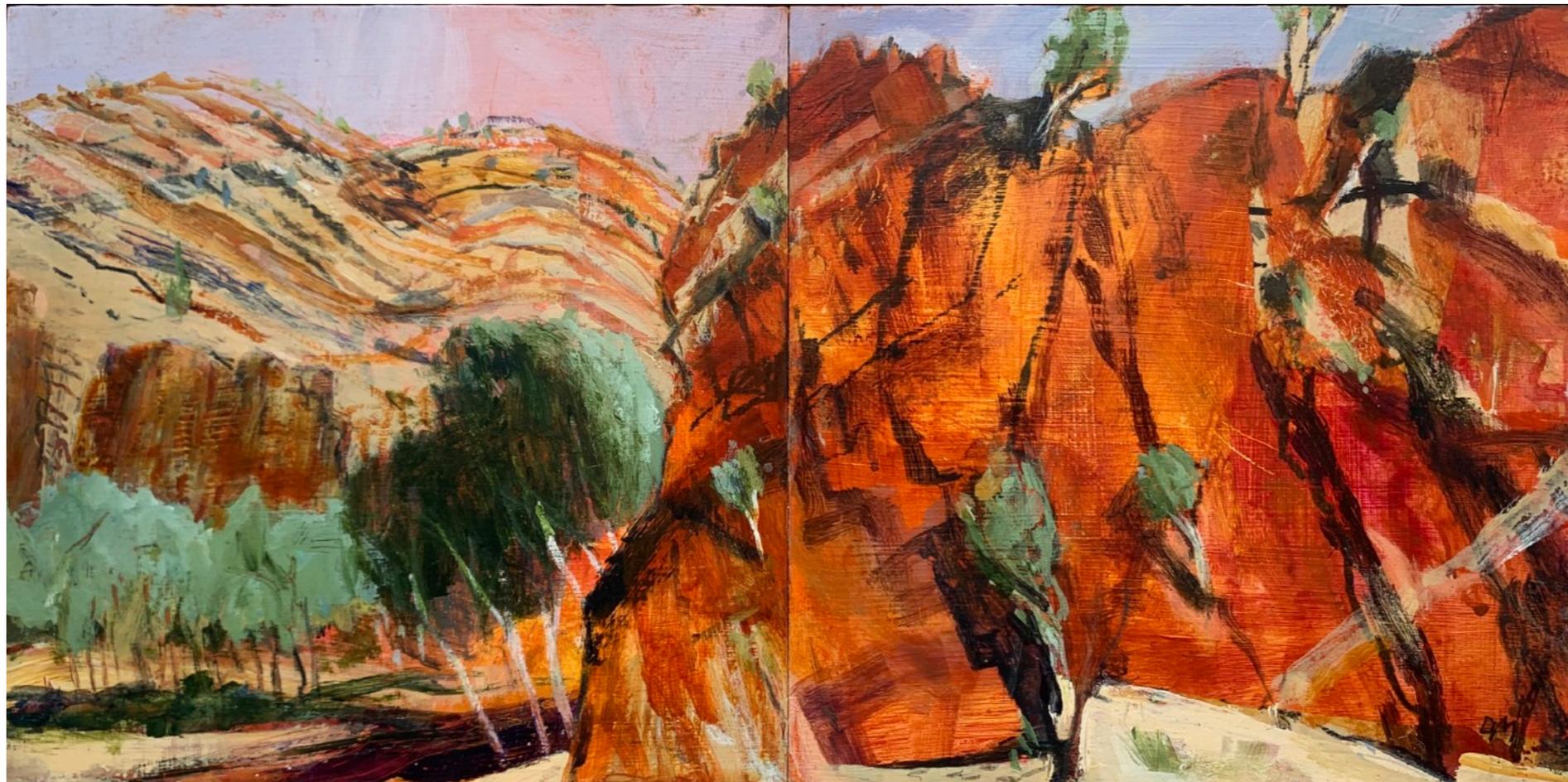
Drawing on location is essential to my process and a chance to capture those unplanned fleeting moments...



Outback

Being so far away, and in such a remote place, is a rare and profound experience. It is critical for me to get away from the 'noise' of daily city life into wild places where I can listen to nature - and let the natural environment speak back to me. The colours and light in the desert are always extraordinary.

There is such joy of spending time alone with my thoughts and with all my senses alert. The silence of the outback can be quite overwhelming as I observe the changing colours of the rocks. Then the physicality of drawing to discover stories I want to tell; what will I include and what will I leave out.



Moments Slide Softly Away

Acrylic on birch panel
diptych 33 x 63 cm

\$1800 ●



Making concertina books on location in the Outback, really helped me decide what to put in and what to leave out when creating larger paintings.

I Will Be Back

Handmade mixed media concertina book

10 x 15 cm x 16 pages plus covers ●



The Day Grows Bright mixed media concertina pages framed 39 x 117 cm \$1200 ●



The Day Grows Bright 2/3/4

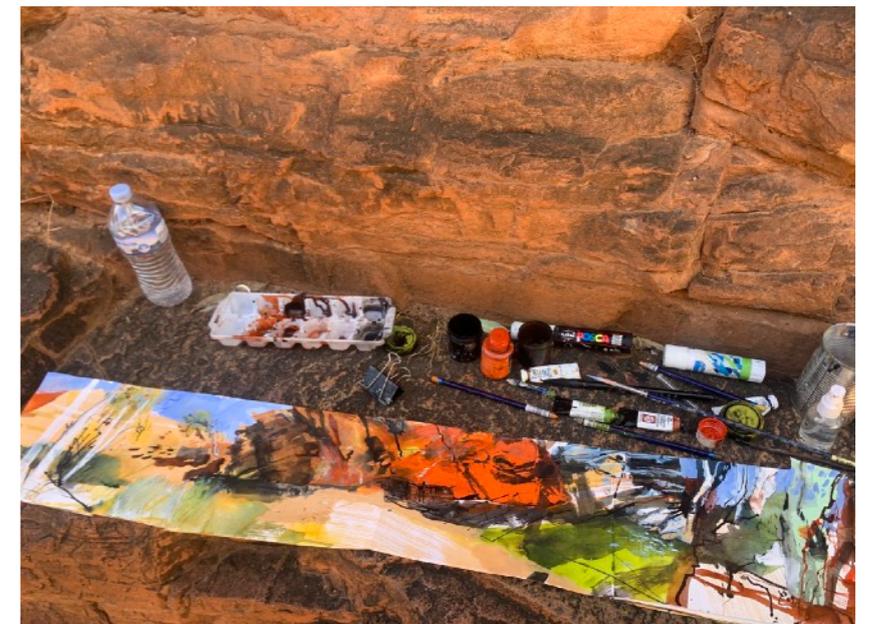
Handmade mixed concertina book pages

18 x 100 cm each section

Unframed:

\$700 each section of 4 pages

Float framed in box frame \$1200



Making concertina books on location, John Hayes Rockpool, East MacDonnell Ranges, NT

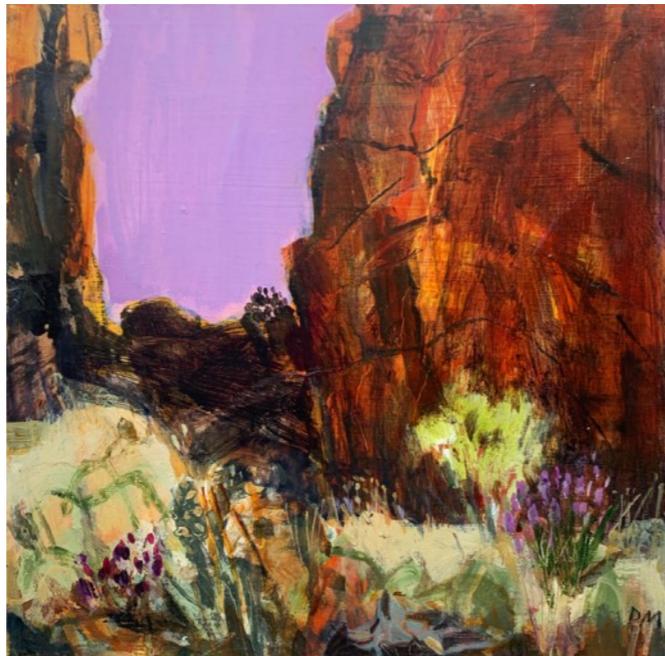


In The Shadows Of The Ancients
Acrylic on birch panel
43x 43 cm
\$1500

Alone But Not Lonely
Acrylic on birch panel
43x 43 cm
\$1500



The Sound of Silence
Acrylic on birch panel
33x 33 cm
\$995 ●



Morning Steals Upon the Night
(next page)
Acrylic on stretched poly cotton,
unframed
122 x 152 cm
\$7200



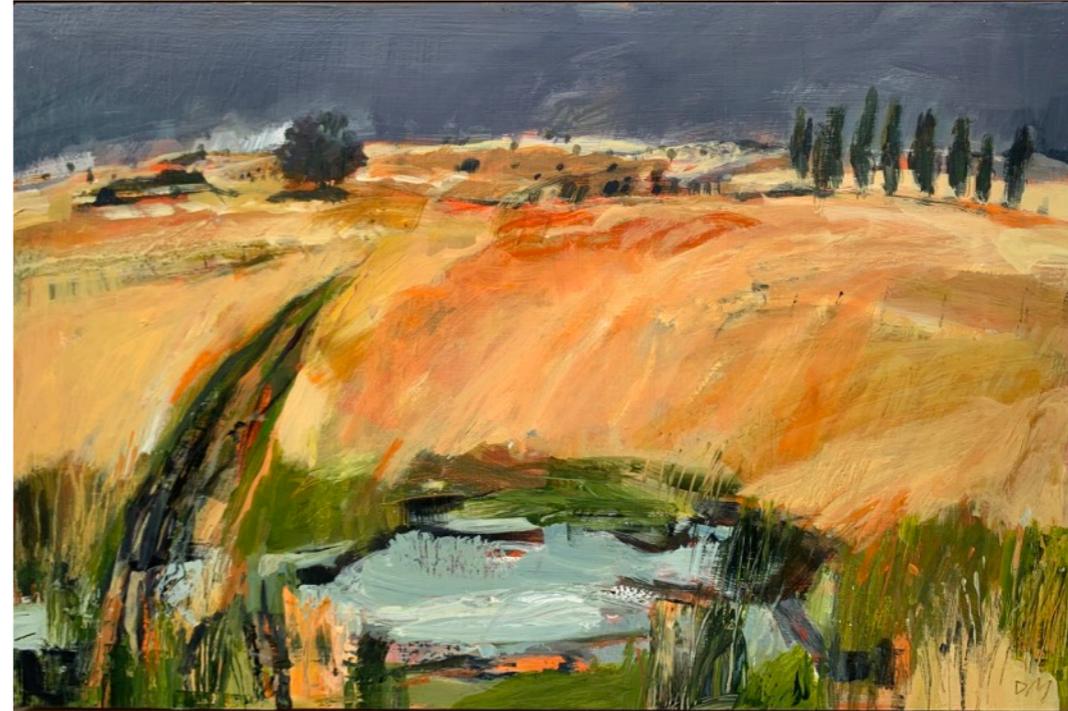
Countryside

'For me, a landscape does not exist in its own right, since its appearance changes at every moment; but the surrounding atmosphere brings it to life – the light and the air which vary continually.'

Claude Monet

Liminal spaces exist between 'what was' and 'what's next' - realms of possibility where things emerge out of the shadows and into the light. I am interested in the fine line between representation and abstraction, seeking my own visual language. My aim is not to faithfully reproduce a scene, but to show how things exist in fragments of time, those 'shards of reality' - as clouds gather; a shadow moves across a field; the moments before the storm hits; as the wind bends a tree...

Many such moments can exist simultaneously in a painting.

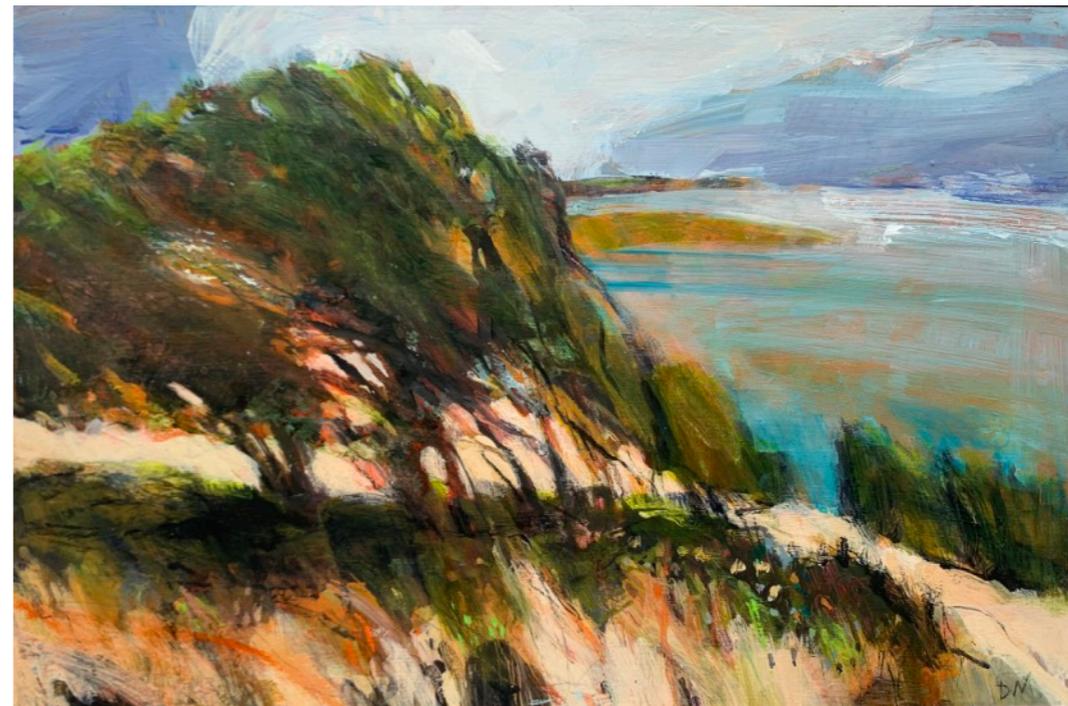


Find Your Own Path (top)

Acrylic on birch panel

43 x 63 cm

\$1950



Bend Without Breaking (bottom)

Acrylic on birch panel

43 x 63 cm

\$1950 ●



Land of Sweeping Plains

Acrylic on stretched poly cotton, unframed

101 x 111 cm

\$5500

framing can be arranged on request

Above & Beyond
 Mixed media on paper
 54 x 65 cm , framed
 \$995



All these works on paper have been created *en plein air*. Each one is A3 (29 x 42 cm) on quality watercolour or 200 gsm heavy cartridge paper. They are available unframed, an inexpensive way to start or add to an art collection and very easy to ship interstate or worldwide. Please contact me for shipping quote.

Works on paper created on location

Mixed media on paper
 29.5 x 42 cm unframed
 available at gallery, matted and ready to frame
 \$600 each

clockwise from top right:

- N'Dhala Gorge NT ●
- Trephina Gorge NT ●
- Walking up Mount Kosciuszko NSW ●
- Across Kelton Plain, Monaro NSW ●
- Gate, Kelton Plain, NSW ●





Works on paper created on location

Mixed media on paper
29.5 x 42 cm unframed
available at gallery, matted and ready to frame
\$600 each

From top left, clockwise:

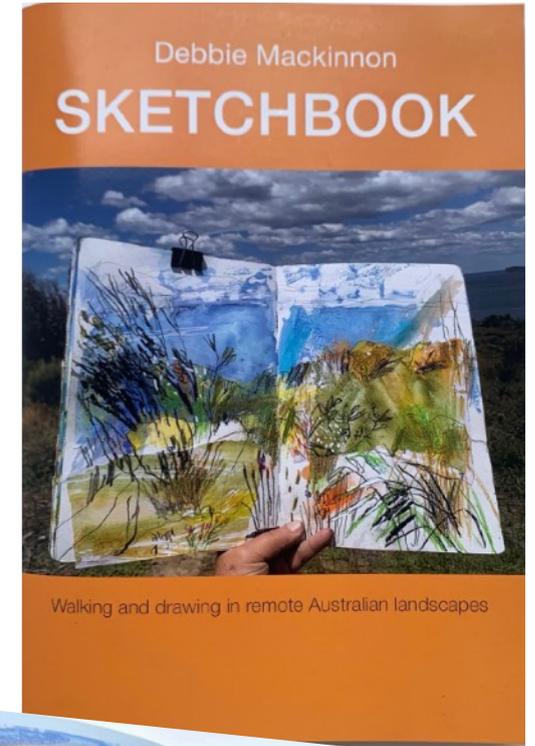
Lord Howe Island

The Nut, Stanley, Tasmania ●

Lord Howe Island 2 ●

King Island, Tasmania ●

Mornington Peninsula National Park, Victoria ●



Artist sketchbooks are always a drawcard - I've been asked if I sell mine and I just can't! Too many memories. But I have produced a 48 page full colour book of many of my favourite spreads from last years' sketchbooks.

Sketchbook SOLD OUT ●

Numbered and signed limited edition 48 page book

\$25 at gallery, postage extra

\$35 AUS incl postage in Australia; £30 UKP incl postage:

\$35 USD incl postage to USA.

Skies are not always blue; rocks are not universally grey; tree trunks can be multi coloured; weather can race across a landscape in unexpected ways. I have been there as a witness as it all unfolds before me. Many of these amazing moments may appear in my paintings.

Clockwise from right:

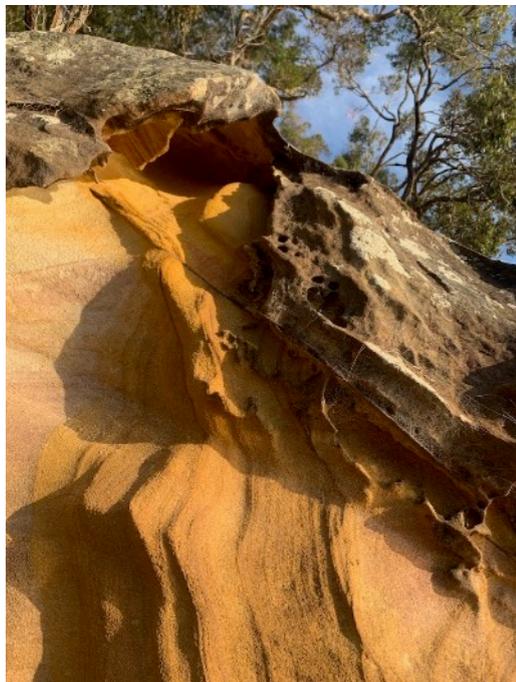
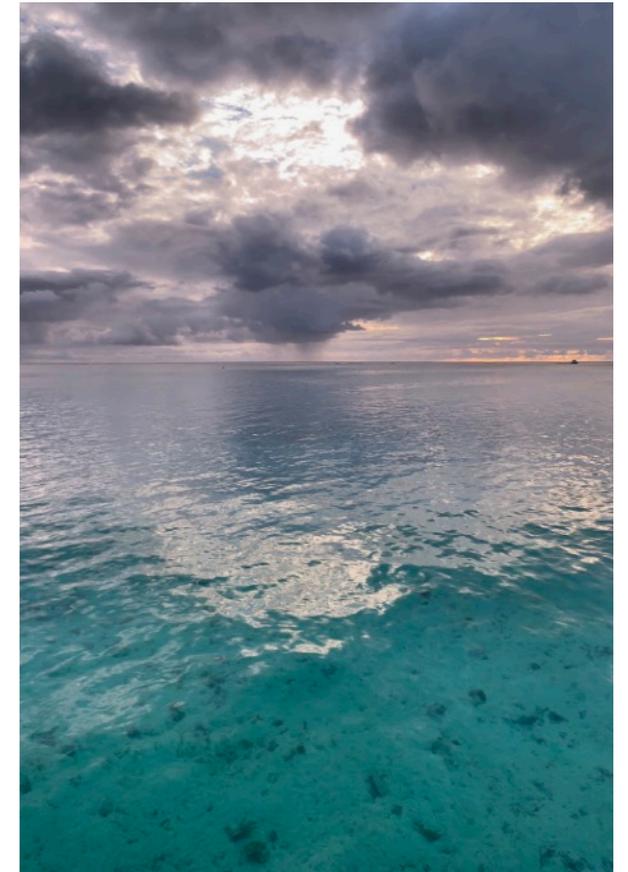
Kelton Plain, Monaro, NSW

Lord Howe Island, NSW

Sorrento, Mornington Peninsula, Victoria

King Island, Tasmania

Currawong, Pittwater, NSW



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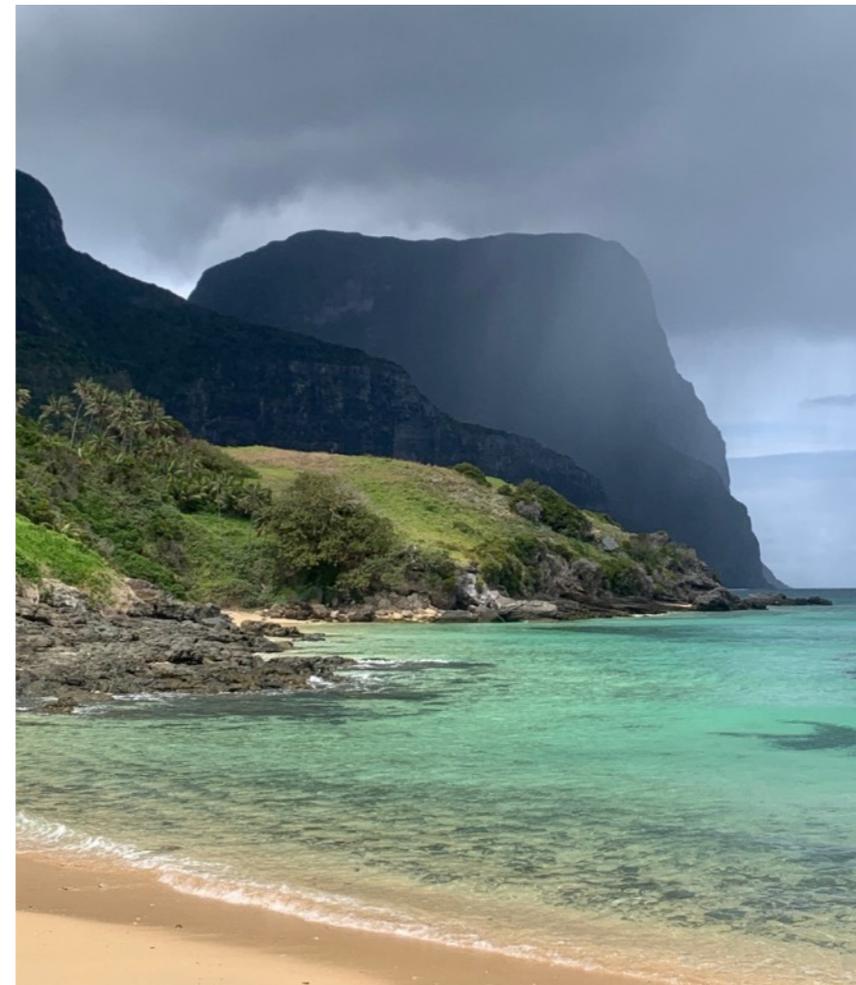
Clockwise from above:

East MacDonnell Ranges NT

Kelton Plain, Monaro NSW

Lord Howe Island NSW

West MacDonnell Ranges NT



All sales enquiries to the artist

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Paintings all framed in natural Tasmanian Oak,
unless listed unframed

All prices in Australian Dollars. Payment can be
made via credit card, direct bank deposit or
Paypal. Shipping quote on request.



IMAGE: Hidden Depths (detail), 2022, acrylic and mixed media on birch panel

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30 NOVEMBER - 18 DECEMBER 2022
A solo exhibition by Debbie Mackinnon

Willoughby City Council is gratefully acknowledged for the provision of Incinerator Art Space

INCINERATOR
ART SPACE

2 Small Street Willoughby NSW 2068
Wednesday to Sunday 10am-4pm
www.willoughby.nsw.gov.au/arts
Incinerator Art Space is a Willoughby City Council facility