

Linked By Landscape

Group exhibition at Burrinja Gallery – Feb 27 to Mar 29 2015

Works by Janine Good

*"Land of Heart's Desire,
Where beauty has no ebb,
Decay no flood,
But joy is wisdom,
And time's an endless song."* (W. B. Yeats)

These works are dedicated to a friend – Rod Taylor who passed from this life in 2009, taken by cancer.

This place was the 'Land of Heart's Desire where beauty has no ebb' for Rod. At a remote sheltered bay on the south-eastern coast of NSW, a place he spent his final years, a place he found solace and where his ashes were cast into the wind and ocean.

This place is the subject in all but two of these paintings and drawings.

There is a sense of melancholy in these works but I think the worn and resilient landscape shows there is both decay and renewal so it is also a celebration of life. This is especially shown in *Resilience* where 'time's an endless song' becomes most apparent. This painting has almost been the never-ending painting where the intricate details of layering and strata in the cliff provide endless patterns, rhythms and colours to absorb the artistic sensibility. In this work I wanted to capture the elements and feel the textures – the varying rock formations of the earth as it evolved to this view - the struggle of growth out of these rocks and the forces of weather.

The series started with the figures on the beach. The artist in me was captivated by the empty canvas of the wide white open beach interspersed with the forms of figures interacting (or not) and creating interesting shapes. But then I became interested in the spaces between figures and how by manipulating these spaces the interactions between figures could create narratives that weren't originally there. So the sad event of losing a friend inspired a series of works I call 'Lost and Found', a series about love and loss. Although they are primarily about human interaction I have used the play of figures to comment on other issues like culture, identity, art, environmental interaction and climate change. So I hope the melancholy tone of the work is also sprinkled with a sense of play and imagination.

Rod was an artist/musician with had a wicked sense of humour so I think he would appreciate what his beach memorial has inspired ... I hope so.