

DUE NORTH

Landscapes from the Collection

A Cairns Regional Gallery Collection Exhibition

23 July
to
24 October
2010

Australians are quite proud of the fact that they live in the driest continent on Earth. It intimates that we are resourceful, tough and prosperous in the face of adversity. So it is not surprising that for the vast majority of Australians who identify golden fleece and wattle with their home country that the tropics are a novelty. For this reason, many Australian artists inspired by the Northern tropics of Queensland, either from fleeting visits or permanent residence, have responded to the landscape with a disparate range of interpretations.

Since the early 1900's artists have both struggled with and relished the challenge of translating this landscape of extremes to canvas. To some, such as Anneke Silver, Craig Hoy and Tim Storrier, the wide vistas of coastal and central Cape York have served as inspiration, for others such as Jenny Valmadre and Shane Fitzgerald, man's interaction with the environment is the impetus. Artists approach their task through a various range of methods. Some immerse themselves in the landscape until their work is complete, others mull over the process of composition and construction for weeks, months or years before finally putting brush to canvas, working from photos and memories of a moment, a site, a smell, a feeling. The complexity of the undertaking risks failure and frustration, yet when successful the landscape artwork can be a commanding presence, conveying all the powerful qualities of the natural environment together with the artist's personal engagement with a place.

Due North is an exhibition that celebrates the achievements of a select and diverse group of established artists who have been inspired to interpret the landscape of tropical North Queensland. Their work has captured the essence of the Far North, a region often on the periphery of our concept of the archetypal Australian landscape.

Paul Brinkman – Director



Euan Macleod, *Yarrabah Landscape*



Valerie Albison, *Windy Morning Bingil Bay*



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