

# Anthony Bowles & Tim Jones

Macedon and Beyond

20 January – 21 February 2017

Official Opening: Friday 27 January 6.00 – 7.45 pm

The history of European *plein air* painting in Australia goes back to the remotest days of European exploration and settlement, and as well as being a central tenant of Australia's first recognised art's movement (the Heidelberg School), *plein air* painting is responsible for many of Australia's most iconic landscape works.



Anthony Bowles, *First Light - Woodend*, oil on canvas, 76 x 51cm

Since his last exhibition with the Yering Station Art Gallery in late 2015, Anthony Bowles has been painting *en plein air* in and around his Woodend property in the Macedon Ranges, often in the company of Tim Jones, a fellow artist, Macedon Ranges' resident and part time lecturer of sculpture and printmaking at the Centre for Adult Education in Melbourne.

Inspired by the region's ever changing play of light, Bowles has created a visual compendium of passing hours, days and seasons: 'I am interested in the changing atmosphere,' Bowles observes, 'from the first light of dawn through to the last glow of dusk, and, of course, the *nocturnes*.'

'My artistic practice in oils involves underpainting in order to maximise the light required in some areas of the work. I like to mix beeswax with the pigment, which enhances the sense of depth and adds another dimension to the work.'

'Watercolour, on the other hand, is a very spontaneous medium. You must let it follow its own inclinations, and work with it without forcing it. Understanding its inconsistencies and working quickly to transform apparent catastrophes into engaging visual effects make the elusive qualities of watercolour very addictive.'

'Macedon and Beyond' brings together the dramatically lit drawings, watercolours and oil paintings of Bowles and the otherworldly sculptures, poetically rendered woodcuts and ink and paper landscapes of Jones. While both artists are as accomplished as they are versatile, Bowles and Jones use their abilities to achieve quite different landscapes that lend themselves to contrasting narrative possibilities.



Tim Jones, *Hanging Rock*, ink on paper, 41 x 45cm

Bowles' gentle and luminously coloured works draw the receptive viewer ever deeper into nature's quiet depths, while Jones's precisely depicted woodcut prints and outside wooden sculptures seem to carry us into imagined landscapes as evocative and as present in their purpose as a Grimm's folktale; lyrical and stark, and as mysterious as they are powerful, Jones's works seem to have been drawn from a deep well, perhaps not far from his old farmhouse at the foot of Hanging Rock.

After embarking upon two European art tours in both 2006 and 2008, Bowles commenced a Diploma of Visual Art. He has been involved in numerous group exhibitions and has held three solo shows. In addition to completing an Advanced Diploma of Visual Art in 2014, Bowles has consistently sought out established artists to study under and work alongside. This includes enrolling in classes with internationally renowned watercolour artist and author Alvaro Castagnet, and also adopting techniques of artists like Tasmanian landscape painter Philip Wolfhagen. Another artist that Bowles' looks to for inspiration is the American portrait painter John Singer Sargent, who wrote that: 'An artist painting a picture should have at his side a man with a club to hit him over the head when the picture is finished'. For Bowles the man with the club is quite possibly Tim Jones.

Jones was born in Clwyd Wales in 1962 and studied painting and printmaking at Newcastle-upon-Tyne Polytechnic in England. He subsequently completed a Postgraduate Diploma in sculpture at the Victorian College of the Arts, Melbourne, after which he worked in the New York studio of English painter and printmaker John Walker before moving to London and returning to Australia in 1989 to commence a twelve-month artist residency at the University of Melbourne. He has been a welcome presence on the Australian art scene ever since, and is represented in Melbourne and Sydney by Australian Galleries.



Anthony Bowles, *Views of the Ranges – Macedon*, Oil on canvas, 95 x 65cm

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