

Karen Hopkins

Impermanence

2 December 2016 – 17 January 2017

Hopkins latest solo exhibition asks us to admire and accept states of impermanence. Through vibrant colour, rich impressionist effects, and subtle incursions into abstraction and expressionism, Hopkins uses changes in nature as metaphors for human transformation, while the inclusion of twelve ceramic and mixed media sculptures and a selection of poems (written by the artist for the exhibition) work to enhance the viewer's experience by adding further layers of meaning.



Remembering, Acrylic on canvas, 93 x 183 cm, \$3,000

Taking our relationship with landscape as her subject, Hopkins works from photographs, sketches and visual memories of light, texture, colour and sense of space to create works that encourage us to reflect on our perpetually evolving ties to the natural world. Her ongoing exploration of the elemental states of earth, water, air and fire continues here, and while her landscapes retain a soft play of colour characteristic of previous works, and of the abstract landscape tradition in general, emerging figurative elements appear more frequently, sometimes in astonishing detail, sometimes through texture and suggestion alone.

Impermanence takes in wandering lines of shade across desert, the tumult of passing storms, the release of melting ice, the drifting shift of tidelines, the fall of autumn leaves, a dancing fields of open poppies, the gentle pull of a blue moon, sunlight bursting through cloudbanks, and much else besides. A constantly changing world is represented; each breath a birthing and a passing.



Enlightened, Mixed media on canvas, 92 x 92 cm, \$2,000

Paint has been applied sparingly and deftly to achieve seamless shifts in colour, mood, temperature and proximity. The overall effect is towards a deepening intimacy. These works bring viewers closer to nature and to an appreciation of her colours and shapes, and when essence is communicated, either through painting, sculpture or poetry, deeper levels of connection are revealed.

Hopkins, who has lived in the U.K., South Africa, Singapore and Western Australia, now lives in Melbourne and works out of her Melbourne studio. She describes her practice as a process of intuitively searching for harmony, which involves a gradual letting go, until she becomes an instrument through which creativity can flow. She has exhibited regularly since 1991, and her work is held in corporate and private collections both nationally and internationally. She has participated in many group shows, and this is her seventeenth solo exhibition.



Bright new day, Acrylic on canvas, 61 x 180 cm, \$2,500

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