

Steve Freestone

High Blue / Middle Orange: The West MacDonnell Ranges and the Centre

23 February — 8 April 2019

Yering Station Art Gallery / Main Gallery



Oasis (Ellery Creek), Oil on Canvas, 91 x 121cm

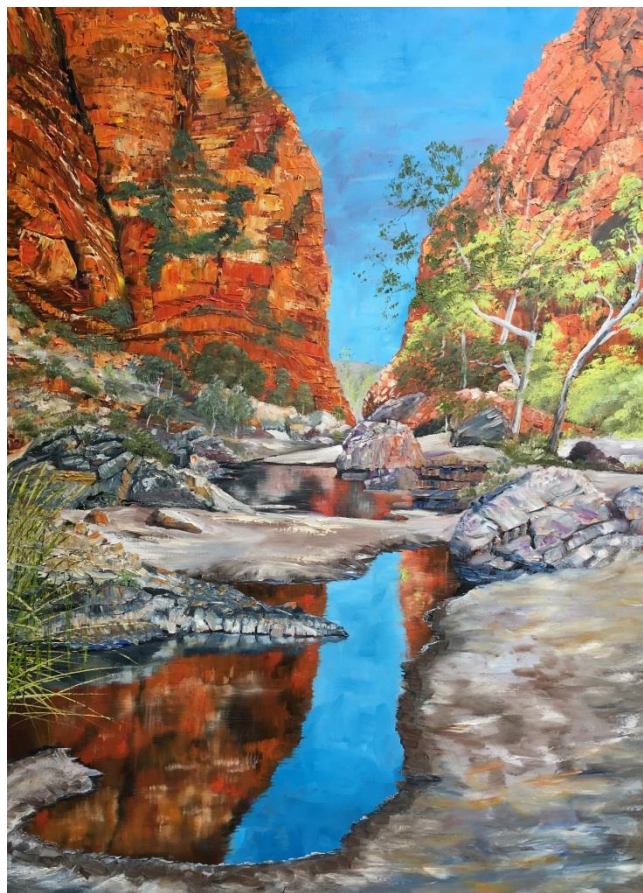
High Blue / Middle Orange: the West MacDonnell Ranges and the Centre is the third exhibition in a tetralogy that began with *Flinders Ranges* (2013), *Kakadu and Kimberley* (2018) and will conclude with *Karajini Gorges and Kalbarri* in the years ahead.

Referencing titles used by mid-20th century Abstract Expressionists Richard Diebenkorn and Hans Hofmann (artists whose manifestos and colour theories have long influenced Freestone's work) *High Blue / Middle Orange* evokes a physically unstable visual mythology of the Australian landscape.

While Diebenkorn employed colour to draw viewers toward the horizon, Hans Hofmann painted internally generated light that appears to emerge from within the image itself. Incorporating these tendencies, Freestone recreates the emotional impact of viewing the original landscape, while using a suite of contrasting elements to heighten subtle intensities: broad energetic strokes run alongside finer detailed strokes, order and harmony stand in opposition to chaos

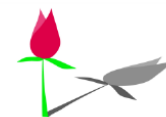
and discord, poetry wrestles with concept, form writhes in folds of space, while opposing yet complementary hues produce a frisson of vibrating energy across the field of view.

Freestone graduated from Monash University with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in 1994 majoring in painting and photography after which he completed a Post Graduate Degree in painting and a Graduate Diploma in Education at the University of Melbourne. Following on from a number of solo and group exhibitions, Freestone held an art teaching position at Upper Yarra Secondary College and then taught in the Fine Arts Department of Yarra Valley Grammar for seventeen years, during which time he served as Head of the Fine Arts Department, coordinated the Certificate IV in Art and Design and was the school's RTO Manager. He is now a full time artist and works out of his studio in Warburton in the Upper Yarra Valley.



The Crocodile Sleeps (Simpson's Gap), Oil on Canvas, 91 x 121cm

YERING
Station



L.A.R.C.H.

Leukaemia Auxiliary Royal Childrens Hospital