

## BRIEF BIOGRAPHY – Elizabeth Barsham

I was born in Tasmania. My ancestors were among the first European settlers here, and I grew up with stories of the land as told by the English invaders.

After leaving school in Hobart I spent two or three years travelling in the Australian outback before settling in Melbourne, where I studied oil painting. I have been a practising artist since the 1980s, painting and exhibiting more or less full-time, but teaching adults to draw and paint to supplement my income. About twenty years ago I returned to live in the old family farmhouse on the outskirts of Hobart, where besides painting I research and write about local history, run a couple of blogs and occasionally review exhibitions.

My spare time is spent bushwalking, an endless source of inspiration. Tasmanian geology, climate, plants, animals, and its original inhabitants are exotic even by Australian standards; the landscape is old and weathered with rocky mountains and mysterious valleys. Tasmanian scenery and history, nineteenth century literature, science fiction, classical opera and Heavy Metal music, horses, horror movies, Goth fashion and modern concerns with indigenous rights, environmental degradation, plastic pollution and climate change inform my artwork.

My aim is to reach as many people as possible with my art; Tasmania is awesome, and I want to share my feelings about it through my own romantic Tasmanian Gothic mythology.

Website: [www.tasmaniangothic.com](http://www.tasmaniangothic.com)

June 2018