

Statement: Solo show March 2021 Nolan Art Hobart

Title: Great Expectations

It seems that in recent years it has been an overseas trip that has set me off on a certain artistic journey. In 2006 a trip to Shanghai including a series of exhibitions with a group of fellow Australian artists sent me along a certain path. And so another trip this time back to London, my place of birth and art school training, yet another journey. This was October 2019, a close shave in terms of in and out before COVID 19 struck and fenced us all in.

In London and then Paris I spent many hours re acquainting myself with old favourites in the National Gallery and the Louvre. Turner, Caravaggio and Vermeer especially.

This led to a re assessment of my heritage and artistic roots and went arm in arm with my gradual artistic grafting onto a Tasmanian sensibility having moved from Sydney to Deloraine in 2015. The first work to reflect this synthesis after returning from Europe in late 2019 was ' The Hunting Party ', it being accepted as a finalist into the 2020 Glover Art Prize. Another close shave, the show winding up a week before the complete lock down and border closures.

Tasmania, less affluent than Sydney for sure, somehow seems more authentic in its connection with the environment and its people. Maybe I've simply returned home to an island, special by nature of its separation.

This in combination with a re-acquaintance and greater appreciation of the European landscape tradition especially Turner and by extension John Glover, a re-reading of Dickens and a re-discovery of the wonders of Beethoven has had a profound effect on my artistic and personal outlook. The history and roots of my cultural background have resonated with my appreciation of Tasmania's complex environment and tragic history to produce this latest body of work made during 2020.