

Keith Lane Solo show 2024.

Statement: Traversing the Island

As in the movies this show might have been sub-titled 'Based on a True Story'.

Because yes I did traverse the island during 2022 and 2023; however this show is no 'documentary'.

Whilst these paintings visually reference the actual locations they also involve a great deal of invention, addition and manipulation to evoke the diversity, spirit and energy of Tasmania.

So, these paintings are definitely not of the 'Au Plein Aire' school of painting; I did not tie myself to the apocryphal mast in a snow storm as Turner did.

Although there have been a few occasions where I have been lashed by wild seas off the coast of Bruny and Strahm. But projection of sensation and an emotive response are key. I invite viewers to immerse themselves in the painting and travel within it.

Conceptually, the main influence on my thinking in the last year, layering upon my response to and appreciation of Turner and the 19th century Northern Romantic tradition, has been the reading of American Ralph Waldo Emerson's book, 'Nature' written in 1836. In this he expounds the concept of 'Idea as Landscape' and 'Landscape as Idea'. Especially significant and influential in mid-19th century America's push into the uncharted territories of the west. Epitomised by artists such as Thomas Cole, Frederic Edwin Church and Albert Bierstadt.

Its resonance though can still be felt when responding to the wild environments of Tasmania and the spiritual connection of humankind experiencing the natural world.

I hope that viewers will appreciate these works as much for their finely tuned painted surfaces as well as the evocative nature of the imagery connecting us to a deeper and more personal appreciation of Tasmania.

Keith lane

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