

CATHY MCCLELLAND

Biography

Cathy McClelland spent her childhood surrounded by animals both domestic and native wildlife and enjoying bush walking where she studied the fauna and flora with her sketch pad. It was through being outdoors that Cathy first decided to paint her experiences 'working in the moment', plein air and soon discovered contemporary realism, developing a deep fascination for spontaneous, instinctive mark making which inspired her to complete many wildlife, landscape and rural paintings.

"Contemporary Realism provides me with a direct link to self where I explore layers beneath the surface and work within the moment sculpting forms on the canvas with texture and paint. Through gestural movement the 'essence' is captured and recorded and offered as a form of communication to others. My journey within continues with each piece as I search to convey my emotional connection to the viewer - the joy of the moment, the delight of discovery and the visual story of the painting".

McClelland has shown her work in solo and group exhibitions since 2008. She coordinated 'Magic of the Bunyas' in 2009 (a solo exhibition of fifty-four paintings of the Bunya Mountains and surrounding landscapes at the Regional Gallery in Dalby, Australia. Selling 95% of the artworks on opening night and secured commissions for the following three years.

The artist exhibited works at 'Sensorial Realms' Agora Gallery in Chelsea, New York in 2012 and took part in a group exhibition Art Takes Times Square in New York; during that same year McClelland produced a powerful body of work directly influenced by the wildlife and landscapes of the Bunya Mountains National Park in Queensland.

In 2013 McClelland was chosen by a jury, from submissions worldwide, to exhibit with a select group of national and international artists to exhibit at Life Art Worldwide, Sunshine Coast, Australia. 2013 also saw her painting 'Autumn Colours' awarded Special Merit Award, Landscapes Art Exhibition, Florida USA and Award of Excellence, Manhattan Arts International, USA.

In 2014, Cathy's exhibited at St Vincent's Private Hospital Toowoomba a celebration of the local landscapes of the region.

McClelland is a member of the International Guild of Realism: 2013. Australian Guild of Realist Artists: 2012. Queensland Wildlife Artist Society: 2012. Wildlife Artist Society of Australasia: 2012.

The artist has resides in Bell, Queensland, where she enjoys the peaceful country lifestyle on her farm whilst focusing on her paintings, exhibitions and the galleries who represent her.

Collectors comment:

"When your landscape, wildlife and bird art is viewed you feel a sense of peace bringing a calm feeling of 'all is right in the world' into your life. You feel like you can walk right into the painting" Private Collector

"Cathy paint's with honesty and integrity the subject of choice with a flowing composition that sits easy on the eye. She has a gift of portraying the essence of the place, "You feel like you can walk right into the painting" and she has a natural ability to see beyond the 'picturesque' beauty of a scene. She can also feel the spirit of the landscape and paints this feeling - an emotional response to the scene - rather than painting a literal depiction". Private Collector

SOLO/GROUP EXHIBITIONS

I held my first solo exhibition in 2009 and regularly exhibit in solo or group exhibitions.

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

2015 Signatures Fine Art Show, Topiaries on Beaumont, Brisbane QLD AUS

2014 QAA, Mantra Breakfree Resort, Caloundra, QLD, AUS

2014 Rotary Art Show, Brisbane, QLD, AUS

2013 Inside Outside Landscapes, Toowoomba, QLD, AUS

2013 Peace & Perfection, Bunya Forest Gallery, Bunya Mountains, QLD, AUS

2013 Life Art Worldwide, Sunshine Coast, QLD, AUS

2012 The Artery Image Trail, Feather & Lawry Design, Toowoomba, QLD, AUS

2012 The Dalby Stockhorse Art Exhibition, QLD, AUS

2012 Art Takes Times Square, New York, USA

2012 Sensorial Realms, Agora Gallery New York, NY, USA

2011 Christmas Exhibition, Dalby Regional Gallery, QLD, AUS

2010 Christmas Exhibition, Dalby Regional Gallery, QLD, AUS

2009 Group Exhibition, Murrays Art and Framing, Toowoomba, QLD, AUS

2009 Solo Exhibition, Magic of the Bunya's, Dalby Regional Gallery, QLD, AUS

2008 Bunya Beauties, Bunya Forest Gallery, Bunya Mountains, QLD, AUS

2008 *Christmas Exhibition*, Bell Art Group, Dalby Regional Gallery, Dalby, AUS

COLLECTIONS

Numerous National and International Private Collections

AWARDS AND PUBLICATIONS

2014 Finalist, Professional Artist Magazine Competition, USA

2014 Winner Major Feature in the Realistic Painting Group, Fine Art America, USA

2013 Artist Palette Magazine No.122, article and insight demonstration, AUS

2013 International Contemporary Artists Art Book, volume VI

2013 Selected in Jury's FAV 15% BoldBrush painting compition, USA

2013 Featured Artist, Empty Easel online art magazine

2013 Award for Excellence – Jon Hamilton-Fford Art Competition, UK

2013 Winner of an Award of Excellence, Healing Power of Art, Manhattan Art's International, NY, USA

2013 Special Merit Award, Landscapes Art Exhibition Jupiter, Florida, USA

2012 Interview with Vicki Thompson, ABC radio presenter

2012 Highly Commended, Roma Art Exhibition, Australia

2012 International Contemporary Artists Art Book, volume V

2012 September Highlife Downs Living Magazine, article and profile

2012 Interview with Laura Hunt, Rural Weekly Newspaper

2012 Article in the Toowoomba Chronicle Newspaper

2012 Finalist, Art Takes Time Square, New York, USA

2012 Third, Leading Artists Online Worldwide Summer Competition

2011 Winner, November FASO Bold Brush 'Popular Entries'

2010 Champion, Wildlife Bell Show, QLD, AUS

2010 Champion, Local Artist, Bell Show, QLD, AUS

2009 Champion, Queensland Rural Women's Network Art Competition, QLD, AUS

2009 Article in the Country Life Newspaper

2009 Interview with David Illis, ABC presenter

2006-2009 Many local art show champions and awards

EDUCATION

2000 - Present Ongoing instruction, short courses with selected Tutors

AFFILIATIONS / ASSOCIATIONS

Art House Reproductions, Brisbane, Australia

Art Promotive Artist
Artisan Direct Ltd
Birding Art United Kingdom
Colour In Your Life
Empty Easel
Queensland Arts Alliance
Queensland Wildlife Artists Society Inc.
The Artistic Blog Feature Artist
The Art World
The Australian Guild of Realist Artists
The International Guild of Realism
The Complete Artist New Zealand
Wildlife Art Society of Australasia

GALLERY REPRESENTATION

2015 White Peaks Fine Art Gallery, London
2014 White Peaks Fine Art Gallery, London
2013 Agora Gallery, Manhattan, Chelsea, New York, USA
2013 Manhattan Arts International, New York, USA
2000 Bell Art Gallery, QLD, Australia