

Can you give us an insight into your artistic process?

Growing up in Southeast Queensland, the bush was always close by. Since moving to Gadigal/Sydney in 2013, it's continued to be something I naturally seek out.

My painting has been a response to the diversity of local landscape, all the seasonal changes and spotting so many unique and beautiful native animals, insects, and flowers. I started collecting photos and painting landscapes a few years ago and have really enjoyed watching them progress and evolve.

Is your work pre-planned or created intuitively? How long does each work take to complete?

The landscape composition will always be built as I work. There is usually an idea or key element I want to paint first. I take photographs while bushwalking and form a collection for the area I want to paint. I work in layers, always starting at the bottom of the page. I like to play with perspective and really enjoy pushing the detail. It's really satisfying watching it all come together. I'm frustrated that photographs will often only focus on one part while blurring the background – The paintings are a bit of a rebellion against that. All the elements share the stage. I find that even my very small works can take up to 15 hours to finish in full. It's a methodical process but I enjoy getting lost in it.

Can you explain your technique; how you manipulate the medium(s)?

I was lucky to have had a full technical education with different mediums and surfaces at TAFE when I began studying Visual Arts. It allowed me to really experiment properly with oils, acrylic and even tempera. I settled on watercolour after finishing University and have continued to teach myself to work with it since. I like the fragility of working on paper and not having to fill and clean a paint pallet every time I work. I use watercolour it in a very untraditional 'heavy' way. I love that I can build upon colours and still have transparency in other parts.

Do you keep some kind of ongoing drawing book or diary? Or a collection of images or photographs for inspiration?

Every bushwalk I'm taking photos of what's around. It could be flowers, the way bark is peeling off a scribble gum, a shiny beetle or a twisted clifftop tree. There's a growing folder on my laptop full of these that I use when painting. I would love to start sketching more onsite as it's just not something I've had time to do in the last few years. I'm sure that working from these instead of photographs would really change the way I paint.

Who are your favourite artists? Who do you draw inspiration from?

A few serious artists I really like following - Ben Quilty, Vincent Namatijira, Adrienne Doig, Kaylene Whiskey, Marikit Santiago, Blak Douglas and Joan Ross. I'm always drawn to artworks that pull me in with striking imagery or content that challenges.

Please also let us know if you have a social media account that you would like us to promote.

Website: tahliahenderson.com.au



