

Paintings from my little boat in the great storm of 2021

When 2021 began, I envisioned myself sailing across the water like a great ship on the sea—
or flying to great heights like an eagle. I watched an eagle fly and I absorbed its freedom as it
swooped towards the ocean then rose up just as quickly, soaring towards the clouds. I felt
such an overwhelming sense of liberation and excitement for what I could achieve. There
were so many stories to write, and paintings I wanted to paint—and I finally had the time to
devote to bringing them to life after dropping my second job.

I had two weeks of being that bird; unburdened, free.

Tragedy struck just two weeks later; it tore my sails and wings to shreds, it threw me into completely uncharted waters. Time passed without me realising. Everything was painfully different. When I went to sleep and woke up the next morning my brain was in a fog—I thought, is this real? And the truth would come crashing back in and I knew it wasn't a dream. This fog was on a cruel repeat.

My 14-year-old niece had taken her own life.

Initially I wondered if I'd ever be able to paint again, but after a month it became clear that not only did I still desire to paint, it came with a ferocity and a need like never before.

I felt like I was born for this moment, for this series of work. The task was onerous, to complete works for Sydney Contemporary while processing the immense grief and trauma—but my motivation was to create a safe and truthful space as I navigated this new course my life had taken...

Prior to this, I had become completely drawn to the performance of Nick Cave's *Idiot Prayer:*Nick Cave Alone at Alexandria Palace. The way he sang reflected my soul at the time and ideas for a few works started to form while listening to this. His rendition of Girl in Amber would echo in my head long after listening. It struck something deep inside me, something I didn't understand at the time, but now it has made it's purpose clear. These works were made with a dance, an absolute primal reflection of my heart and soul.

This song yearned to be sung, much like the Spinning Song,

Touch became a crucial part of the process of these works, more so than normal. Touch was a lifeline—a grounding force. It kept my head above water and allowed to me express the

complex things I was going through without needing to find words.

but with my hands and my spirit.

These works aren't a morbid retelling of death, but a story of taking flight through the greatest sadness and uncertainty. In some ways, I had to transcend that grief and loss, and find a place to process with enough space to enable me to soar above, almost out of my body.

I found light and beauty amongst the deep sadness and allowed myself to feel these things too.

The landscape of this place turned into existential conversations

When I work, I tend to show other realms, other landscapes and places that can't be seen in everyday life, but are felt and heard. Sometimes they are a reflection of people's souls, and sometimes they are the music that I feel along the way. My works have always touched on themes of life and death, of existence and purpose, of fragility and hope.

Light can shine through the darkness and push it away.

with myself, the universe, nature and God.

This series is dedicated to Kaia.





Wrapped in Webs, 2021
Ink, acrylic, graphite, oil pastel + pencil on Arches paper
130cm x 108cm | Framed 148cm x 127cm
Floated + framed in raw oak with Perspex
\$6200



O Sister, 2021
Ink, acrylic, graphite, oil pastel + pencil on Arches paper
130cm x 108cm | Framed 148cm x 127cm
Floated + framed in raw oak with Perspex
\$6200



I Built A Wall, 2021
Ink, acrylic, graphite, oil pastel + pencil on Arches paper
130cm x 108cm | Framed 148cm x 127cm
Floated + framed in black woodgrain with Perspex
\$6200



Shedding a Skin, 2021
Ink, acrylic, graphite, oil pastel + pencil on Arches paper
130cm x 216cm | Framed 149cm x 235cm
Floated + framed in raw oak with Perspex
\$10,800



Ghost Ship, 2021
Ink, acrylic, graphite, oil pastel + pencil on Arches paper
108cm x 130cm | Framed 127cm x 148cm
Floated + framed in raw oak with Perspex
\$6200 SOLD



Elemental Truth, 2021
Ink, acrylic, graphite, oil pastel + pencil on Arches paper
130cm x 108cm | Framed 148cm x 127cm
Floated + framed in raw oak with Perspex
\$6200



Grasping the Wind, 2021
Ink, acrylic, graphite, oil pastel + pencil on Arches paper
130cm x 216cm | Framed 149cm x 235cm
Floated + framed in black woodgrain with Perspex
\$10,800



Echoes, 2021
Ink, acrylic, graphite, oil pastel + pencil on Arches paper
108cm x 130cm | Framed 127cm x 148cm
Floated + framed in raw oak with Perspex
\$6200 ON HOLD



Eternal Cascade, 2021
Ink, acrylic, graphite, oil pastel + pencil on Arches paper
130cm x 108cm | Framed 148cm x 127cm
Floated + framed in raw oak with Perspex
\$6200





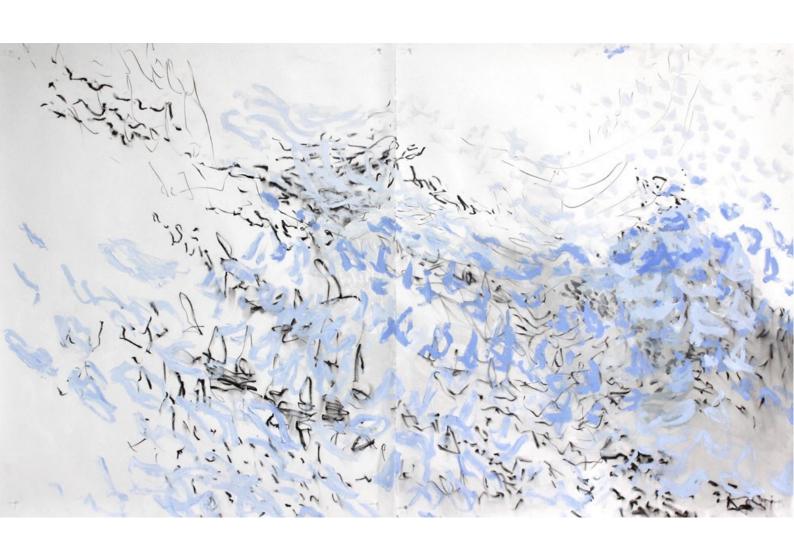
The Bird, the Butterfly and the Girl, 2021
Ink, acrylic, graphite, oil pastel + pencil on Arches paper
130cm x 108cm | Framed 148cm x 127cm
Floated + framed in raw oak with Perspex
\$6200



I will sing this song for you till the end of my days; I Believe You (And when I'm gone this painting will keep on singing), 2021 Ink, acrylic, graphite, oil pastel + pencil on Arches paper 130cm x 216cm | Framed 149cm x 235cm Floated + framed in raw oak with Perspex \$10,800



The Wish, 2021
Ink, acrylic, graphite, oil pastel + pencil on Arches paper
130cm x 108cm | Framed 148cm x 127cm
Floated + framed in black woodgrain with Perspex
\$6200

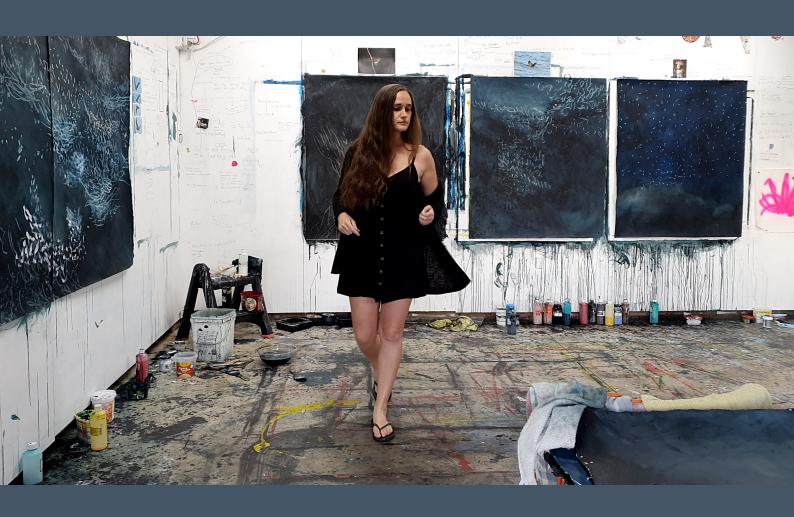




Holding Space, 2021
Ink, acrylic, graphite, oil pastel + pencil on Arches paper
130cm x 108cm | Framed 148cm x 127cm
Floated + framed in raw oak with Perspex
\$6200



Teach Me How to Fly, 2021
Ink, acrylic, graphite, oil pastel + pencil on Arches paper
204cm x 250cm | Framed 210cm x 250cm
Framed in black woodgrain with Perspex
POA





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Curatorial+Co. acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the country on which the gallery sits, the Gadigal People of the Eora Nation, and recognises their continuing connection to land, waters and cultures. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.