

Anne Middleton

Vignette: small, evocative



Vignette

[a decorative design or small illustration used on the title page of a book or at the beginning or end of a chapter.]

[a short piece of writing, music or visual art that clearly expresses the typical characteristics of something or someone.]

A sketch is traditionally the starting point of large studio works. They capture essential colour, form and mood. This series of dry pastel sketches, sets the scene squarely in south-western Victoria. A wild sandy coast strewn with shipwrecks and black basalt that in ancient times had oozed from the volcanos that dot the region. Lush pastures, their borders broken with Cyprus, are swept by wild sea gales and atmospherics heavy with rain.

Each vignette is a starting and an end point. A complete chapter, a short story, a narrative about immersion in the paradise of south-west Victoria.



Introduction

On the eve of the pandemic in 2020, Anne packed up her Melbourne studio and moved to Tower Hill in south-western Victoria. Now living on the rim of a volcano, her house is perched thirty metres from the crater's edge. Middleton found the beauty of her new surrounds and the wild landscape overwhelming.

Anne says: "I was unsure how it would manifest, but I wanted and needed to paint this magnificent country of basalt spattered coast and wild weather. I felt challenged to capture the intangible atmospherics

of moisture and dust, mutable, elusive, so unlike anything I had ever painted before. I have been painting in oils for 35 years, developing a meticulous and deeply personal painting practice, but my new environment has had a profound affect on my painting practice and compelled me to develop new painting techniques evocative of texture, feel and ether. *Silent Atmosphere's* offers a window into the unfathomable mysteries of our gaseous atmosphere, and the patterns of its movement across this dynamic landscape".



Tower Hill #3, 2024, dry pastel on rag paper, 15 x 21cm

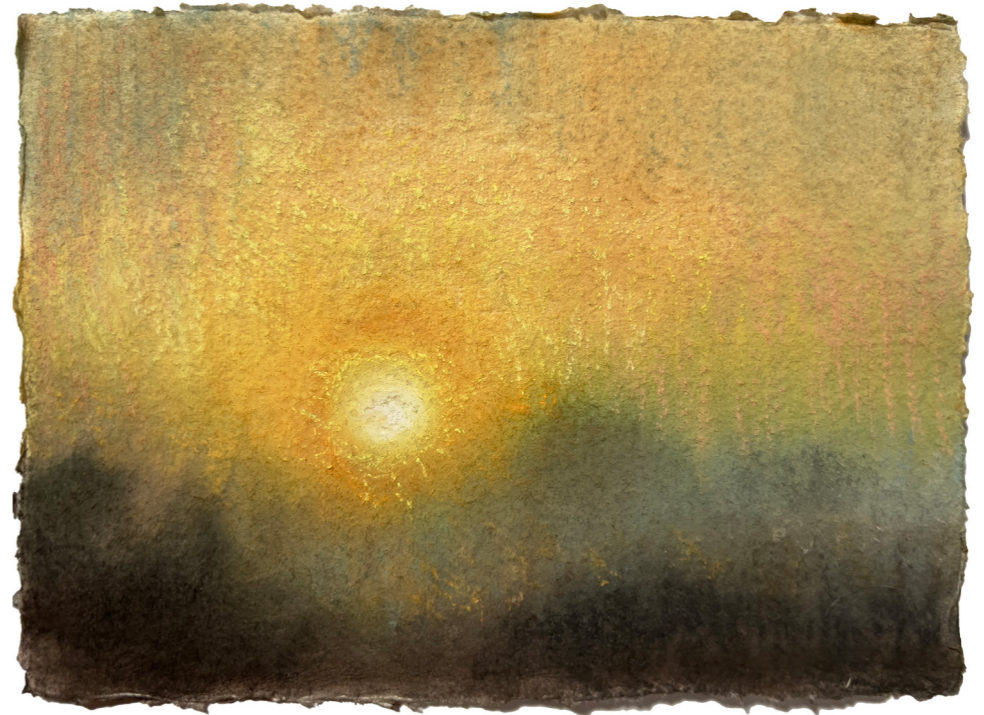


Towards Hamilton 2024, dry pastel on rag paper, 15 x 21cm

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Beyond Warnambool, 2024, dry pastel on rag paper, 15 x 21cm



Illowa #1, 2024, dry pastel on rag paper, 15 x 21cm



Koroit 2024, dry pastel on rag paper, 15 x 21cm



Port Fairy #1, 2024, dry pastel on rag paper, 15 x 21cm



Illowa #2, 2024, dry pastel on rag paper, 15 x 21cm



Killarney #1, 2024, dry pastel on rag paper, 15 x 21cm



Killarney #2, 2024, dry pastel on rag paper, 15 x 21cm



Towards Hamilton #2, 2024, dry pastel on rag paper, 15 x 21cm



Killarney #3, 2024, dry pastel on rag paper, 15 x 21cm



Towards Hamilton #1, 2024, dry pastel on rag paper, 15 x 21cm



Tower Hill #1, 2024, dry pastel on rag paper, 15 x 21cm



Killarney #4, 2024, dry pastel on rag paper, 15 x 21cm



Killarney #07, 2024, dry pastel on rag paper, 15 x 21cm



Tower Hill #5, 2024, dry pastel on rag paper, 15 x 21cm



Tower Hill #4, 2024, dry pastel on rag paper, 15 x 21cm



Tower Hill #6, 2024, dry pastel on rag paper, 15 x 21cm



Killarney #5, 2024, dry pastel on rag paper, 15 x 21cm



Tower Hill #2, 2024, dry pastel on rag paper, 15 x 21cm



Tower Hill #3, 2024, dry pastel on rag paper, 15 x 21cm



Killarney #7, 2024, dry pastel on rag paper, 15 x 21cm

Silent Atmospheres



I myself must walk the path, 2023,
oil on linen
35.5 x 45.5cm



I would so quietly live among the particles of light, 2023,
oil on linen
35.5 x 45.5cm

Silent Atmospheres



Grief I've learned, is really just love, 2023
Oil on linen
35.5 x 45.5cm



There is magic in walking alone, 2023
Oil on linen
35.5 x 45.5cm

Silent Atmospheres



There are places in life you can only go alone, 2023

Oil on linen

35.5 x 45.5cm

Silent Atmospheres



I like to feel the wind hit my skin, 2023
oil on linen
128 x 168cm

Silent Atmospheres



Recesses of Impenetrable feeling, 2023
oil on linen
128 x 168cm

Silent Atmospheres



I've been here before, 2023
oil on linen
128 x 168cm

Biography

Through an extraordinarily refined and perfected painting technique, Anne Middleton explores our natural world in sublime detail. She examines the environment and our connectedness to it. Unapologetically beautiful, Anne's paintings immerse the viewer in her deeply personal and poetic aesthetic, which has been developed over thirty five years of consistent dedication to her chosen medium of oil painting.

Anne's lineage as a painter draws richly from the classical, romantic and baroque artistic traditions that flourished in Europe during the 17th and 18th Centuries, and is heavily influenced by her 1995 studies in Italy of traditional buon-fresco. Her father, Max Middleton, also profoundly affected Anne's painting practice. An outstanding painter of landscapes en plein air, Anne had watched him create his iconic light-filled landscapes from her early childhood.

Anne has significantly contributed to the contemporary artistic community both within Australia and on the international stage in Hong Kong, Italy, and the UK. In 2004, she was the first Australian to be awarded a Fellowship from the prestigious Bogliasco Foundation in Italy. Throughout her celebrated career, Anne has held twelve solo exhibitions and participated in more than thirty art fairs and group shows internationally.

In recent years, Anne has explored the genres of still life, landscape and portraiture. She has been a finalist in the Archibald, Darling and Lester Prizes, and in 2018 won the Archibald Prize People's Choice Award for her portrait of the actor Guy Pearce. In 2023 Anne was commissioned to paint her second portrait for the Collection of Parliament of Victoria. Her work is included in the collection of the National Portrait Gallery, Canberra, and private collections internationally.

Anne is a dedicated full-time artist, and is currently working on a series of small dry pastel landscapes, Vignette, and two major series of oil paintings. From 2009, Anne worked on Gates of Paradise. This series pushes the boundaries of photorealism and botanical art to engage with notions of the sublime. It includes over 70 paintings to date, covering an area of over 100 square metres. In 2022, a collection of these paintings were installed at Here and Now, at Hamilton Art Gallery. From 2022, Silent Atmospheres explores the intangible atmospherics and wild weather of the magnificent volcanic country of her beloved home in Tower Hill on the coast of south-western Victoria.

Solo Exhibitions

- 2024 Old Commonwealth Bank Building - Port Fairy – Vignette
- 2023 Compendium Gallery, Melbourne – Silent Atmospheres
- 2017 The Gallery, St Kilda Town Hall, Melbourne – Gates of Paradise
- 2015 Rebecca Hossack Art Gallery, London – Gates of Paradise
- 2013 Rebecca Hossack Art Gallery, London – Gates of Paradise
- 2008 Indabella, Pokfulam, Hong Kong – Flores
- 2005 Albert Park Gallery, Melbourne – Artist in Study
- 2001 Fenix Restaurant, Melbourne – Nourish
- 2001 Hotel Sofitel Melbourne – Fronds
- 2000 Hotel Sofitel Melbourne Food & Wine Festival Exhibition – Nourish
- 1999 Hotel Sofitel Melbourne – Nourish
- 1998 Span Galleries Melbourne – Creases

Group Exhibitions

- 2022 Hamilton Gallery, Victoria – Here and Now
- 2021 Art Gallery of Western Australia – The Lester Prize
- 2020 National Portrait Gallery, Canberra – Darling Portrait Prize
- 2018 Art Gallery of New South Wales – Archibald, Wynne & Sulman Prizes
- 2016 The Gallery, St Kilda Town Hall, Melbourne – The Botanic Garden
- 2006 Albert Park Gallery – Oceania australis
- 2006 Albert Park Gallery – Mother, Father, Daughter.
- 2006 The Hon. John Thwaites Offices, Treasury Place, East Melbourne, Southside Arts
- 2005 Toyota Community Spirit Gallery – Neomillennium
- 2005 Sofitel Melbourne, – Art & Soul
- 2004 Toyota Community Spirit Gallery – Bridge
- 2003 Albert Park Gallery – Lush
- 2002 Charles Nodrum Gallery – The Painted Fold
- 1999 Old Treasury, Melbourne – The Deep South
- 1998 Aboriginal Art Galleries of Australia, Melbourne – Fuse
- 1995 Palazzo Massi, Arezzo, Italy
- 1989 Massoni Gallery, Melbourne, Australia
- 1989 Women's Gallery, Melbourne, Australia

Art Fairs

2015 Art Stage Singapore

2015 Sydney Contemporary Art Fair

2011 - 2014 Art Fairs in Singapore, Toronto,
London, Hamptons, New York & Melbourne

Residences

2004 Bogliasco Foundation Fellowship,
Genoa, Italy

Awards

2018 Archibald Prize Peoples Choice Award

Collections

National Portrait Gallery, Canberra, Australia

Parliament of Victoria, Australia

Tuscan Region Municipal Collection, Italy

Coburg Peninsula Sanctuary board, Gurig

National Park, Australia

Il Laboratorio per Affresco di Vainella, Prato,
Italy

Portraits

In 2018 Anne painted her first major formal portrait. The subject was the actor Guy Pearce, and the portrait won the Peoples Choice Award in the 2018 Archibald Prize. Since then, Anne has been a finalist in both the Darling Portrait Prize and the Lester Prize, and a semi-finalist in the Moran Prize. In 2023 she was commissioned to paint Hon. Judy Maddigan - her second commissioned portrait for the Parliament of Victoria.

Anne's portraits are held in the collections of the National Portrait Gallery in Canberra, and the Parliament of Victoria.



Guy, 2018, oil on linen, 192 x 192cm

Gates of Paradise

Exhibited at Hamilton Art Gallery in 2022 in *Here and Now*, *Gates of Paradise* pushes the boundaries of photorealism and botanical art to engage with notions of the sublime. Anne's paintings immerse the viewer in a utopian realm, minutely observed, with subjects as disarmingly familiar as a garden wren or a blossom in spring. Anne transforms her acute observations within each canvas into epic testimonies through a method of gridding: each canvas locks visually with the others to form an enduring visual statement that is both overwhelming and all encompassing in scale. More than 70 paintings have been completed in the series, which was begun in 2009.

Gates of Paradise has been exhibited in London and Melbourne, and in select International Art Fairs including Art Stage Singapore and Sydney Contemporary.



Purple rose, velvet kiss, 2023, oil on linen, 96 x 126cm