

WANDERLAND - GALLERYSMITH 2020

lori pensini - solo

The bush heartland wields a kind of magic, an ancient beat and breath beyond the naming of her botanical beauty. We can call her and her forms by name but it isn't necessarily what she answers to. Her spiritual queues are more subtle almost invisible in our modern world discern. There is a constant push and pull between transparency and opacity in the landscape, where the physical making of us facilitates the metaphysical marking and the in between things give way to the fullness. If we unfurl to it that is.

Some days when I walk through the bush on our farm I am drawn backwards, enchanted and completely lost in the story book of my mind. Memory ribbons fluttering haplessly with no order forming bewildering spectrums of illumination into my shaping. At other times I am present to the living moment, and my senses acute and collected in admiration and wonderment at the physical form I witness.

The Wanderland exhibition is a collection of this 'in between and fullness' we experience when we tender ourselves to the natural world. The paintings offer insights into experiences of immersion, of sanctity and intimacy that transcends ourselves into that place of lightness within.

Painting statements:

- **Whispers** - Birds in my art practise are metaphors for the spirit of women passed, they are generally ancestral, and like the birds in the bush, they are storytellers that keep the culture of a family alive down through the generations.
- **Eremophila Veil & Acacia Veil** - The eremophila is valued for medicinal and cultural purposes by indigenous people. Here the veil is painted as a metaphor for our mental healing, the understanding and embracing of our inner strengths through our connection with our landscape. The passing through the botanical veil embodies the passage to enlightenment.
- **Desert Song** - Birds in my art practise are metaphors for the spirit of women passed, they are generally ancestral, and like the birds in the bush, they are storytellers that keep the culture of a family alive down through the generations.
- **Mistletoe** - banksias represent strength and resilience, an icon of the Australian bush. The mistletoe is a symbol of love. I have suffused the two to represent the loving of ones strengths.
- **Pink Prince & Pink Pearl** - represents individuality. The bush kangaroo paw is unique in that it has evolved to shape its flower to deliver pollen to different parts of the pollinating bird's head ensuring its reproduction. Representative here of our own individuality and shaping.
- **Mulga Veil** - as for 'eremophila veil'. The mulga is a symbol of calmness and sanctity.

- **Ever Ever More** - represents the 'fullness' of immersion. The idea of becoming so at one the boundaries between the two envelop each other and blur. Wattle blooming- season of conception. Acceptance of beauty.
- **Ever Ever Lasting** - as for 'ever ever more' except with ever lasting wildflowers - season of birth.
- **Roses of Mallee** - the rose mallee is a rare, striking bush gem and currently a threatened species with fewer than 1000 mature plants left in Western Australia. The rarity and prevalence of the mallee pays tribute to the forging bonds of my family's heritage, the embracing of two cultures despite the racial vilification of the times.
- **Juniper Berry Babes 1 & 2** - acacia sprig. Inspired by my grandmother's bedtime stories of 'the babes in the woods' where by a brother and sister became lost in the bush and the bush birds and animals protected them until they were found. Represent harmony.
- **Cousins** - the birds in this piece are my raucous cousins and sisters, their constant chatter echoing through the bush stories of laughter, of love lost and won, tries and tribulations.
- **The Way Home** - Banksia Attenuata - commonly called the candlestick banksia, its bright glowing flower head lights the bush and shows the way at the night. The banksias are painted in my art practice as ancestral woman, and like their namesake show the way.
- **Manna Wattle Mamma** - Sweet gum (bush toffee). The wattle is one the greatest pollen producers of the bush this painting references the lure of its sweetness in the form of a woman.
- **My Honey Bee** - Again, similar to the Manna Wattle Mamma, this painting refers to sweet nectar and the aphrodisiac like essence of women.
- **Jubilee** - The wax flower (Geraldton wax) known as the "painted lady". Similar to the Manna Wattle Mamma, the wax flower portrays long lasting love - that of a woman.
- **Princess Pride** - Rose Mallee. First settlers overlooked the mallee as it grew in harsh dry semi arid shrublands. "a more worthless sand-desert country, in its natural state, cannot be imagined. There is plenty of vegetation but it is useless." William Lockhart Morton, explorer, 1861. Representing inner beauty or hidden worth.