



KERRY
JOHNS

Sea Coast



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Sea Coast is about an artist's continuing encounter with a landscape. The sea, sky and trees of the south coast have been a stimulating subject for Kerry Johns for many years and their changing complexities continue to interest her.

Growing up in the seaside town of Caloundra in Queensland in the 1950s provides the clue to this preference for place and subject. The sea and its fringe of littoral vegetation; pandanus, casuarinas, banksias and Norfolk pines was her natural domain; some paintings in the show draw directly on these memories of childhood. Now living on the NSW south coast she has returned to this theme with the hand and eye of long experience.

Painting the waters, sands and she-oaks of southern shores, I seem to have come home to a subject I know very well. Everywhere within the landscape I see a palette which inspires me: the softness of greys and the pliancy of whites, the openness of blues, the intensity or subtlety of greens and the purity of aquas are all held within it.

It is a subtle subject yet it can also be intense, changeable and wild with ceaseless movement. Within this landscape there is much to excite the painter's eye. It has been the

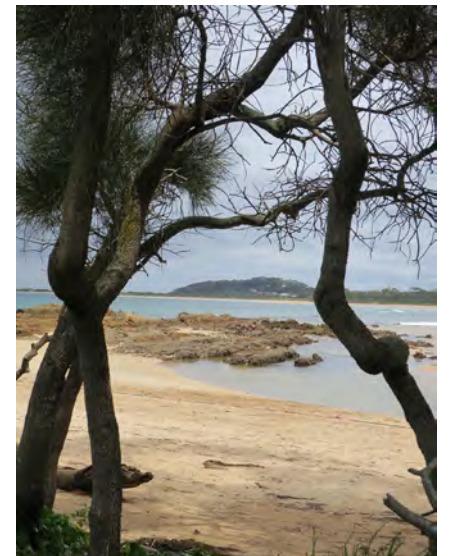
centre of my pictorial world for many years.

Several of the paintings in this exhibition are of a small tidal waterway called Candlagan Creek near her home. This was her field of operation early most mornings last summer with easel, backpack, canvas and chair, painting under the casuarinas.

Her connection with the subject is made by working in this way, 'en plein air'. It allows the here-and-now perception of Nature and the personal connection that she believes fundamental to expression.

Working in situ with eyes ready to see what is there, the painter may be given the gift of truth. It's not just the surprising discoveries about how things look and relate, but the experience of being part of it that is so important to me. In the studio I work on transforming my initial observation and subjective impressions into cohesive form.

In **Sea Coast** Kerry Johns takes us beyond familiar coastal scenes to join with more universal themes, such as the human search for peace and the celebration of what is precious in Nature. These paintings are a homage to the seaside, the iconic landscape that we collectively value and love.





Tide Turning 76 x 101cm



Land of Many Waters 76 x 91cm



On a Clear Day 76 x 91cm



Sandy Bank 45 x 60cm



Portal 45 x 60cm



Candlagan Arabesque 45 x 60cm



Green Sky Creek 41 x 51 cm



Seaside Town 51 x 60cm



Forest Edge 61 x 61cm



Jervis Bay Marine 50 x 50cm



Flooded Lagoon 50 x 50cm



Pines of Lost Memory 76 x 61cm



Sandhills Memory 76 x 76cm



Island and Creek
125 x 100cm
\$7000



The Far Shore
80 x 133

