

ART EXHIBITION CATALOGUE

THE SPECIALISTS

AUGUST 5–29, 2016





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FORWARD BY MARK WIDDUP

Director Cooks Hill Galleries

'The Specialists' Is a curated exhibition showcasing Australian Contemporary Artists, some known to our gallery and social media followers, others new. All are professional artists illustrating a diverse range of styles within their paintings. This is an online and gallery exhibition offering distinct styles by five contrasting artists.

I hope you enjoy their individualness.

The Artists

John Maitland captures people, children and families within their environment and the indigenous people compositions. The former often inspired from John's extended family. John gives an insight into the personality of those within his paintings by using subtlety and a body language that gives the viewer a yearning for the simplicity of life.

The indigenous subjects also focus on the figure being in tune with landscape, often seen with girls dressed to go on an outing! Colourful, alluring, enticing. His paintings create an innocence of time past.

Gavin Fry Is known to many of us as a past director of the Newcastle Museum, especially the project of overseeing the move from the old Museum site to its present location at Honeysuckle, Newcastle!

www.newcastlemuseum.com.au

He is acknowledged as working in Australian art and museums over the decades. Additionally he is an arts writer, publisher, curator and more recently an active artist.

Gavin has said to me "it is a passion he has suppressed for years, it's quite a mental adjustment being on the other side of the arts". Some 30 years has passed since his return to the role of artist! This body of work has been directed to Newcastle icons.

Gavin's style is expressionist incorporating vertical light planes and angles somewhat rendering a cubist influence with an 1970's aura.

Susan Sheridan Is currently on a painting trip to North Queensland and left these works before she departed.

Absorbing nature and the affects of living and sketching 'plein air' in its presence is an important part of the process of developing an artwork for Susan.

To identify, immerse, listen and observe a place are all the prerequisites that set the stage for this artist to delve into making a painting. Emotional, often impressionistic maybe ethereal are all adjectives to describe her style and the viewer's response.

Ben Kenning Two major works are on offer by this promising artist! Ben's recent trip to India further established him as an explorer in pursuit of change and challenges in his life. Travel is a recognised pathway for new experiences and subject matter. A considered, structured and expressionist style reveals layers of composition in somewhat a matrix pattern.

You especially have to stand in front of a Kenning painting to grasp it's impact.

Complex, exciting, challenging and masterful summarise his art!

Rod Bathgate Offers us two new pastels; one takes us into the seascape of a wave showing a distinct colour/light refraction.

Rod's ability to immerse ourselves into the landscape or seascape with the medium of pastel is unique. His skill with this medium is rare as is his insight into the effects of water and what he is able to capture.

Rod is an accomplished artist set on his own unique path.

The other painting is a different viewpoint of under the cliff at Nobbys headland. The light is different, the subject is acknowledged but the aspect is the point of difference.

For sales and commission orders, please contact the director Mark Widdup.

Text or call 0418 492 259, 24/7.

John Maitland
BLUE MOON

Acrylic on board

120 H x 60 W cm

\$3,690

Artist Note “One of a series of paintings following on from the splendid phases of the moon late last year...Blood moon, super moon etc. All which were clearly visible from my Coffs Harbour studio.

Down on the beach using my grandchildren as models my aim was simply to capture the sense of wonder at both the spectacle unfolding and the sense of wonder of the viewer.”

PURCHASE NOW





John Maitland
**FAIR HAired GIRLS
END OF SUMMER HOLS**

Mixed media on canvas

110 H x 110 W cm

\$6,700

Artist Note “A sultry afternoon, sun high in the sky—
Friends forever.

A few more precious days together venturing along
the beach...hoping it never ends.”

PURCHASE NOW 





John Maitland
THE LITTLE YELLOW TREE

Mixed media on board

120 H x 120 W cm

\$7,390

Artist Note “In this work I've used one of my favourite motifs—the little yellow tree. This is always used in my work as a symbol of new life or the joy that the colour yellow brings whether in sunlight , flowers, etc.

Metalic paint is used in this work as a backdrop to the children picking the flowers of the little yellow tree.

The lustre of metallic greens sweep around the child in the foreground to focus and emphasise the child's absorption, marvelling at the beauty of the posy of little yellow flowers.”.

PURCHASE NOW



SIX





John Maitland
WOMAN AND CHILD ON BLUE

Mixed media on board

120 H x 60 W cm

\$3,690

Artist Note “I’m using metallic paint in my recent works to impart a lustre and excitement.

In this work I’ve used blue and silvers—the blues give a sense of calmness to the subject of mother and child whilst the silver emphasis the harmony, bond and feelings between the two figures.”

PURCHASE NOW 





Gavin Fry
FORT SCRATCHLEY TO THE NORTH

Acrylic on Canvas

76 H x 100 W cm

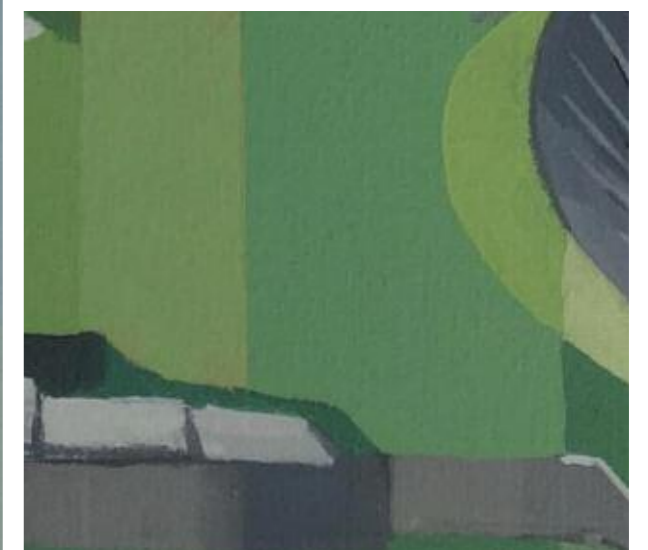
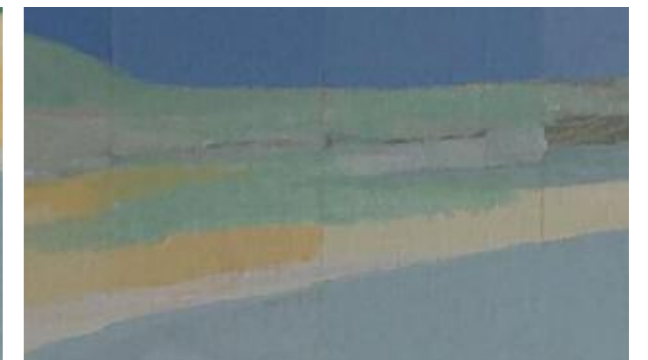
\$1,600

Artist Note “In 1993 I undertook a review of all the museums managed by the Australian Army, including the coastal forts from Darwin right around to Fremantle. I find them intriguing structures, always placed on the dominant point of the coast, guarding key places on the land. Newcastle is lucky to have Fort Scratchley right in the middle of the city, a reminder of dangers past and a symbol of pride as the only Australian fort to actively engage the enemy in World War Two.”

PURCHASE NOW



TEN





Gavin Fry
NOBBY'S

Acrylic on canvas

45.7 H x 30 W cm

\$400

Artist Note “Nobby’s might have lost one third of its original height in order to build the causeway which links it to the mainland, but it is still a landmark which defines the seaward entrance to Newcastle and its important harbour. It is almost a cliché, a tourist brochure essential, but nonetheless still an impressive place to locals and visitors alike.”

PURCHASE NOW 





Gavin Fry
FOUR NEWCASTLE ICONS

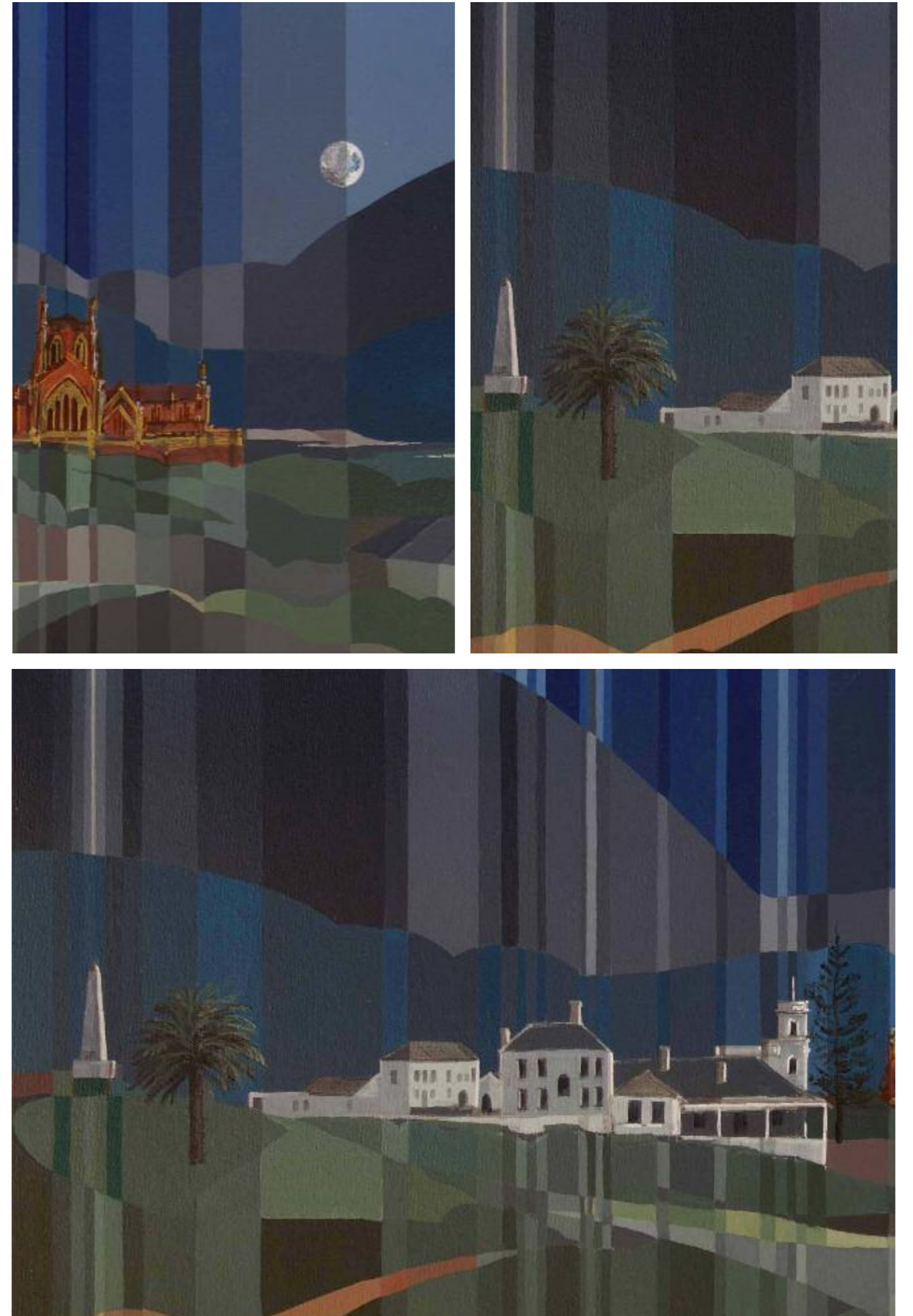
Acrylic on Canvas

46 H x 92 W cm

\$950

Artist Note “There is a spot near the entrance to King Edward Park from where you can see four structures which define the city and its history. The obelisk helped guide ships into the port, Jesmond House epitomises the wealth and status generated by the early industries of the area, the Cathedral the sense of pride, confidence and purpose of a successful community and, with the truncated form of Nobbys, the control and modification of nature to promote the greater good.”

PURCHASE NOW





Gavin Fry
CUSTOMS HOUSE

Acrylic on Canvas

76 H x 30.5 W cm

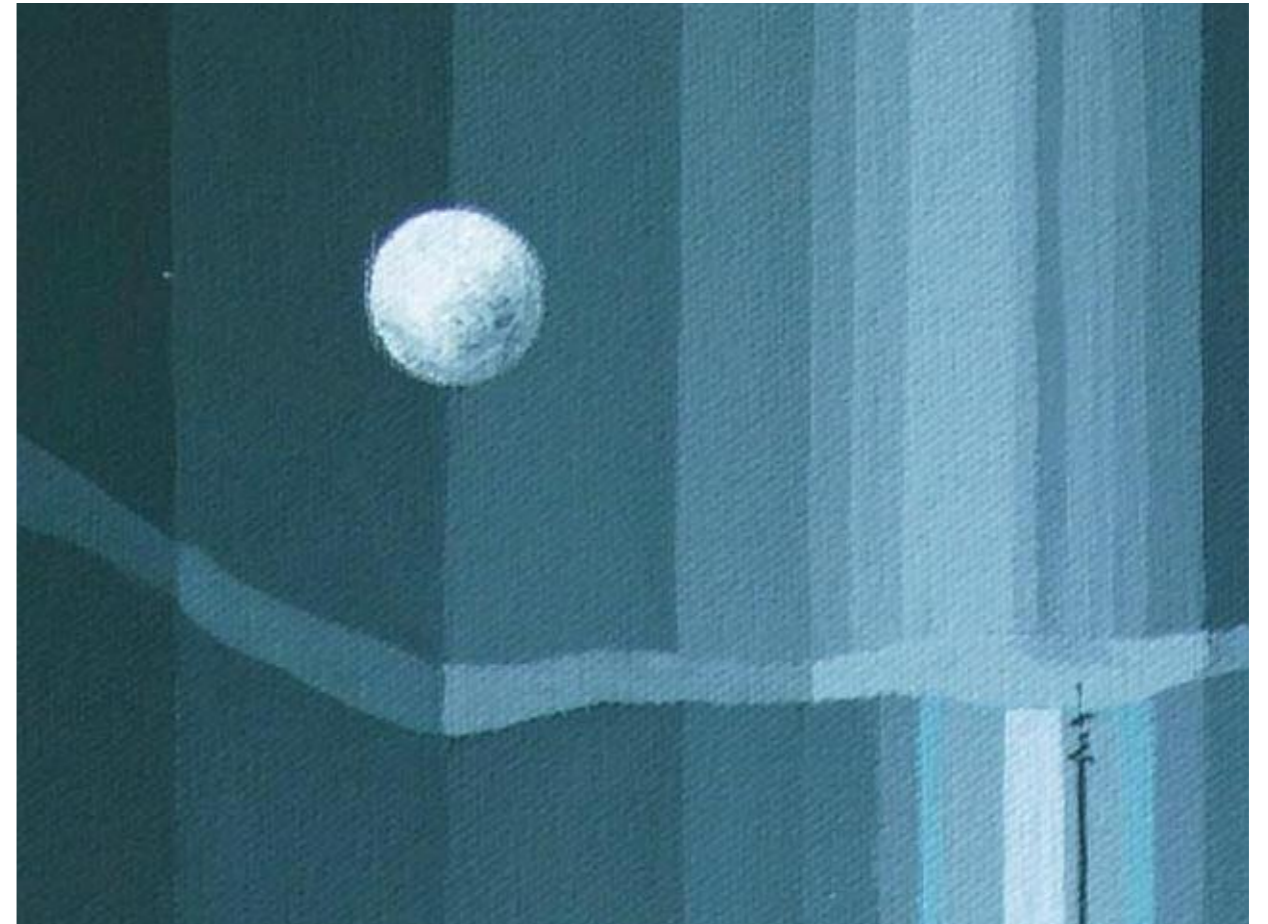
\$600

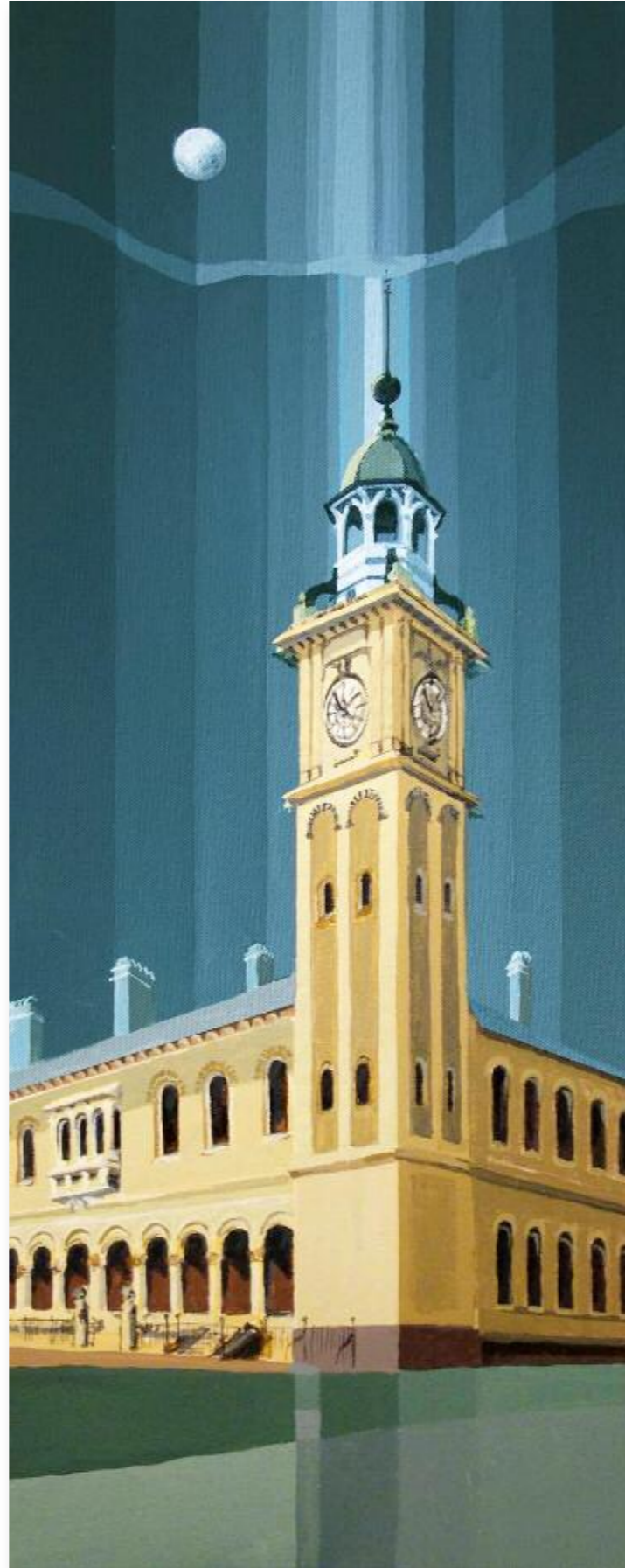
Artist Note “The Victorians had enormous pride in their civic buildings and the public places of their city. The Customs house might have served the most mundane of functions, collecting the taxes and excise duties on goods imported into the colony, but it is a wonderfully whimsical and quite romantic structure. The tower which supports the time ball would be at home in an Italian medieval hill town, while the elegant oriel window on the north side is taken straight from the set of Romeo and Juliet.”

PURCHASE NOW



SIXTEEN





Gavin Fry
COMING HOME

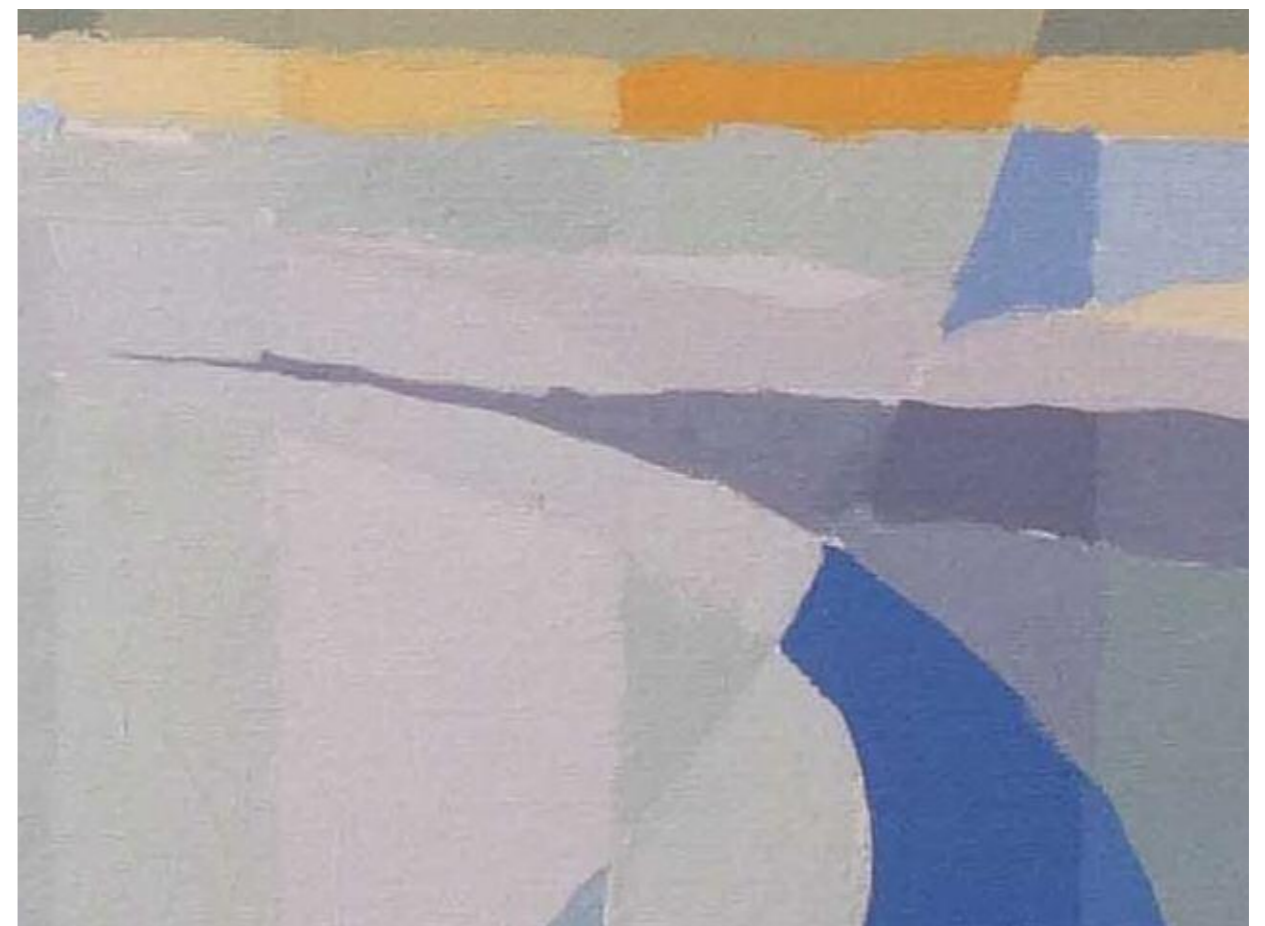
Acrylic on Canvas

87 H x 77 W cm

\$1,200

Artist Note “Many of my pictures show the big ships which come and go from Newcastle every day. But leisure boats, especially sailing craft, are equally appealing and always make a good subject for a painting. This work is in a sense illustrative, being a very particular place and style of boat, but the colour and form of the picture is an exercise in colour and design.”

PURCHASE NOW 





Susan Sheridan
**FOSSICKING EGRETS
MONTGOMERY REEF**

Watercolour paper

56 H x 76 W cm

\$3,000

Director's Note "This is a work on paper inspired from a similar subject, being an acrylic on canvas painting produced and later sold two years ago to a UK collector. The tidal movement in NW Western Australia is extreme leaving coral reefs uncovered at low tide. Caught amongst the coral beds are small fish and crustaceans welcomed by all manner of bird life. Susan captures the moment in her unmistakable impressionist style!"

PURCHASE NOW 





Susan Sheridan
**COOPERATIVE FISHING
LAKE CARGELLIGO**

Mixed media on canvas

90 H x 121 W cm

\$7,000

Director's Note "Susan has a fascination with wildlife, particularly birds! The central pattern of birds feeding, almost in a frenzy adds excitement to the subject. It provides a focal point and energy in a landscape that is tranquil and subtle. The tones she used in the painting suggests a evenness of light at the location and note the lack of contrast. The aim of which appears to be to capture understatement."

PURCHASE NOW 





Susan Sheridan
LOW TIDE EXPLORING

Mixed media on canvas

66 H x 122 W cm

\$6,000

Director's Note "I'm taken to a magical place Susan has chosen, where light rays and reflection abound. The isolation is broken by the two boats and I'm soon conscious of the fact of how well they are balancing the composition."

PURCHASE NOW 





Ben Kenning
A MYTHOLOGY

Acrylic on unstretched canvas

210 H x 370 W cm

\$2,750

Artist Note “A Mythology is a personal mythology. The painting was created using black and white independently of one another through a process of layering until an equal balance is struck between the two. In creating the work this way I am seeking to explore the notions of duality, non-duality and interdependence through my creative process.

The imagery and content of the painting are of personal and universal symbols which are composed and drawn in such ways as to imply narrative.”

*This painting was awarded the "Impetus Award" at the 2014 - Bloom, Watt Space Student Art Prize, University of Newcastle, NSW.

PURCHASE NOW 

TWENTY SIX





Ben Kenning
IN THE MIRROR WAS A REFLECTION

Mixed media on paper

162 H x 146 W cm

\$1,750

Artist Note “In this painting I wanted to capture something of the relationship and transitions which occur between chaos and order. Where the imagination is set with the task to interpret information in a meaningful, subjective way or to allow this visual information to remain chaotic. Both the orderly and chaotic sit within the same spectrum and the viewer is invited to travel across the surface of the painting from close and afar and to interpret the painting in their own way.”

PURCHASE NOW



TWENTY EIGHT



Ben Kenning 'In the mirror was a reflection'



Rod Bathgate
DEEP CHROME 2

Pastel on paper

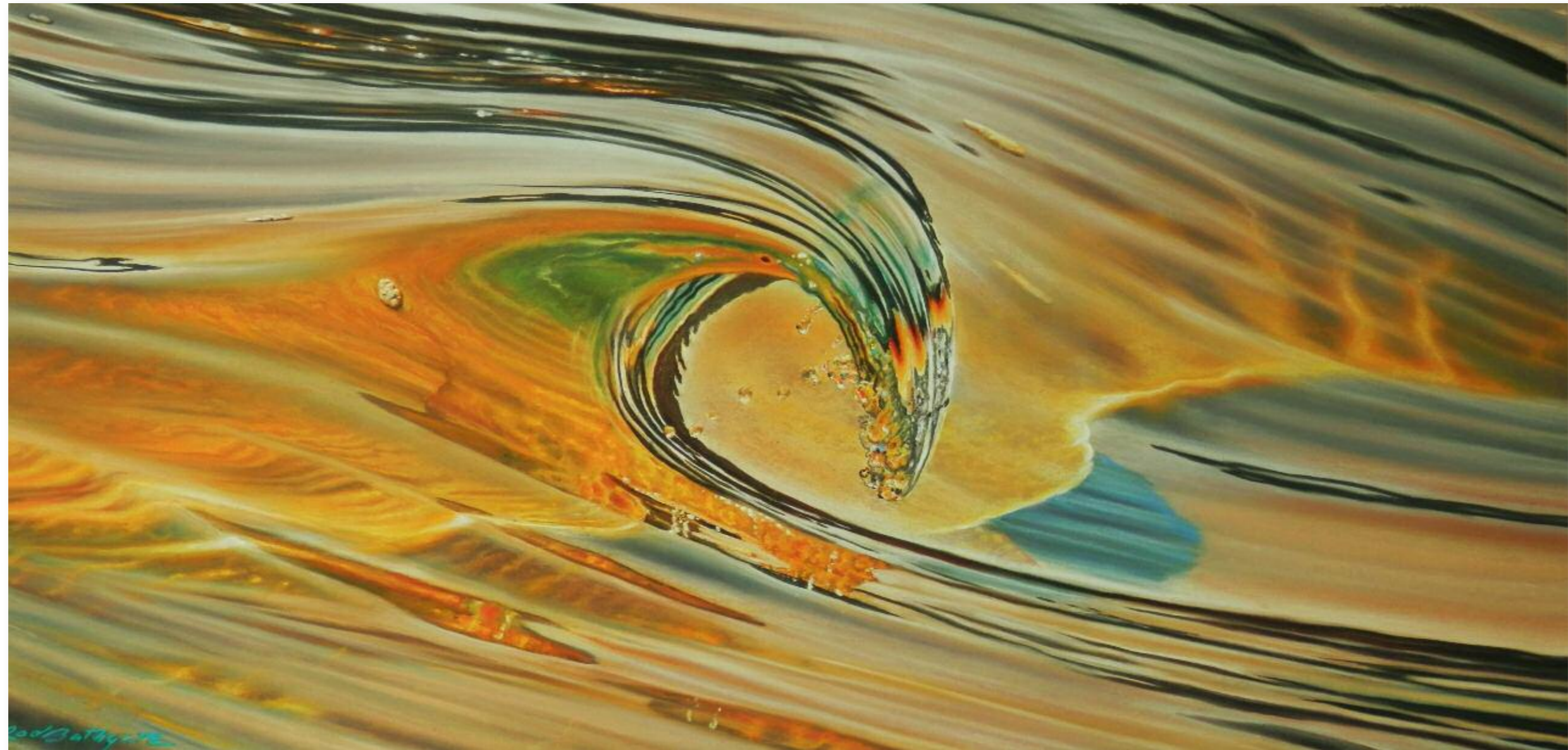
30 H x 60 W cm

\$2,500

Artist Note "Liquid chrome like treacle."

PURCHASE NOW 





Rod Bathgate

THE PEARL, NOBBYS BREAKWATER, ANZAC DAY 2016

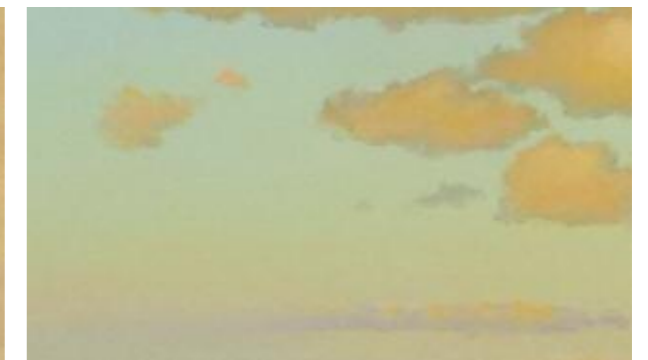
Pastel on board

80 H x 100 W cm

\$4,500

Artist Note “Warm Anzac evening with a pearl flushing
light, magic!”

PURCHASE NOW 







TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR ART PURCHASE

- 1. CONTACT DETAILS** All art sales will be invoiced, so please contact mail@cookshillgalleries.com and supply the name and address of the entity or person/s to be cited on the paperwork, with an email address and a mobile number.
- 2. THE DELIVERY ADDRESS** Please supply contact name/s, mobile phone number and delivery instructions.
Please advise of your preferred carrier and their contact names/phone. We can supply/offer carrier details also.
- 3. INSURANCE** We recommend you supply your art purchase details to your 'contents insurer' prior to delivery after invoicing. The artwork becomes the responsibility of the buyer after it leaves the galleries premises (CHG).

CONTACT DETAILS

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