

Banx – Artist’s Statement



I love a sunburnt country,
A land of sweeping plains,
Of ragged mountain ranges,
Of droughts and flooding rains.
I love her far horizons,
I love her jewel-sea,
Her beauty and her terror
The wide brown land for me!

This verse in Australian poet Dorothea MacKellar’s famous 1904 poem ‘My Country’ greatly inspires much of my work. The unique vivid colours of the Australian landscape; the strong earthy smells after it rains; the constant cacophony of bird and bush, and ocean sounds; and the assaulting, almost-blinding light have all influenced my paintings in some way.

I frequently use strong oils & acrylics on canvas with bold brush strokes. Australia is a vast, contrasting continent and consequently, I feel the need to paint what I see and experience in this country in bold colours with painterly techniques. This sometimes involves physically mixing the earth and sand with the paint before applying it thickly to the canvas.

I also particularly enjoy painting well-known landmarks that a town’s inhabitants feel an emotional attachment to despite their initial overt ‘tourist attraction’ – giving a sense of space and place, time and history... whether that be a city’s famous bridge or a ‘ragged mountain range’.

My on-going life’s art journey has been influenced by Australia’s contemporary masters such as Brett Whitely, whose passion in paint continues to inspire me long after his death. Overseas influences include Jackson Pollock and Vincent Van Gogh for their passion to try something new at the time.