

Artist: Fiona Kennedy Altoft
Exhibition title: "From here to there"
Where : Roma on Bungil Gallery
Opening: Saturday 18th November at 1030am

Fiona Kennedy Altoft has recently returned to Australia from Hong Kong where she lived happily for nine years. When Fiona lived in Hong Kong, she mostly made figurative and portraiture pieces. During the protests and throughout the restrictions imposed on them due to Covid, she felt the need to do spontaneous works to release emotion. She needed something that was fast and furious in its execution to help her overcome the frustrations of lockdown.

Painting continuously without pressure of subject matter forced a refocus on composition, colours and brushstrokes. Some of the pigment of vibrant rust coloured dirt and charcoal are from her hometown Roma. They speak volumes about how these works are so personal. Spontaneous, intuitive painting is for Fiona a process of release. It is such a freeing experience – the complete opposite to what she was feeling in Hong Kong.

Fiona says that some paintings aim to be realistic, while abstract paintings take the viewer on a different journey through triggering a felt experience. Her experience of these abstract works on paper have made her reflect on her recent move from Hong Kong to Australia. Moving back home has been difficult – a process of grieving. Painting is a way of losing herself and allowing herself to feel deeply and then to forget - just for a brief moment. Fiona says it has been a cathartic, comforting experience painting these artworks and she has gained an overriding sense of joy from the process.

Her exhibition is titled "From here to there" and tells the story of this process of coming from Hong Kong back to Australia. The Exhibition opens on Saturday 18th November at 1030am at the Roma on Bungil Gallery. Refreshments will be available, and all are welcome to attend.

For enquiries, please email secretary@romaonbungil.com.au

Fiona Kennedy Altoft

Mobile: +61 493 363 871

Email: fionakennedyaltoft@yahoo.com.au

EDUCATION

- Graduate Diploma of Education – **Australian Catholic University (Brisbane, Australia), 1993.**
- Bachelor of Arts (Visual Arts) – **Queensland University of Technology (Brisbane, Australia), 1990 - 1992.**

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- Sovereign Art Prize, Hong Kong, 2019
- “Connection”, Purple Art Bay, Hong Kong, 2018.
- “Ensnoced”, Purple Art Bay, Hong Kong, 2017.
- “Transitions”, Compton Gallery, Hong Kong, 2014.
- Van Rensburg Galleries, Hong Kong, 2014
- “In Search of Reverie”, Noosa Regional Art Gallery, Bundaberg Regional Art Gallery, 2013.
- “Offspring”, Gold Coast Regional Art Gallery, 2011.
- “Frocks, Feathers, Fur”, Retrospect Gallery, Broadbeach, Gold Coast, 2011.
- Frances Keevil, Sydney, October, 2009.

ART PRIZES AND AWARDS

Finalist Brisbane Portrait Prize 2023

- Clayton Utz Art Prize, Finalist, (2012, 2018 and 2019).
- Wilson Art Prize, Finalist. (2012).
- Gainborough Greens Art Award, Finalist, (2012).
- Flying Arts Regional Art Prize (2012).
- Sunshine Coast Art Prize, Finalist (2012).
- Calleen Art Award, Cowra Regional Gallery, (2012).

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- Gallery One (Gold Coast, 2013)
- Affordable Art Fair (Brussels, London and New York, 2012)
- Affordable Art Fair (Singapore, 2011)
- Lightmares Collaborative Art Project 19 Karen Gallery, Gold Coast, Qld
- Diary of a DNA, Acquire Arts Gallery, (London, 2010).
- Summer Leaves, Joshua Levi Gallery, (Brisbane, 2010).
- Brisbane Emerging Arts Festival, White Canvas Gallery (Brisbane, 2010).
- Clowns, Kooks and Carnies, retrospect Galleries, (Byron Bay, 2010).
- Chick Chick Boom, Joshua Levi Galleries, (Woolloongabba, 2009).
- Revolution of Art, Retrospect Gallery, (Byron Bay, 2009).
- Creative Women Conference, Gold Coast, Exhibitor and Guest Speaker (2009).
- Feminine Subconscious, Retrospect Galleries, (Byron Bay, 2009).
- Inverse Gallery, Burleigh Heads, (Queensland, 2009).
- “Picture this 08”, Brunswick Street Gallery, (Melbourne, 2008).
- Robyn Bauer Gallery Show (QLD, 2008)
- Arthouse Gallery, West End, (QLD, 2007).