

Janine Good

Paintings & Drawings – New Energies 2007 Exhibition

The natural environment has always been a dominant element in Janine's artwork. As a young child growing up in the outer suburbs of Melbourne during the 60's & 70's, rather than portraying her surrounding environment of bricks and mortar, a major part of her time was spent closely observing Nature's small wonders, often recording it in detailed drawings. Her early work focused on realistic representations of the natural landscape including proficient studies of wildlife.

In 1989 Janine moved from the suburbs to a rustic rural life in the Dandenong Ranges where there existed a wider range of natural reference. But as her mentor Nature constantly evolves, she too was discontent to remain static. Explorations of paint as a medium began along with a desire to be free from the constraints of figurative imagery. With encouragement from her partner this eventually led to formalising her artistic experience at Monash University in Churchill, commencing a Bachelor of Visual Arts in 1996 while simultaneously raising a young family. Here she soaked up the vast resources of the library unveiling imagery of artworks and artistic expression by artists she could never have dreamt about. Discovering that she could use Nature's example not only for visual reference but also symbolically, her work at this time focused on using evolving lifecycles as a metaphor for her method of painting, resulting in abstract works using natural elements to express experiences of womanhood. In these works Janine found that while the process of painting resulted in richly colourful and visually tactile imagery, that a narrative would evolve for her but would remain obscure to the viewer.

Since completing her degree in 2001 and moving to another rural location – Drouin in Gippsland, she has reassessed her focus, evolving this time due to a desire to reach a wider audience. The resulting works exhibited here are an amalgamation of the various eras of her artwork. Through imagery of her own children and their experiences she tells the story of her personal interest in the world by creating a narrative of childhood innocence, discovery, wonder, abandon, confusion and often caution in the adult world. The use of rich colour and tactile process adds a poetic sense to the discovery of the natural world, drawing attention to the simple pleasures surrounding us in what sometimes appears to be an unnecessarily complex world.