



SUSAN BAIRD

Hydra

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3 – 20 December 2025

Hydra Series (2023–2025) – Notes from the Artist

This suite of paintings is inspired by my travels to the island of Hydra during 2023 and 2024 and was further developed in my studio in 2025.

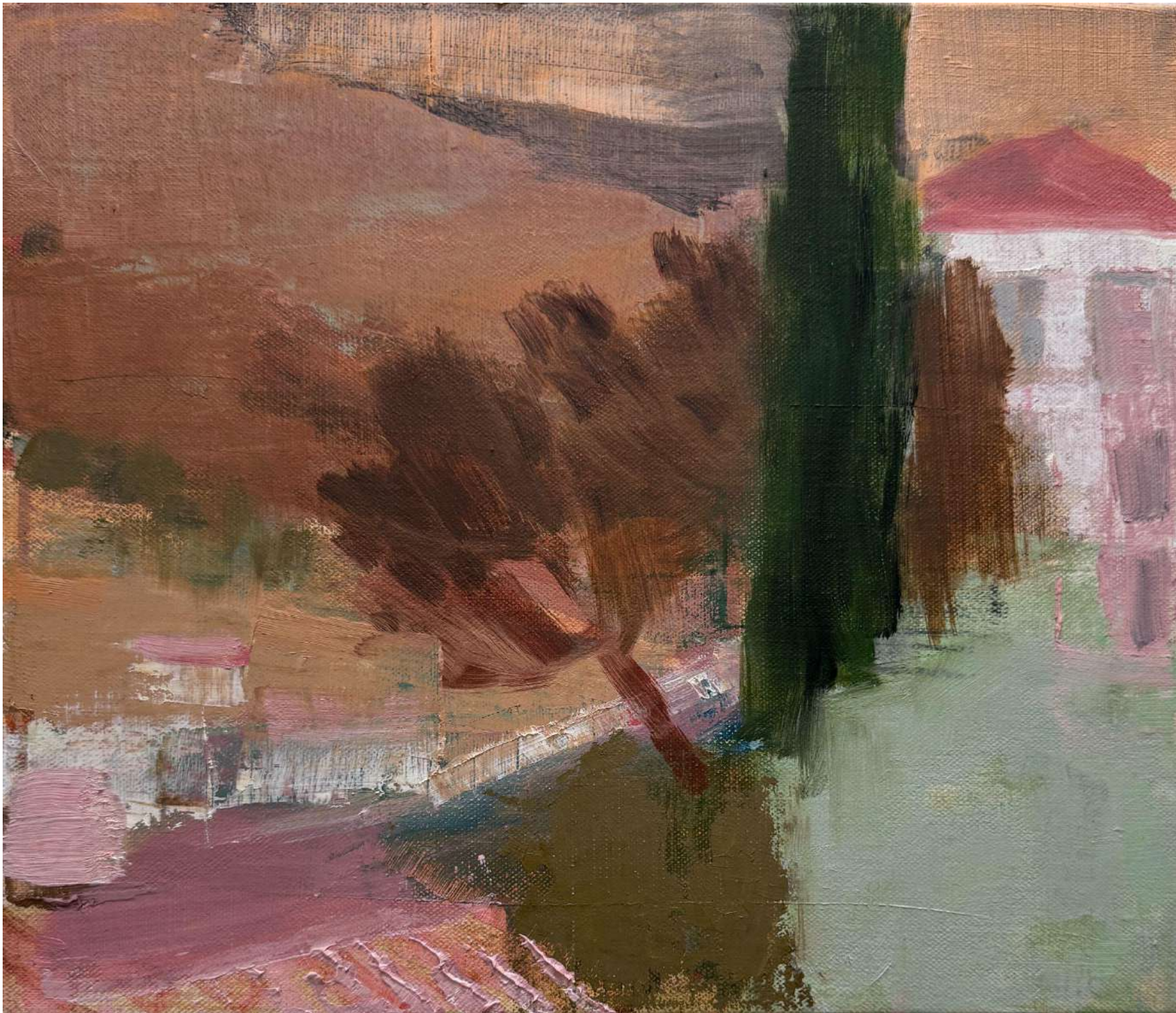
On my first visit, I was completely captivated by the island's luminous light and dramatic landscape. Hydra's Venetian stone villas, tall cypress trees and vast rocky escarpments, encircled by the Aegean Sea, offered a unique harmony of architecture and nature that compelled me to paint.

I returned in April 2024 with the intention of painting en plein air, making Lemon Tree House, a traditional Hydriot home my base for four weeks. From its small balcony overlooking the inland area known as Avlaki, I was able to observe the quiet rhythms of everyday life. The rocky hills and nearby ancient ruins formed a constant backdrop to my work, while from the rooftop terrace, glimpses of the sparkling blue sea and the fishing village of Kamini unfolded in the distance.

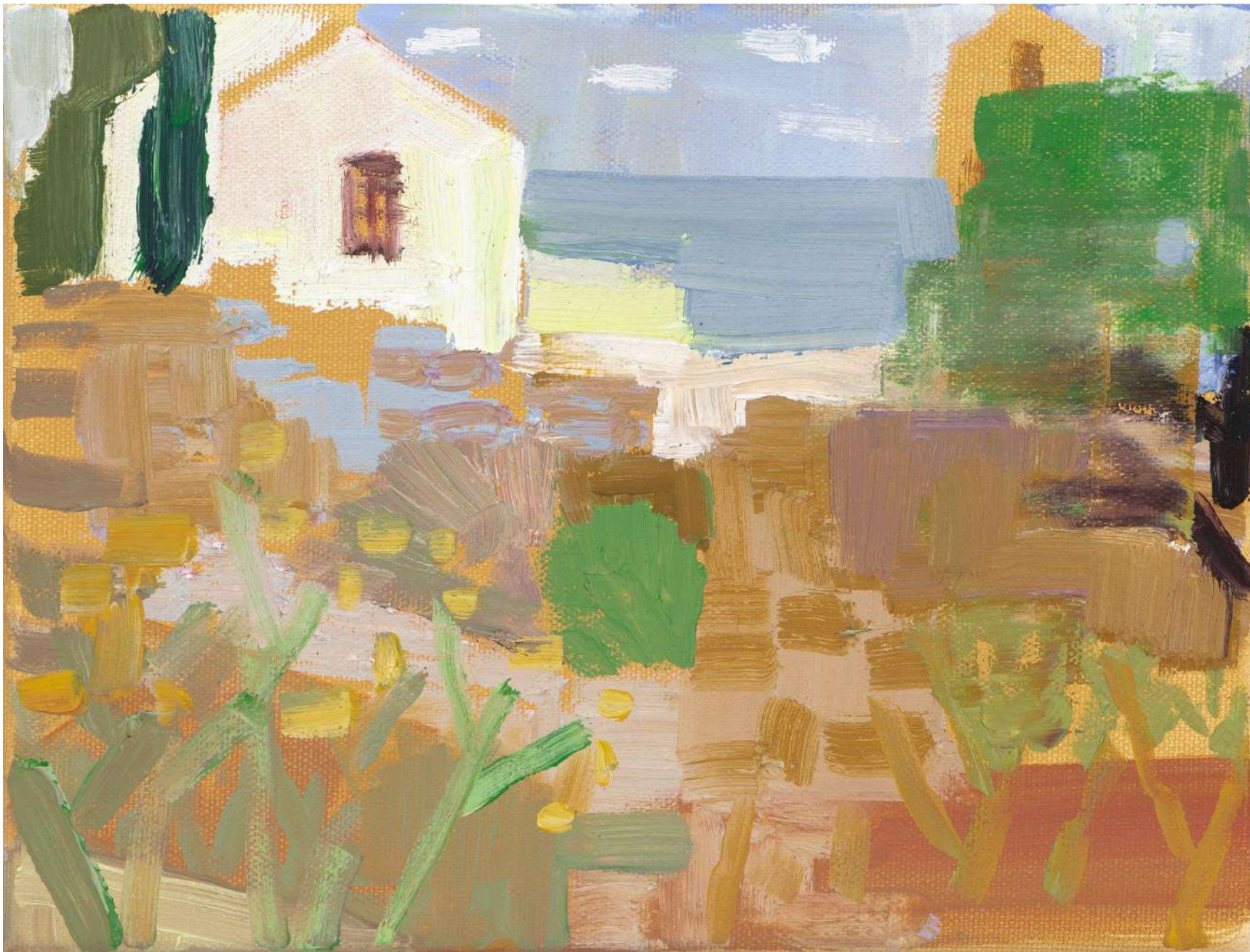
During this time, I was lucky to witness the rare Sirocco dust storm from the Sahara, transforming the light into a dusty pink-orange haze. Late spring brought a delicate bloom of wildflowers, simple moments of beauty within a landscape of rugged decay.

On Hydra, time feels suspended. Donkeys and footpaths remain the island's primary modes of transport, and life begins with the first sounds of daybreak.

While there, I also made a pilgrimage to the Australian House, once home to writers Charmian Clift and George Johnston, passing Leonard Cohen's old house each day on the steep walk to the port. I often reflected on Sidney Nolan's time on Hydra and his evocative paintings of churches set against the cliffs. I felt the creative spirit of these artists, their isolation, reflection and connection to the place – it accompanied and inspired my own work.



Walled Garden
oil on Belgian linen
30 x 35 cm
\$2,500



Church on Hydra
oil on canvas
18 x 24 cm
\$1,200



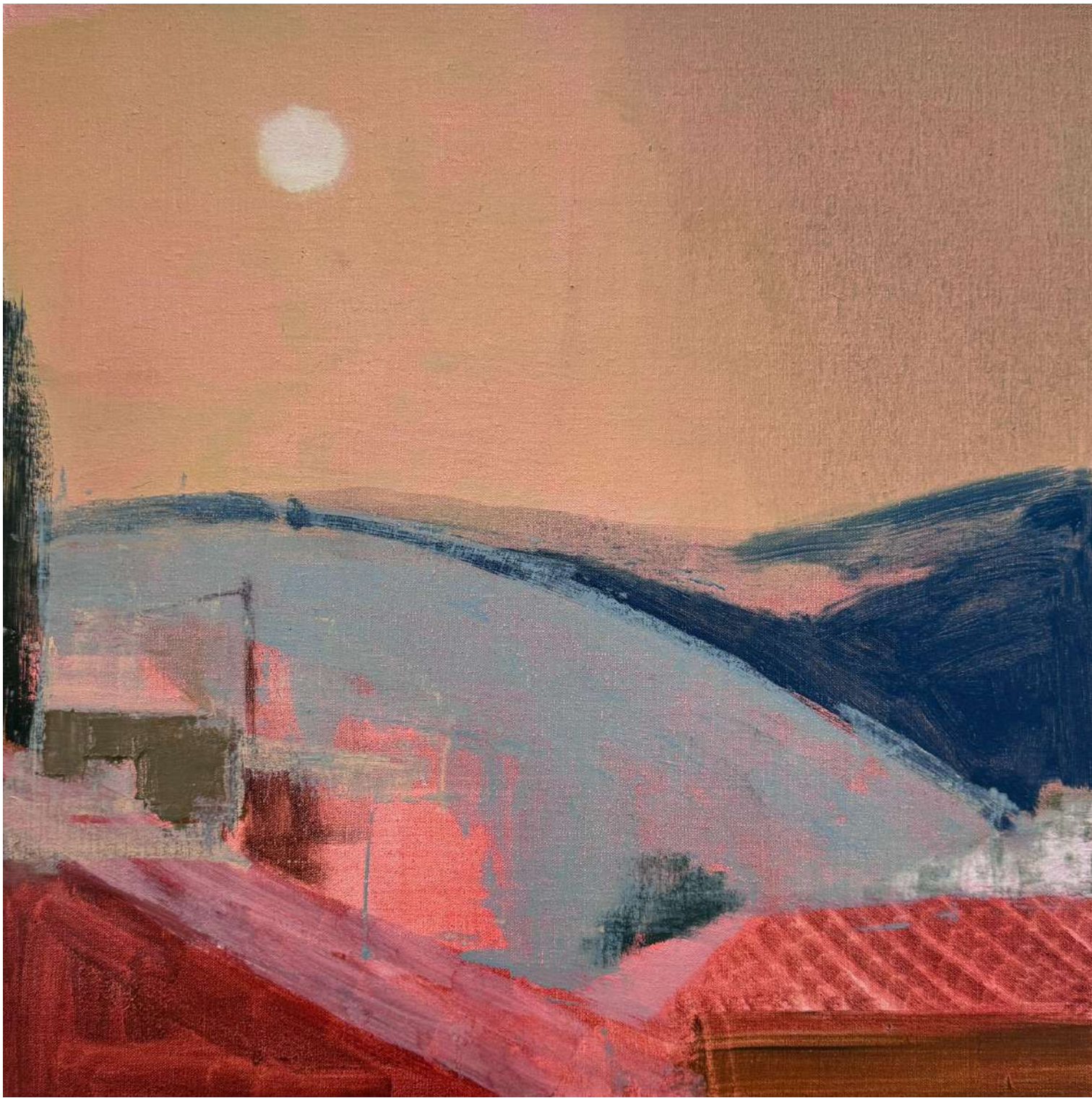


Secret Garden, Kamini View

oil on canvas

18 x 24 cm

\$1,200



Sirocco
oil on Belgian linen
50 x 50 cm
\$3,200

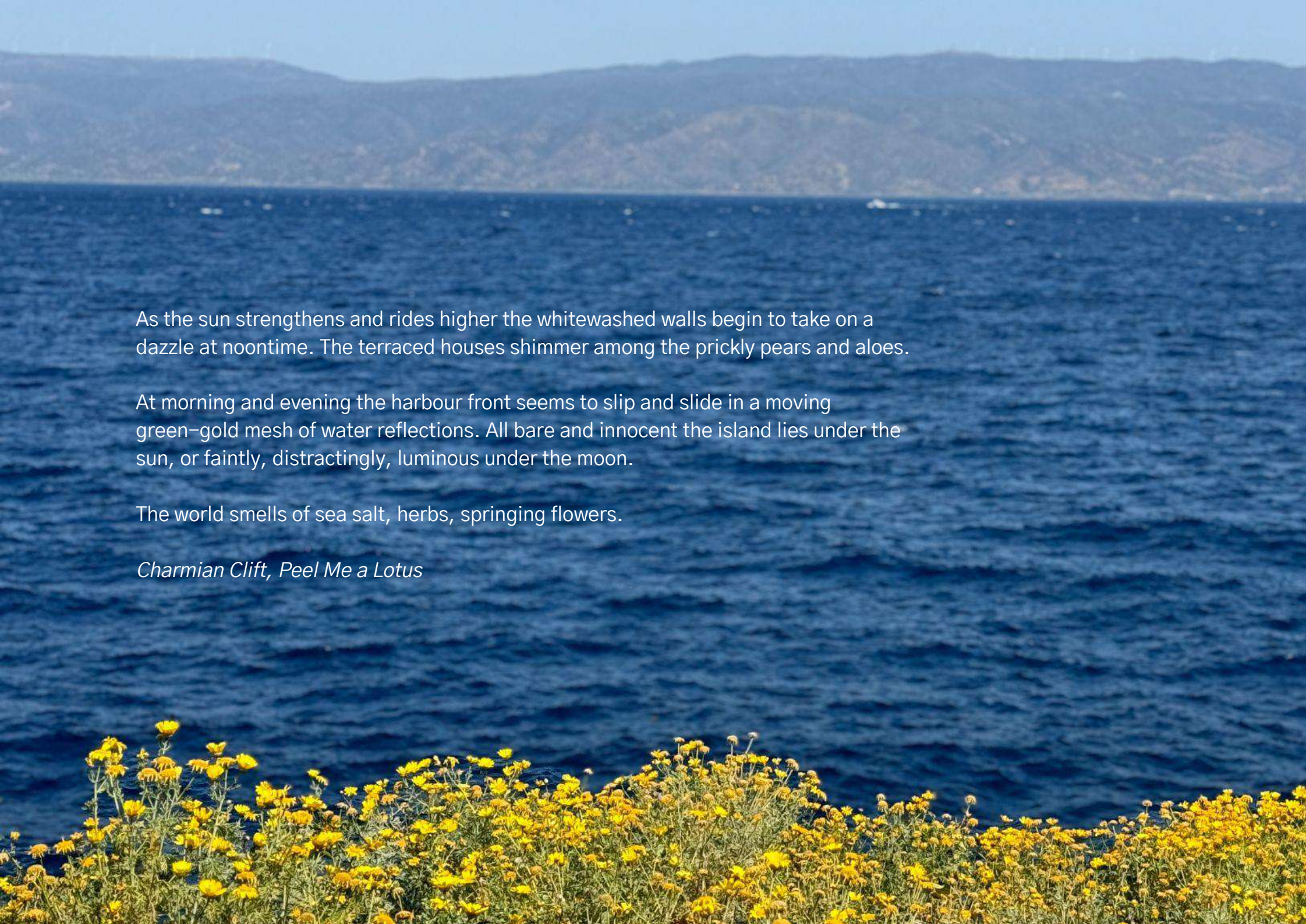


Sitting Room Window at Lemon Tree House

oil on Belgian linen

30 x 30 cm

\$2,200

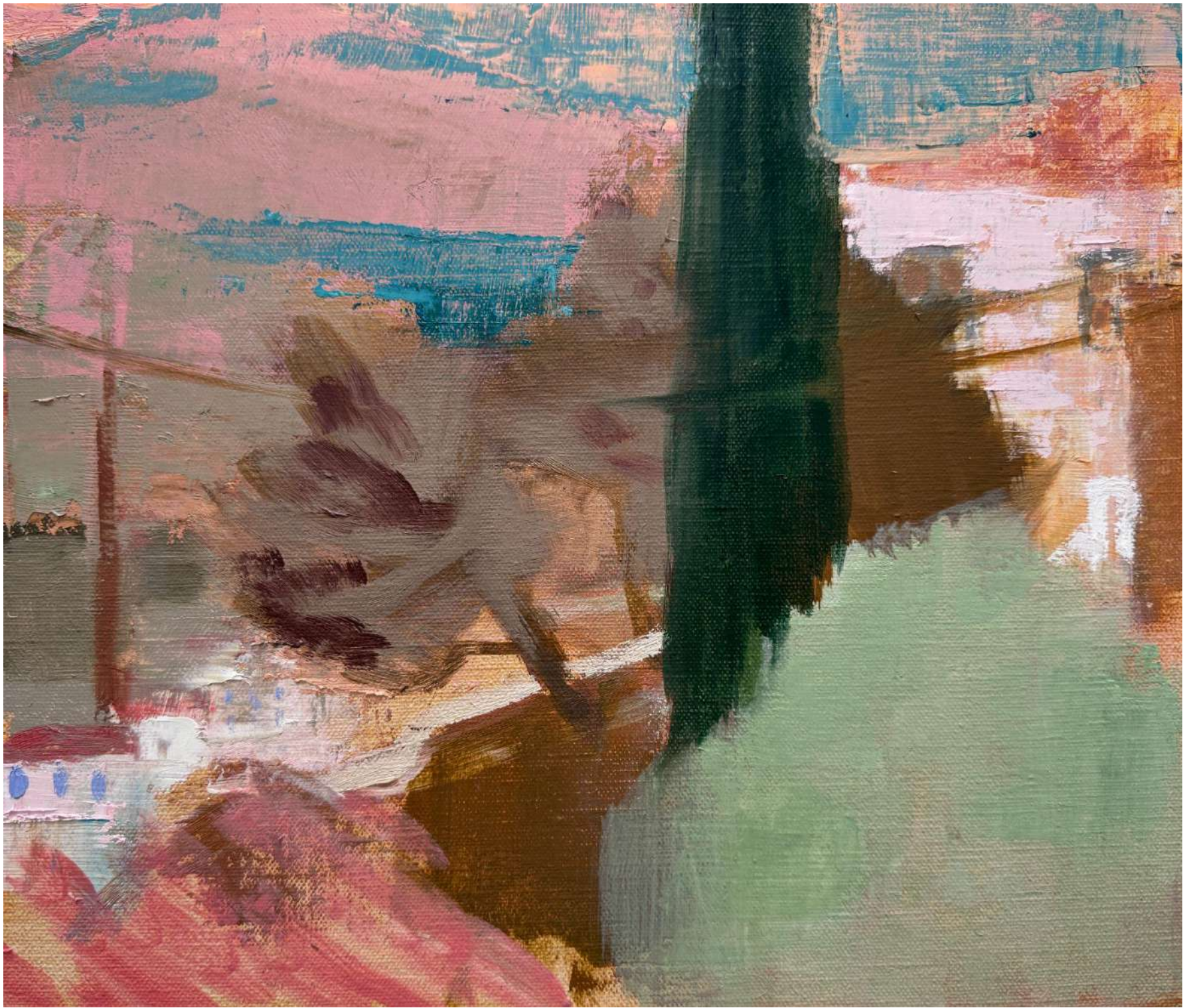


As the sun strengthens and rides higher the whitewashed walls begin to take on a
dazzle at noontime. The terraced houses shimmer among the prickly pears and aloes.

At morning and evening the harbour front seems to slip and slide in a moving
green-gold mesh of water reflections. All bare and innocent the island lies under the
sun, or faintly, distractingly, luminous under the moon.

The world smells of sea salt, herbs, springing flowers.

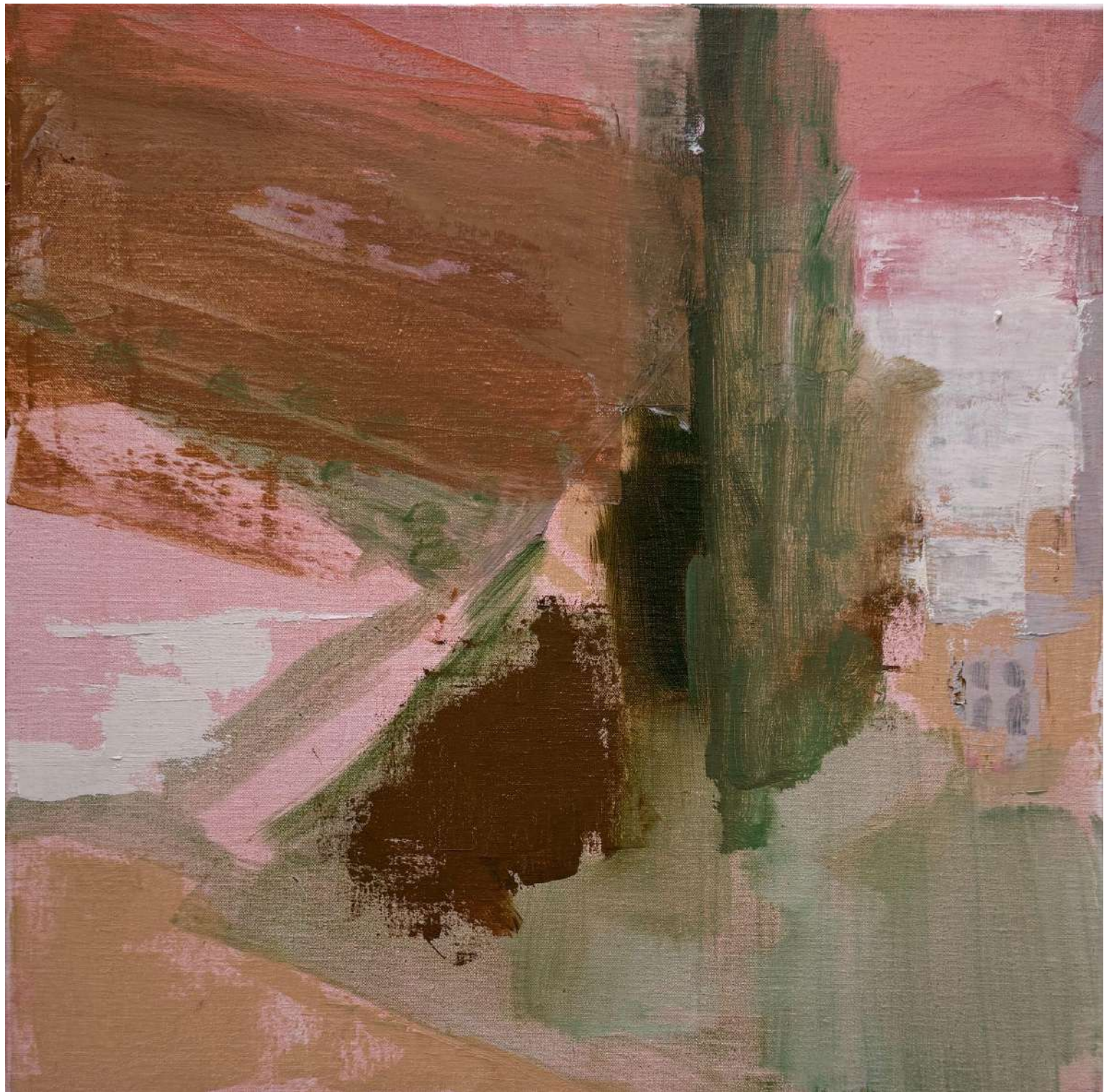
Charmian Clift, Peel Me a Lotus



Elemental Landscape
oil on Belgian linen
30 x 35 cm
\$2,500



Cyprus Garden, Hydra
oil on Belgian linen
18 x 24 cm
\$1,200



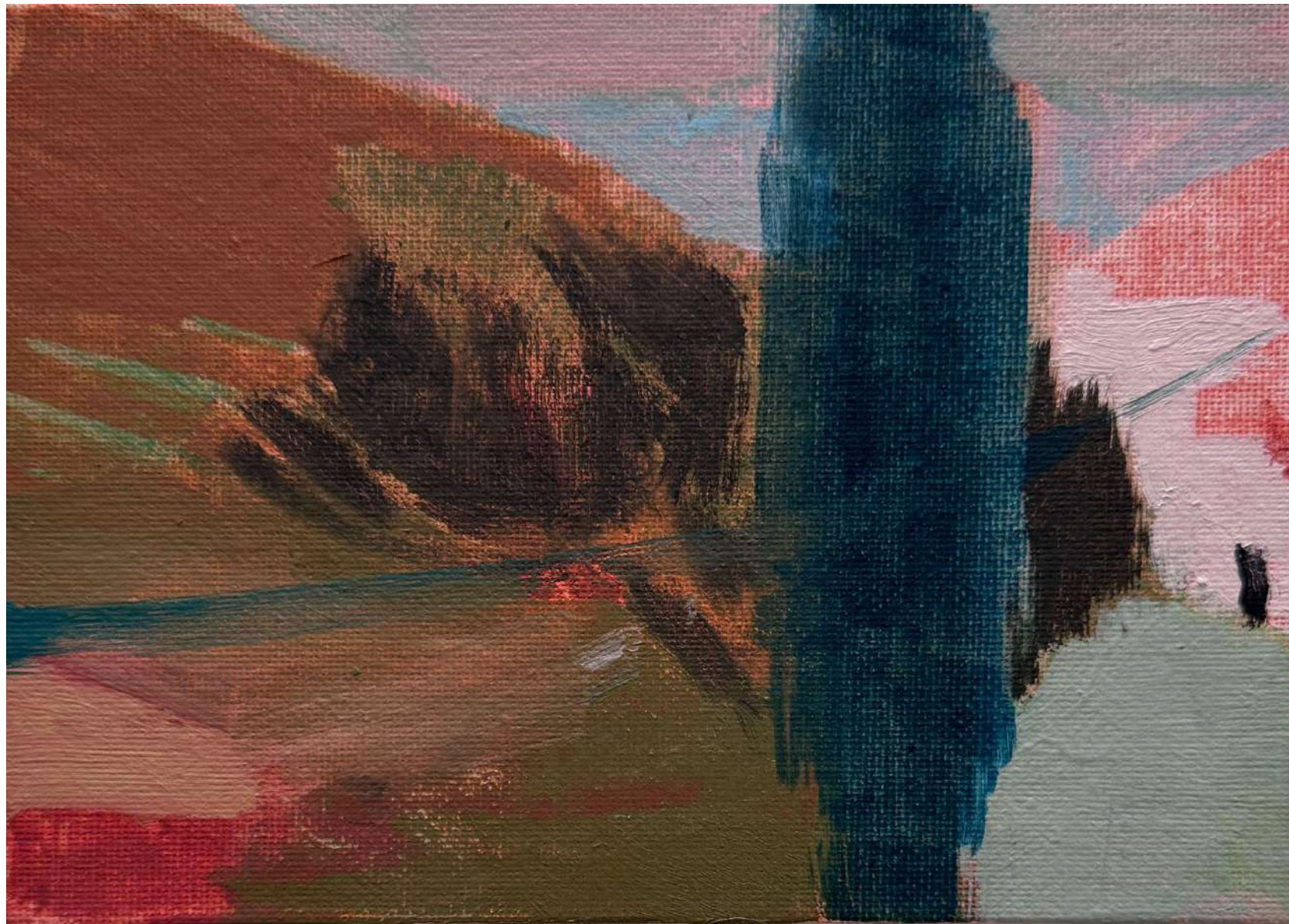
Hydra Landscape, Minerva Red

oil on Belgian linen

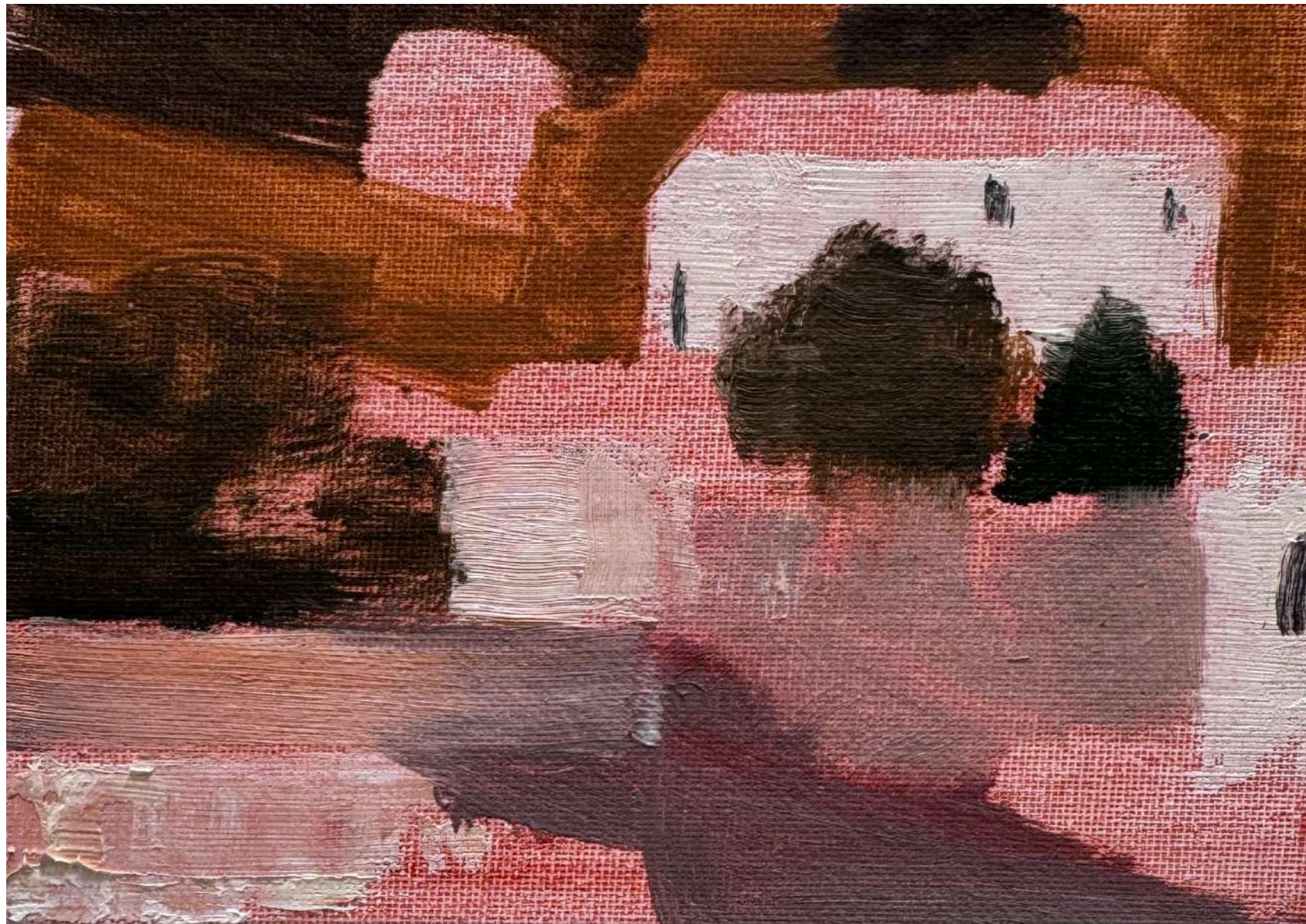
50 x 50 cm

\$3,200





Pine and Banksia
oil on canvas panel
13 x 17 cm
\$750



Church on the Hill, Avlaki

oil on canvas panel

13 x 17 cm

\$750





From The Terrace, Lemon Tree House

oil on canvas

18 x 24 cm

\$1,200



Hydra Night
oil on Belgian linen
23 x 30 cm
\$1,900

SUSAN BAIRD CV

Education

2013	MA Painting, UNSW College of Fine Arts, Sydney
1997	National Art School, Sydney
1995	Printmaking Summer School, Parsons School of Design, New York, USA
1992	Painting and Drawing (Intensive Studio Practice), New York Studio School, USA

Solo Exhibitions

2025	Painting Place, Defiance Gallery, Sydney
2021	Where the Light Falls, Arthouse Gallery, Sydney
2019	All Around Me, Flinders Lane Gallery, Melbourne
2017	Land By Water, Flinders Lane Gallery, Melbourne
2016	Sense of Place, Arthouse Gallery, Sydney
2014	Landscape and Light, Flinders Lane Gallery, Melbourne
2013	Being in Landscape, Arthouse Gallery, Sydney Being in Landscape, Bathurst Regional Art Gallery
2011	Arthouse Gallery, Sydney
2006	Urban Fragments, Axia Modern Art, Melbourne
2004	Saatchi & Saatchi, Sydney
1995	Bridge St Gallery, Paddington
1993	New Work – New York, Mary Place Gallery, Sydney
1990	Urban Landscapes, Barry Stern Galleries, Sydney
1989	Movement Through Water, Barry Stern Galleries, Sydney
1988	Schubert Gallery
1986	Schubert Gallery

Group Exhibitions

2025	30 Years of Defiance, Defiance Gallery, Sydney
2024	Collection in Focus, Cowra Regional Art Gallery
2023	Paper and Clay, Arthouse Gallery, Sydney
2022	Out of the Blue, Arthouse Gallery, Sydney
2021	9x5 exhibition, Hill End Art Gallery Under the Sun, Arthouse Gallery, Sydney
2019	Reflections of a Fading Sky, Arthouse Gallery, Sydney
2018	Here and Now, Orange Regional Art Gallery Postcards to Hill End, Bathurst Regional Art Gallery The Way You Came, Arthouse Gallery, Sydney
2017	At Bull Bay, Despard Gallery, Hobart Hill End: Seven Decades, Penrith Regional Art Gallery
2016	Coastal, Flinders Lane Gallery, Melbourne
2015	Under the Sun, Arthouse Gallery, Sydney BRAG 200X200, Bathurst Regional Art Gallery

	In The Still, Arthouse Gallery, Sydney
	Off Road, Flinders Lane Gallery, Melbourne
2014	Under the Sun, Arthouse Gallery, Sydney Australasian Arts Projects, Singapore Affordable Art Fair 25th Anniversary Exhibition, Flinders Lane Gallery, Melbourne The Third Wave: Two Decades of the Hill End Artists in Residence Programme, Bathurst Regional Art Gallery
2013	Under the Sun, Arthouse Gallery, Sydney
2012	Hill End 1850 –2011 from the Permanent Collection, Bathurst Regional Art Gallery
2010	Salon des Refusés, Tweed River Regional Gallery Salon des Refusés, S.H. Ervin Gallery, Sydney
2007	Presence Absence, United Galleries, Sydney Unwrapped, United Galleries, Perth
2006	Unwrapped, United Galleries, Sydney
2003	Hallelujah, Michael Carr Art Dealer Artists of Mosman, Mosman Art Gallery
2002	Artists of Mosman, Mosman Art Gallery
1996	Arthouse Gallery, Sydney
1994	Westpac Private Bank, Melbourne

Awards & Residencies

2024	Calleen Art Award, Finalist
2023	Calleen Art Award, Finalist Fishers Ghost Art Award, Finalist Paddington Art Prize, Finalist
2021	Calleen Art Award, Finalist
2019	Paddington Art Prize, Finalist Calleen Art Award, Finalist
2018	Paddington Art Prize, Finalist Calleen Art Award, Finalist
2017	Calleen Art Award, Finalist
2016	NSW Parliament Plein Air Painting Prize, Finalist Mosman Art Prize, Finalist Calleen Art Award, Finalist
2015	Artist in Residence, Bull Bay, Bruny Island Mosman Art Prize, Finalist
2013	Colville Lloyd Rees Art Prize, Finalist
2012	Jenny Birt Award, UNSW COFA, Highly Commended Artist in Residence, Murray’s Cottage, Hill End
2011	Blake Art Prize, Finalist Artist in Residence, Haefligers Cottage, Hill End Paddington Art Prize, Finalist
2010	Paddington Art Prize, Honourable Mention and Peoples Choice Award Mosman Art Prize, Finalist

Awards & Residencies (cont.)

2010	NSW Parliament Plein Air Painting Prize, Finalist
2009	Paddington Art Prize, Finalist
2008	Hills Grammar School Art Prize, Highly Commended The City of Canada Bay Council & Mirvac Group Public Art Competition, Winner
2005	Art on The Rocks, Finalist
2004	Hills Grammar School Art Prize, Winner Art on The Rocks, Finalist

Collections

Cowra Regional Art Gallery
Bathurst Regional Art Gallery
Artbank

Artist Talks

2013	Artist Forum, Susan Baird, Luke Sciberras and Virginia Cuppaige, Bathurst Regional Art Gallery
2010	Salon Des Refuses, Sharing Observations of the Australian Landscape, S.H. Ervin Gallery

Bibliography

Brooke Boland, See the Light, Artist Profile Magazine, Iss.55, Jun 2021
Elli Walsh, All Around Me, Catalogue Essay, Sept 2019
Elli Walsh, Land by Water, Catalogue Essay, 2017
Marguerite Brown, Landscape and Light, the Melbourne Review, Iss.29, Mar 2014
Robina Booth (BRAG), The Arts – Hoping for Hill End Inspiration, Weekend Advocate, 3 Nov 2012
Gavin Wilson, Being in Landscape, Catalogue Essay, Bathurst Regional Art Gallery, Nov 2012
Sasha Grishin, Inside the Archibores, the Canberra Times, 3 Apr 2010
John McDonald, Thankful for Small Mercies, the Sydney Morning Herald, 2–4 Apr 2010
Art and Reverse, An Urban Canvas, Guiding Light Productions, Sunday Arts ABC, 2007
Belle Magazine, Talent Pool, Apr/May 2006
Tim Benzie, In the Frame, the Sun Herald Arts, Oct 2004
Art and Australia, Exhibition Commentary, Émigré Issue, Winter 1993
Elwyn Lynn, Calm Amidst The Frenzy, the Australian, Apr 1993
Elwyn Lynn, Balm Zephyrs from Inland Banish Angst, the Australian, Jun 1990



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