



SIGHTLINES: David Collins and Sally Stokes
Exhibition 17 October – 2 November 2025

Wallarobba Arts and Cultural Centre

David Collins, *Tack*, 2025 (detail)

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WALLAROBBA ARTS AND CULTURAL CENTRE


HORNSBY
SHIRE COUNCIL

Hornsby Art Prize Local Artist Award

In 2024 David Collins won the Hornsby Art Prize Local Artist Award, with his painting *Barrier Range*. The award was given to the artist that produced the most outstanding work in any category and was a resident of the Hornsby Shire. This exhibition is part of the prize.

David Collins is a landscape painter who has lived on the Hawkesbury River since 1987. Rowing the river and painting or drawing from its shores has been a major influence on his work over this time.

Collins has exhibited an extensive body of work since the early 90s and has been the recipient of a number of notable artist residencies including the Australian Wildlife Conservancy Residency, Mt Zero, QLD and Nock Art Foundation Residency, Queenstown, New Zealand. He has also been selected as a finalist in numerous awards including the Wynne Prize at the Art Gallery of NSW, where he was awarded Highly Commended (2013). He is represented by Defiance Gallery in Paddington, Sydney.



David Collins, *Dusk Bridge*, 2024

David Collins and the Spirit of Dyarubbin Hawkesbury River

With its winding waters, sandstone cliffs, and dense eucalyptus bushland, the Dyarubbin Hawkesbury River has long captured the imagination of Australian artists. For David Collins, this iconic waterway is not merely a subject, but a living presence – one that breathes through every brushstroke and shadow in his work. Having lived on an island in the middle of the river for over 35 years, swimming in it and crossing it regularly, Collins is well equipped to draw on both the natural grandeur and quiet intimacy of the Hawkesbury. There is a reverence in the way he paints the river. Rather than represent it in a literal or topographical sense, Collins explores its enduring presence and subtle drama. He distils its essence – light filtering through mangroves, weathered boats, timeworn jetties, and golden afternoon reflections dancing across tidal inlets. Swathes of muted blues, ochre-rich earth tones, and deep greens fracture and flow across his canvases, echoing the river’s natural palette.

These are not simply depictions of landscape, but meditations on how we internalise place – through memory, emotion, and atmosphere. Plein air drawings serve as a starting point for his work, but once the painting process begins, it often takes on a life of its own – like water, moving far from its source. Working with fluid mediums, Collins thinly layers the paint. Each new layer responding to what came before, and beneath the final surface, one may find traces of multiple, seemingly unrelated paintings. Glimpses of earlier marks that re-emerge and reveal themselves.

The artist’s unmistakable, languid line plays on the edge of abstraction, yet never loses touch with the power and presence of the landscape and this abstraction invites the viewer to engage with the river on a more instinctual level – connecting not just with its visual beauty, but with its underlying spirit – both serene and raw. These paintings are not just landscapes – they are love letters to a place where land and water speak to one another, and to those who take the time to listen.

Essay, Dallas Moore General Manager, Defiance Gallery



David Collins

DAVID COLLINS – LIST OF WORKS

Paintings

<i>Barrier Range</i> , 2024, oil on canvas, 60 x 110cm	\$5,500
<i>Breakwater</i> , 2025, oil on canvas, 183 x 138cm	\$9,800
<i>Bridge Too Far</i> , 2025, oil on canvas, 112 x 122 cm.....	\$8,200
<i>Cadmium River</i> , 2025, oil on canvas, 30 x 60 cm.....	\$2,600
<i>Dangar Script</i> , 2025, oil on canvas, 56 x 35cm.....	\$2,600
<i>Dusk Bridge</i> , 2024, oil on canvas, 150 x 150cm	\$9,500
<i>Outback Mangrove</i> , 2025, oil on canvas, 50 x 60cm.....	\$3,000
<i>Tack</i> , 2025, oil on canvas, 150 x 150cm.....	\$9,500
<i>Week of Rain</i> , 2025, oil on board, 37 x 63cm.....	\$1,800
<i>Wobby Lights Up</i> , 2025, oil on canvas, 61 x 51cm.....	\$3,000

Drawings

<i>Abode</i> , 2024, gouache on paper, 38 x 57cm.....	\$1,800
<i>Cutting</i> , 2024, gouache on paper, 30 x 42cm.....	\$1,600
<i>Echo Chamber</i> , 2025, gouache and charcoal on paper, 38 x 53cm.....	\$1,800
<i>Gully Lines</i> , 2024, gouache, charcoal and pastel on paper, 29 x 41cm.....	\$1,600
<i>Mud Dwellers</i> , 2024, gouache on paper, 29 x 44cm	\$1,600
<i>Quicksilver</i> , 2025, gouache on paper, 28 x 38cm.....	\$1,600
<i>String Bridge</i> , 2024, charcoal on paper, 35 x 28cm	\$1,600
<i>Study for 'Dangar Script'</i> , 2025, gouache and charcoal on paper, 42 x 30cm.....	\$1,600
<i>Urban Bush</i> , 2024, gouache and pastel on paper, 28 x 38cm.....	\$1,600



**For more information or to purchase David Collins works
please scan the QR code or contact Defiance Gallery**

12 Mary Place, Paddington NSW 2021

Email: enquiry@defiancegallery.com

Phone: 02 9557 8483

SALLY STOKES – LIST OF WORKS

Paintings

<i>Bird Hopping</i> , 2023, acrylic on canvas, 61 x 61cm	\$2,000
<i>Dance Song</i> , 2022, oil on canvas, 51 x 61cm	\$1,800
<i>I continue to arrive</i> , 2022, oil on linen, 150 x 150cm.....	\$11,500
<i>I remember love</i> , 2023, oil on linen, 76 x 91cm.....	\$3,500
<i>It was heard</i> , 2022, oil on canvas, 122 x 138cm.....	\$8,500
<i>It's coming</i> , 2022, oil on linen, 102 x 122cm.....	\$6,000
<i>Some very strange things</i> , 2022, oil on linen, 102 x 122cm.....	\$6,000
<i>Still as before</i> , 2025, acrylic on canvas, 61 x 61cm.....	\$2,000
<i>The core of a silence</i> , 2022, oil on linen, 150 x 150cm	\$11,500
<i>What Now</i> , 2023, oil on canvas, 76 x 92cm	\$3,500
<i>Why does a horizon exist</i> , 2022, oil on linen, 150 x 150cm	\$11,500
<i>Rejoicing</i> , 2022, oil on canvas, 76 x 92cm.....	\$3,500
<i>We just live it</i> , 2022, oil on canvas, 95 x 95cm	\$4,500

Drawings

<i>Amongst the trees</i> , 2025, ink on paper, 30 x 42cm	\$800
<i>Bird in mangroves</i> , 2025, ink on paper, 30 x 42cm	\$800
<i>Duck Down</i> , 2025, charcoal on paper, 30 x 42cm.....	\$800
<i>Jetty</i> , 2025, gouache on paper, 30 x 42cm	\$800
<i>Mangrove Study</i> , 2025, tempera on paper, 30 x 42cm.....	\$800



SALLY STOKES

Sally Stokes is an abstract landscape artist who works from her studio amongst the angophoras in Dural and her boat shed studio in a remote part of the Hawkesbury River.

She has had twenty-four solo shows and numerous group shows.

Stokes has been a finalist in the Sulman Prize and the Salon des Refusés, and her work has been acquired by many private collectors in Australia and internationally. She is also represented in Public Collections: Newcastle Art Gallery, Artbank, Muswellbrook Regional Arts Centre and Hawkesbury Regional Gallery.

Sally Stokes



Sally Stokes, *Some very strange things*, 2022



Council recognises the Traditional Owners of the lands of Hornsby Shire, the Dharug and GuriNgai peoples, and pays respect to their Ancestors and Elders past and present and to their Heritage. We acknowledge and uphold their intrinsic connections and continuing relationships to Country.

Sally Stokes, *It was heard*, 2022 (detail)



Wollarobba Arts and Cultural Centre,
25 Edgeworth David Avenue, Hornsby

David Collins, *Bridge Too Far*, 2025 (detail)

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