

Essential to my practice is the act of immersing myself into the landscape. To breathe in the space. Be aware and open to the sounds, the smells, the sensations of the land; looking into the details and exploring the textures and patterns that make up the whole. I seek to capture the essence of the whole, more so than the need to document the reality.

I've always sought out 'new' natural landscapes to explore, keen to find places that I can witness with fresh eyes. Yet over the past few years, as has been the directive for us all, I've stayed close to home. I've held tight to the garden, the back laneway, the fields and river that borders Home. At first, I found this stifling. It was all too known and comfortable, too recognisable. But as the seasons have rolled through, I have awakened to the immense beauty of its simplicity. The incredible wonders that this 'small' plot of land holds.

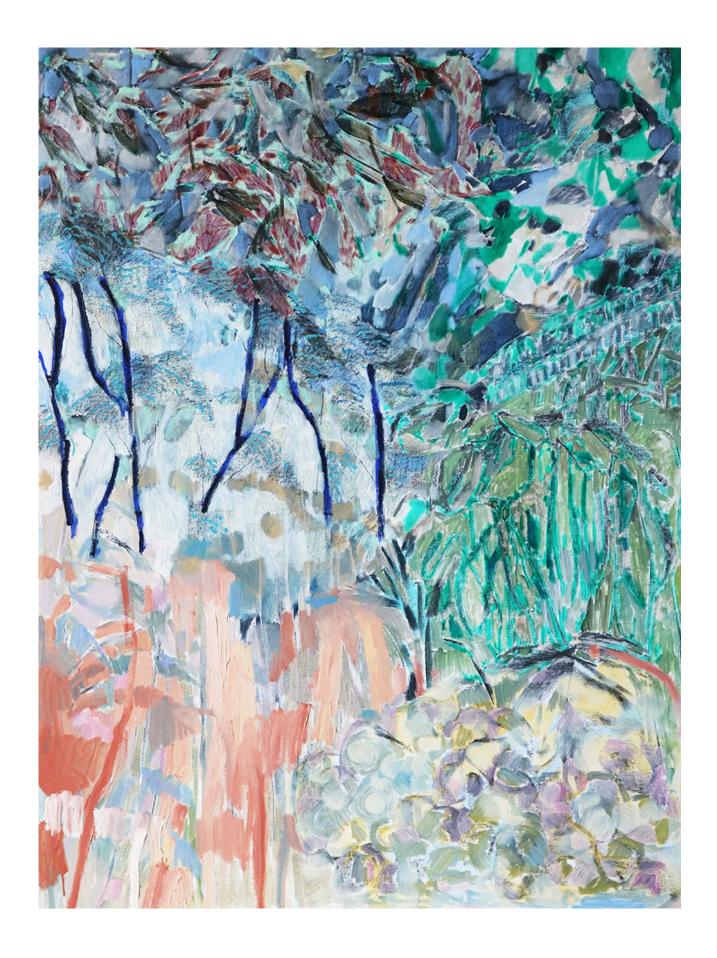
In turn, the act of gardening has become a component in my painting practice. The pull to have my hands in the soil, to tend the plants, to watch them grow and thrive, has directly influenced me in the studio. I've literally dug deeper to explore the essence of the garden. As is often remarked, 'getting into the garden' finds one solace, stillness and quiet. But it is here in this enchanting space that I find little silence, instead it is filled with a euphoric wonder, that I feel the space as though listening to a melodic score. Time spent in its embrace, rolls through highs and lows. Moments here can be both intimate and big, imbued with a pulsating energy.

The works that make up this collection are more nature stories than nature studies. Works are at times stripped back, in places laid bare, in others teeming with marks and ornament. The works are like large scale nature notes taken while leaning into the salvias, pruning the roses, and taking governance over the rampant nasturtiums.

In the making, each work has started with a montage of imagery taken directly from the garden. While fond of the brilliant colour, the majestic rose heads and the throng of green, I am drawn to the lesser noticed details in the garden - the fallen mass of acacia leaves, the sway of the salvias as the breeze blows through, the regal purples on the underside of foliage, that when picked and rubbed between fingers smells of pineapple! It is the textures, patterns and sensory moments that enthral me. They are the gardens' language. Works were made with doors thrown open with the sounds of the garden in the studio. A sensory experience; an impetus to make marks. Each piece has grown in its own direction, reaching out, following its own rolling narrative to come to its completion.

It is my hope that this collection reads as a story of the garden, a rich and companionable expression of a walk around a much beloved plot of land. Simple in nature, euphoric in fullness.



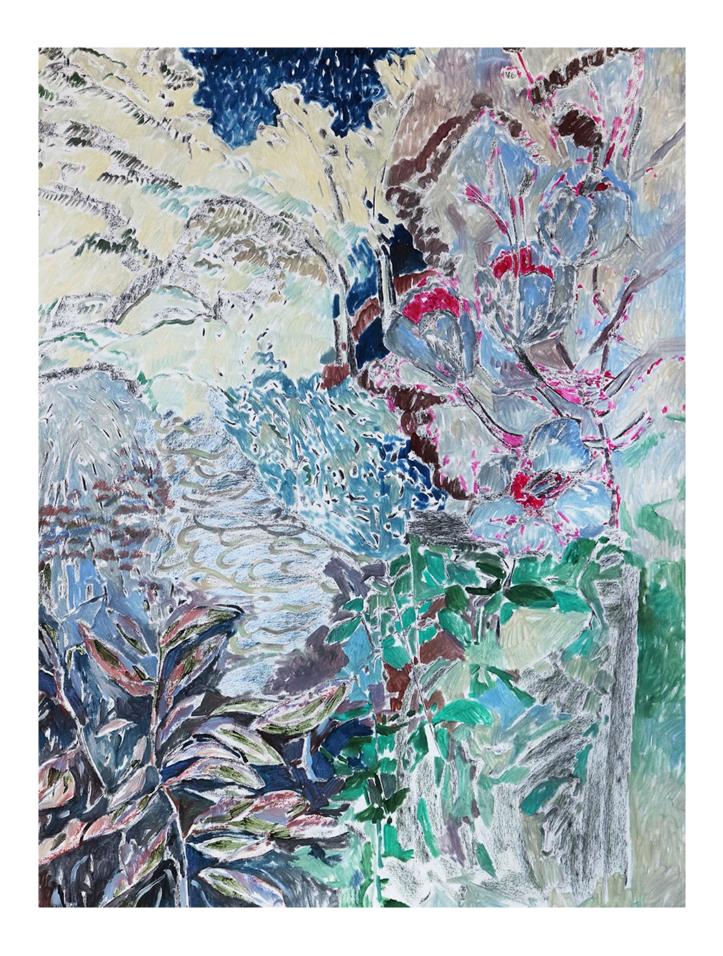


A Tangle Of Gums Out Back Acrylic, oil paint, dry pastel charcoal + Prismacolour pencil on canvas 122.5cm x 92.5cm Framed in natural ash \$4200

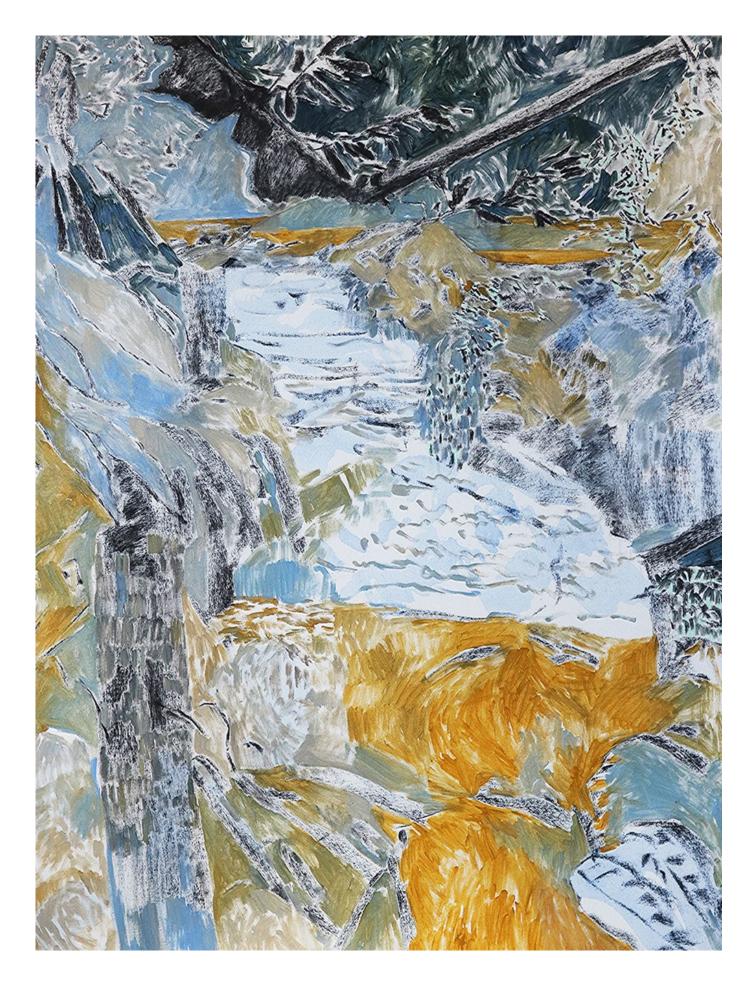






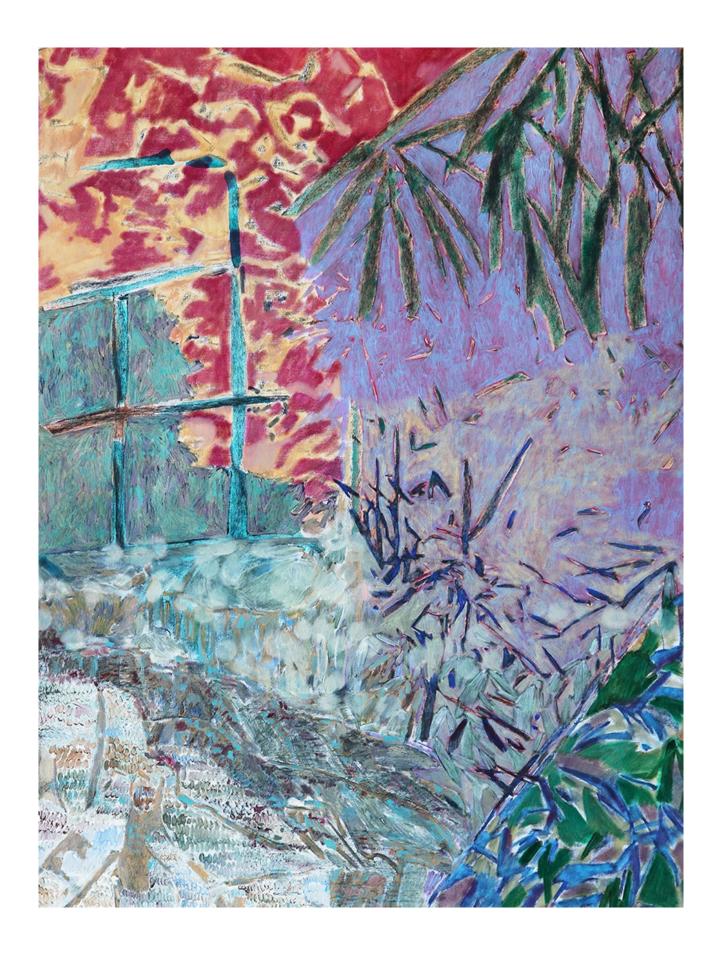


Emeralds and Pink Hearts Bleeding
Acrylic, oil paint, dry pastel + charcoal on canvas
122.5cm x 92.5cm
Framed in natural ash
\$4200

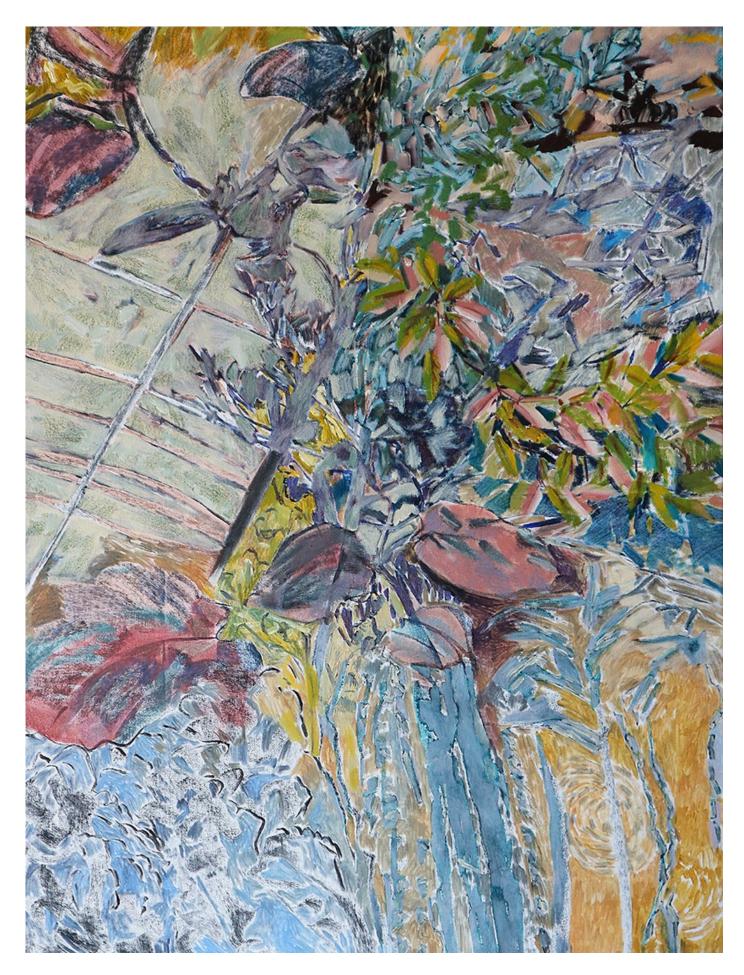


Moonlit Garden Acrylic + charcoal on canvas 122.5cm x 92.5cm Framed in natural ash \$4200





Pink At Sun Down
Acrylic, oil paint, charcoal + Prismacolour pencil on canvas
122.5cm x 92.5cm
Framed in natural ash
\$4200

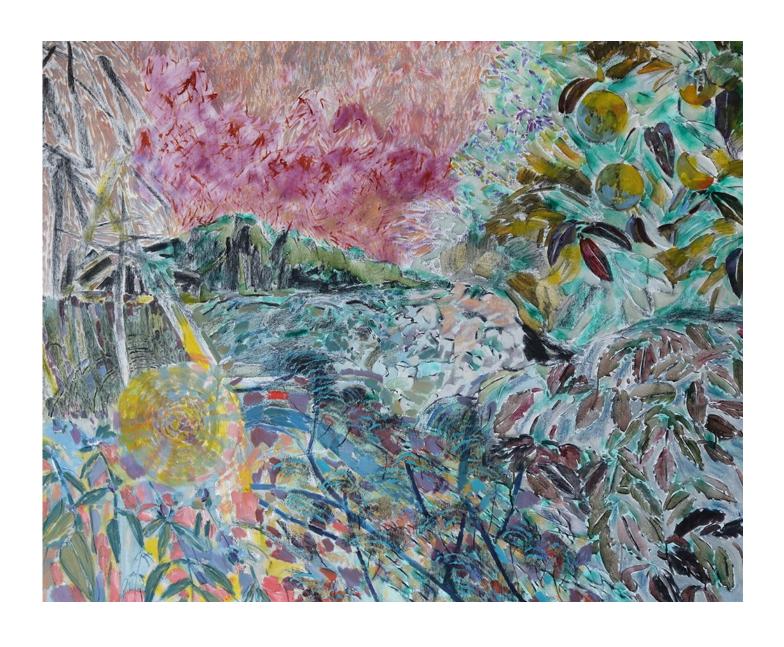


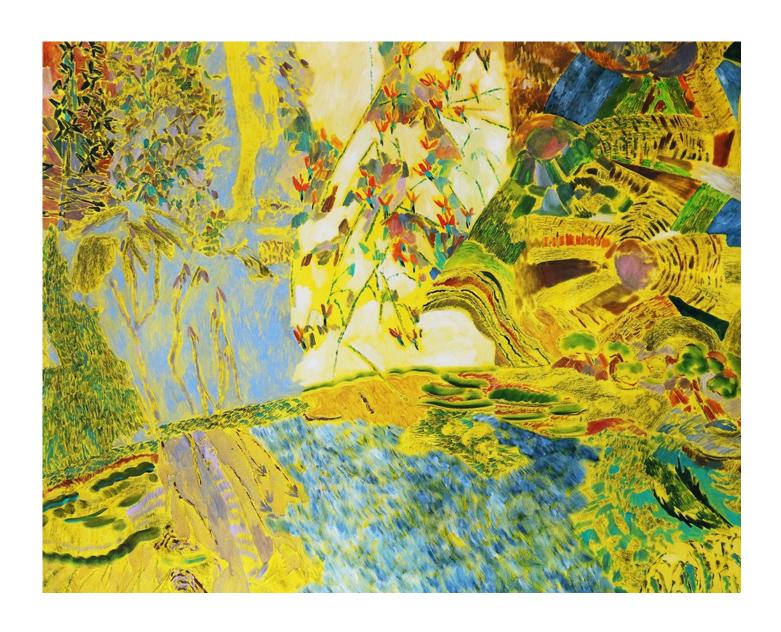
Plants Were Giants
Acrylic, oil paint, dry pastel, charcoal + Prismacolour pencil 122.5cm x 92.5cm
Framed in natural ash \$4200



Still Life I
Watercolour, acrylic, charcoal + Prismacolour pencil on 600gsm paper
81.5cm x 63cm
Framed with coloured matboard + raw oak frame behind glass
\$1200







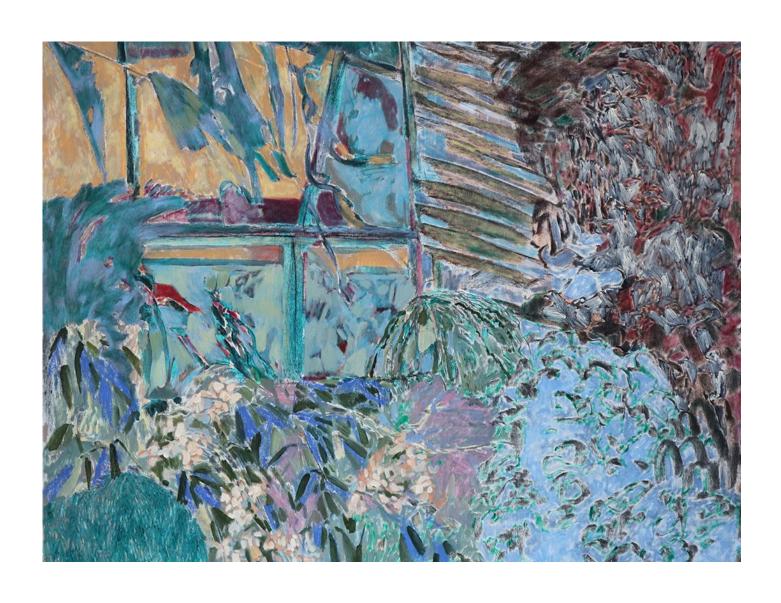


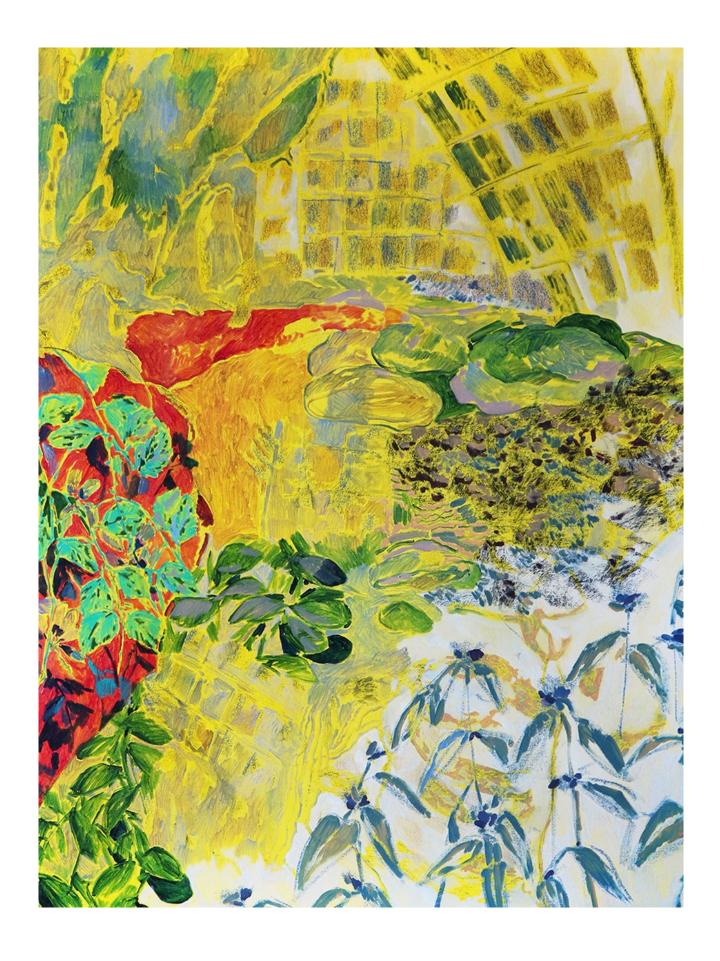


Still Life III
Watercolour, acrylic, charcoal and dry pastel on 470 gsm paper 81.5cm x 63cm
Framed with coloured matboard + raw oak frame behind glass \$1200



Still Life IV Watercolour, acrylic, charcoal + dry pastel on 470gsm paper 81.5cm x 63cm Framed with coloured matboard + raw oak frame behind glass \$1200





The Pond Reflected the Glass
Acrylic, oil paint, dry pastel, charcoal + Prismacolour pencil on canvas
122.5cm x 92.5cm
Framed in natural ash
\$4200



Verdant Vista
Acrylic, oil paint, dry pastel, charcoal + Prismacolour pencil on canvas 122.5cm x 92.5cm
Framed in natural ash
\$4200





ART GALLERY + ART CONSULTANCY

ENQUIRIES TO SOPHIE VANDER, DIRECTOR

<u>curatorialandco.com</u> | hello@curatorialandco.com

Studio 1, 175 Cleveland St Redfern NSW 2016

+61 2 9318 1728 | <u>@curatorialandco</u>

Curatorial+Co. acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the country on which the gallery stands, the Gadigal People of the Eora Nation, and recognises their continuing connection to land, waters and cultures. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.