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**R. M. WILLIAMS**

EST. 1932, AUSTRALIA

FEATURE ARTIST

## Leonie Barton



Photo: Samantha Mackie

Leonie Barton's practice is profoundly informed by her environment and how the complexity of nature is in constant flux. Recently relocating to Wootton, in country NSW, after decades spent in Sydney's Pittwater area, this series of oil paintings documents a transitional time for the artist, imbued with narratives of change, transformation and resilience. These paintings tell stories of a pivotal time in Leonie's life through their evolving composition and palette. Having begun the series amongst the suburban landscape of Sydney, busy and controlled compositions embodied the bedlam of urban life. As Leonie's environment shifted, so did her paintings, metamorphosing into loose, untethered compositions and a colour palette that reflects the greenery of her new landscape.

Both the power and stillness of the outdoors have informed Leonie's practice; she works intuitively, discovering shapes, balance and harmony in compositions. Time spent in nature is essential for its ability to ground and allowance to encounter the intimate details of life – slowly.

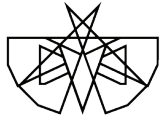
Says Leonie of this series: "*Washing the Rust* is a series of paintings that transformed themselves during my recent relocation from the beaches of Sydney to a rural property fifteen minutes inland from the Mid North Coast of NSW. The paintings were initially created amongst the boxes and busyness of moving the contents of a small suburban studio to a sprawling space on nine forested acres.

"Within a short time of being in my new environment, surrounded by the forest and enveloped by birdsong, I have started to explore the property, unearthing rusted tools and relics from the previous uses of this land. Shapes always catch my eye and give me a starting point for each composition, followed by how the light falls, to present me with a new object, extended or distorted by its shadow. Being here has brought a further stillness and simplicity to my shapes as my energy levels are softened and slowed."

*Leonie Barton is represented by Curatorial+Co.  
Art Gallery + Consultancy, Sydney.  
curatorialandco.com @curatorialandco*



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	<p><i>Anvil 3, 2024</i> Oil on board 82cm H x 82cm W Framed in Tasmanian oak \$3800</p>		<p><i>Anvil at the Cattle Grid, 2024</i> Oil on canvas 102cm H x 82cm W Framed in Tasmanian oak \$4500</p>
	<p><i>Anvil 2, 2024</i> Oil on board 82cm H x 82cm W Framed in Tasmanian oak \$3800</p>		<p><i>Anvil 1, 2024</i> Oil on canvas 122cm H x 102cm W Framed in Tasmanian oak \$5500</p>
	<p><i>New Letterbox, 2024</i> 92cm H x 92cm W Oil on canvas Framed in Tasmanian oak \$4000</p>		<p><i>Rusty Dome, 2024</i> Oil on canvas 122cm H x 122cm W Framed in Tasmanian oak \$6000</p>
	<p><i>Neighbours' Letterboxes, 2024</i> Oil on canvas 92cm H x 92cm W Framed in Tasmanian oak \$4000</p>		<p><i>Washing the Rust, 2024</i> Oil on canvas 122cm H x 122cm W Framed in Tasmanian oak \$6000</p>