

BLACKROOM GALLERY

**Material Obsession**

Lucy Hersey, Laura Dortmans and Olivia O'Connor

4 - 24 June 2022

## Material Obsession

*"When it's as much about the process as the finished work. Earth, clay and wood come together in Material Obsession, as we celebrate and share our passion for natural materials."*

Lucy Hersey



Laura Dortmans



Olivia O'Connor







# Lucy Hersey

## *Earth paintings*

Lucy Hersey is a painter from Loch in South Gippsland. She works in plant and earth pigments which she grows and forages locally, processing in her garden studio. 2022 has already been a busy year for Lucy, with a solo show in January and group shows in several states, she was also shortlisted for the Ravenswood Australian Women's Art Prize.

Material Obsession is Lucy's second exhibition at The Blackroom gallery. She considers it a highlight and a milestone show; as her painting studio was destroyed in a storm in December 2021, and this is the first major body of work to emerge from the rebuilt studio. It is a rebirth, a celebration and a triumph.

To be allowed to slow down and enjoy the making – for that to be the whole point. No rush to finish, no deeper meaning to convey – and with the support and collaboration of friends in a time of healing is, for an artist, the perfect remedy.



Sky Swimming

earth on cotton

150 x 90cm

\$2600



Daybreak

earth on cotton

40 x 50cm

\$780



Ghost Gum

earth on cotton

76 x 101cm

\$1500





A Quiet Place

earth on cotton  
45 x 35cm  
\$550





Morning by the River

earth on cotton

40 x 50cm

\$780

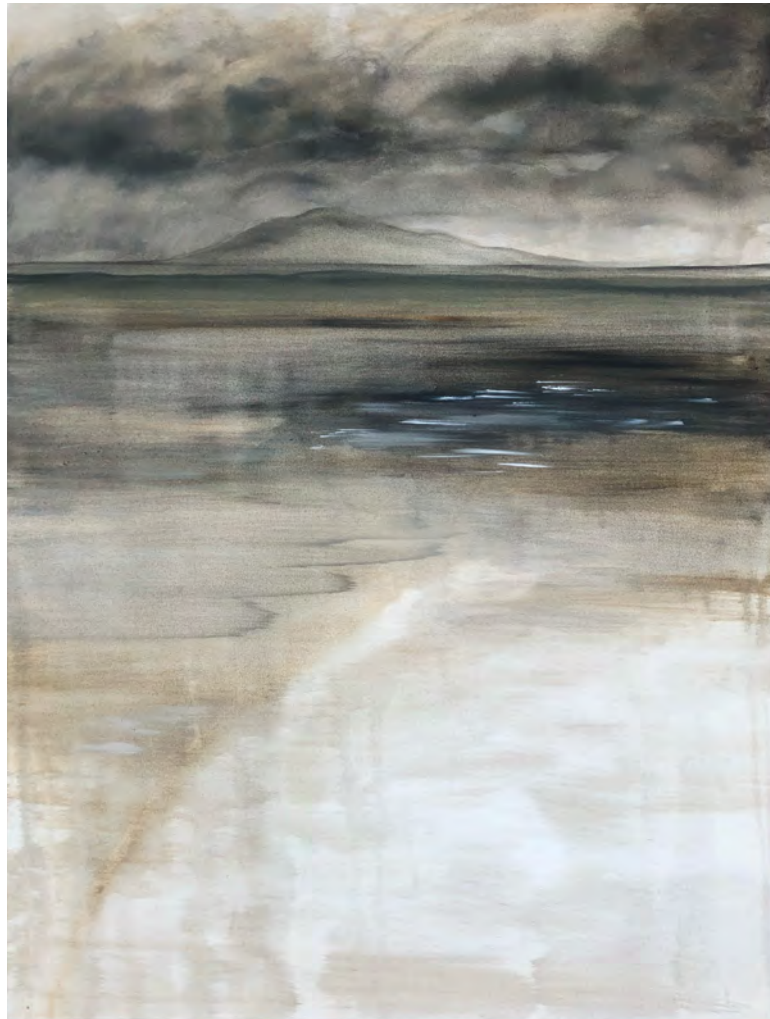


Morning Sea Mist

earth on natural linen

76 x 101cm

\$1500



Over Corner Inlet

earth on cotton

76 x 101cm

\$1500





Rain Front

earth on cotton

40 x 50cm

\$780



Moon Halo

earth on cotton

40 x 50cm

\$780



Dawn in the Hills

earth on cotton

60 x 70cm

\$1100





# Laura Dortmans

## *Ceramics*

Laura Dortmans makes sculptural and functional ceramics from her studio in the rolling green hills of South Gippsland. Laura has spent extensive periods working in Japan and the USA to develop her expertise in atmospheric firing. In 2021 Laura built two kilns - one gas and one wood fired - to further her exploration of reduction firing and the aesthetics of natural wood ash glaze.

Intuition and risk are inherent to Laura's sculptural works. They encapsulate her material obsession, her ongoing interest in the behaviour of clay and wood ash in a high-temperature reduction atmosphere. Laura aims to capture the softness, movement and erosion of materials as they shift, tear and contort through the making and firing process.

Laura completed a Bachelor of Visual Arts at Monash University in 2009 and will commence a Master of Fine Arts in ceramics at SUNY New York this August. Her work has been included in group exhibitions in Australia, Japan and the USA.



Toorongo

Stoneware, reduction fired with wood ash glaze,  
steel railway pin  
25cm x 23cm x 15cm  
\$900





Woolamai

Stoneware, reduction fired with wood ash glaze,  
steel railway pin  
38cm x 18cm x 18cm  
\$1000



Glenelg

Stoneware, reduction fired with wood ash glaze,  
steel railway pin  
53cm x 28cm x 20cm  
\$1500



Yiruk

stoneware, reduction fired with wood ash glaze,  
steel railway pin  
30cm x 20cm x 25cm  
\$900





Tarra Bulga

Stoneware, reduction fired with wood ash glaze,  
steel railway pin  
33cm x 15cm x 15cm  
\$700





Bo-ye (Erica)

Stoneware, reduction fired with wood ash glaze,  
steel railway pin  
15cm x 23cm x 15cm  
\$1100



# Olivia O'Connor

## *Woodcarving*

Olivia O'Connor is a woodcarver and sculptor with her studio nestled amongst the rolling green hills of South Gippsland, Victoria. Her practice focuses on woodcarving, working mostly with timber and natural materials, where possible sourcing locally. Olivia's work takes inspiration from the landscape and animals around her studio and from long seaside walks.

Olivia is an established traditional woodcarver and restoration expert. She is excited to be applying her traditional skill set towards non-traditional forms and patterns as she explores contemporary works. Olivia's practice focuses around a sense of nostalgia and recognition, triggering a memory in both figurative and abstract pieces for both maker and viewer.

Olivia studied Furniture Design and Construction at RMIT, has a BA from NIDA in Prop Making and Scenic Art and is a Fellow of the International Specialised Skills Institute for woodcarving and painting.



Eagles above my parent's place

Redgum, blackwood, stainless steel, oil  
56cm x 30cm x 9cm  
\$750





Ripple

wall hanging, oiled blackwood  
26cm  
\$520



Where the creek widens  
Wall hanging, oiled jarrah  
45cm  
\$750





Where the clouds kiss the hills

Wall hanging  
Blackwood, gold leaf, varnish, oil  
26cm  
\$500



Two Hills

Wall hanging

Blackwood, gold leaf, varnish, oil

14cm

\$260





Wave

Wall hanging

Blackwood, gold leaf, varnish, oil

14cm

\$260



Maggie

Silky oak, Fijian Mahogany, stainless steel,  
charcoal, acrylic paint, oil  
26cm  
\$550



Mango Bird

Mango wood, American walnut,  
stainless steel, clay  
48cm  
\$650

in the

**BLACKROOM GALLERY**


**cookstreetcollective**  
artists & makers

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