



Gallery
KLEI
Sydney

Andy Collis
Pathways

Pathways

Through the ten-acre wood

The works constituting this most recent body of my work, Pathways, were all executed on a ten-acre property, near Avoca Beach on the Central Coast of Australia. My painting studio - a converted old horse stable - is also nestled in the heart of the property. All the sites for the works are therefore within walking distance of the studio, or even viewed from the studio door.

Pathways take us through or into certain spaces. They are an indication of where, usually, humans or animals have been before as they have made their way through and into landscape. Alternatively, we may look for openings to make a new pathway for the first time into landscape. In this sense, they suggest pioneering/adventure/exploration. As a metaphor for visual enquiry then, they are a good one. As a visual device though, they serve well to suggest 'human touch', a presence and human involvement and connection with landscape.

In this way, they can take us also into the resultant artwork too. It was with these ideas in mind that I went around the property looking for the locations that would serve as a starting point to make images that reflect the immediacy of being in a certain space over time.

The views and spaces served as a springboard to facilitate the development of techniques that would best convey the immediacy of atmosphere and light, a sense of being immersed in the spaces. Of course, there is a fleetingness to light in landscape that many artists have endeavoured to capture, but my prime concern was not with capturing one quick fleeting moment, rather an amalgamation of looks, perceptions and feelings over the course of several hours, and developing a technique that best translated this.

The sustained energy and excitement of involvement and experience of the spaces therefore seemed best expressed in the more energetic application of paint. It equated with mood, observations and perceptions over a period of time. So there is necessarily a certain speed, and an overlaying of 'speedy' marks, that relate to how I saw and perceived light moving and changing over the course of several hours.

Similarly, the works embody how my own thoughts suggested different pathways of enquiry, both technical and conceptual, that is the essence of making art anyway. So, I am not therefore pre-occupied with showing the specificity of the natural views of the areas around my studio - they're always there for anyone to see and photograph if needs be - but rather that the viewer of these works has a translated rewarding experience away from the landscape itself. The stimulus of the landscape, what I sensed and saw during the time there, is distilled through my own visual filter for the viewer to share. For me, that's a more interesting thing to work with and, hopefully, for an audience to enjoy and take from.

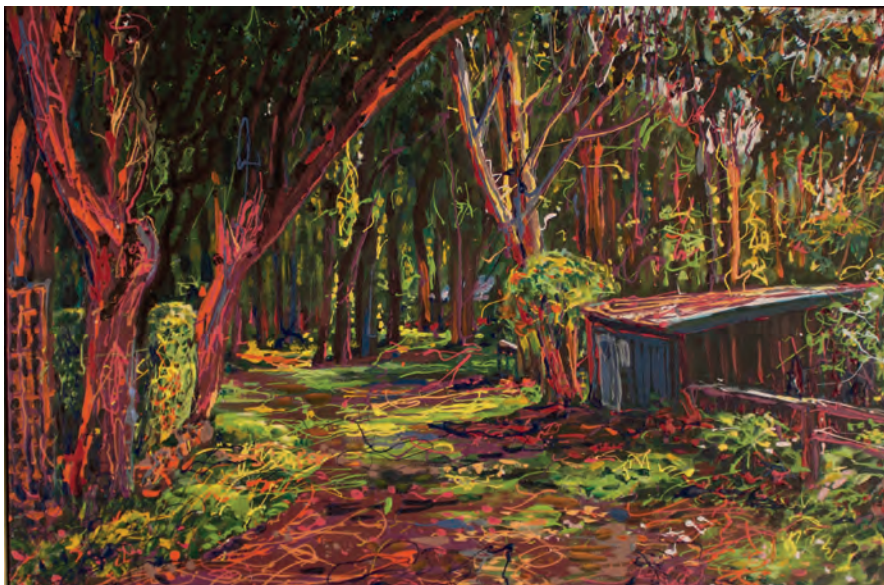
- Andy Collis 2017



Photography: Amanda Brook



Pathway down to the Garden Gate
(Acrylic on Canvas, 122cm x 152cm)



Pathway past the stables
(*Acrylic on Canvas,*
53cm x 78.5cm)



Pathway past the log pile
(*Acrylic on Canvas,*
53cm x 78.5cm)



Pathway down to the riding arena
(Acrylic on Canvas, 75cm x 100cm)



Pathway up through the Beehives
(Acrylic on Canvas, 78.5cm x 120cm)



Pathway down into the woods

(Hand-made Scratchboard, Overall framed size 72cm x 88cm)



Pathway down to the old house
(Acrylic on canvas, 53cm x 78.5cm)

Artist Biography

Andy Collis

Andy Collis was born in Mansfield Woodhouse, Nottinghamshire, England, 1956.

Studied at West Notts. Tech College, 1974 - 1975, Art Foundation Course. Sheffield University/Psalter Lane Art School, South Yorkshire, 1975 - 1978: BA. Hons. in Fine Art Painting & Printmaking - research paper: 'The Beatles and their relationship to Pop Art'.

Art Teacher's Diploma at Liverpool University. England, 1978 - 1979.
Art Teacher at Parrs Wood High School, East Didsbury, Manchester, England, 1979 - 1980.

Own studio and artistic practice, from July 1980 - 1987 (Fine Art Painting) at the Millgate Museum, Newark-on-Trent, Nottinghamshire; producing and exhibiting own work at the studio and nearby Riverside Gallery. Free-lance book and magazine illustration and design-layout for The Stanborough Press publishing house, Grantham Lincolnshire, England, 1979 - 1980.

Between 1982 - 1989, sessional, then full-time work, Lecturer I in Visual Studies & Art History at West Nottinghamshire College of Further Education, Mansfield, Nottinghamshire and teaching evening classes in 'O' and 'A' level Art History.

During College's summer vacations of 1985, '86 and '87, examiner in Art History ('O' level) and Schools Art & Design Examiner, for the Associated Examining Board at Stag Hill House, Guildford University, England.

Having married, emigrated with wife Sally to the Central Coast, Australia, in June 1989. Free-lance illustrations for architectural and poster companies, and book publishers, while part-time lecturing in painting

& drawing, and Art History, at T.A.F.E. (tertiary) colleges in Newcastle and Cessnock from 1989 - 1994.

Since 1994 until present, Andy has been Senior Lecturer for Visual Communication (BA. and B.Tch degree courses), and Visual Communication Strand Co-ordinator, at Avondale College of Higher Education, Cooranbong, Hunter Valley, NSW.

In 1999, he gained an M.A. (Creative Arts) from Wollongong University - with a research paper Investigating the continuance of Still-Life as a viable contemporary field of painting practice.

In 2014, he gained a PhD from Newcastle University, NSW. His research thesis enquired into the value of the artist/sitter relationship to contemporary portrait painting.

While remaining a full-time lecturer, Andy produces his own work from his studio at Avoca, Central Coast, and continues to have work represented at the KAB Gallery, Terrigal, Central Coast. Andy and Sally have three children, Thomas (24), Annie-Rose (21) and Simon (14).



Selected Exhibitions and Awards

UK & Australia [1978-2017]

UK (Prior to 1989.)

Graves City Gallery, Sheffield. 1978
White Rose Gallery, Bradford. 1980
Nottinghamshire Libraries Tour. 1981
Riverside Gallery, Newark. 1982-'87
Arts Centre, Mansfield, Notts. 1986-'87
West Notts College (Various Staff Shows). 1982-'89
Royal Academy Summer Show, London. 1989
 ¹The Beatles Mecca, Liverpool. 1984
 ¹The Rock Garden, Covent Garden, London. 1986

Australia (1989 'til 2017)

Marthaville House, Cessnock. 1990
Laycock Street Theatre, Gosford. 1991
Avoca Fine Art Gallery, Central Coast. 1990-'96
Lemon Tree Gallery, Gosford. 1997
Lake Macquarie Regional City Art Gallery. 1997
 ²Wollongong University. 1999
Gosford Regional Art Gallery (2 artist show). 2002
 Wollongong University (solo). 2002
 Gallery 460, Central Coast. 1999-'09
 Gosford Regional Art Gallery. 2010-'13
Newcastle University, Ourimbah Campus. 2011
 Terrigal Art Group Exhibition. 2012
Newcastle University, Callaghan Campus. PhD Show. 2013
Gosford Regional Gallery. *The Human Touch?* 2013
Newcastle University, Ourimbah Campus. 2013
 Wood Glen Art Show. Featured Artist. 2014
 Matcham Art Hall Show. 2014
 Artists of The Five Lands Walk. 2014
Gosford Art Studios Gallery. *Hidden Gems*. 2015
Gosford Regional Gallery, Creative Collective. 2016

2014. ABC 702 Sydney Radio. Interview.

2014. Gosford City Magazine. Featured Artist. 2014.

1994 'til 2017. Avondale College Gallery.

Selling through KAB Gallery, Terrigal, NSW.

Archibald Portrait Prize Submissions

2011. My Father; His battle for Britain.

2012. Professor Daniel Reynaud. ³

2013. Lindy Creighton-Chamberlain. ⁴

2014. Liesl Tesch AM; Paralympic Gold Medalist. ⁵

2015. J.P. Grange; Australian/French Consulaire. ⁶

2017. Julia Jacklin; Singer/Songwriter.

Doug Moran Portrait Prize Submissions

2012: Short-listed *Annie-Rose, my daughter*. ⁷

2013: Short-listed *Lindy Creighton-Chamberlain*. ⁴

Recent awards

Erina Wood Glen Centre.

Beehives

Winner of People's Choice Award. ⁸

June 2015.

Gosford Regional Gallery.

Reconciliation Group Exhibition.

May 2015.

Gosford Regional Gallery.

Finalist of Gosford Regional Art Prize. ⁹

2010-'15.

Gosford Regional Gallery.

Winner of Collaborative Prize,

Reconciliation Group Exhibition.

May 2016.



1 *The Beatles Window. (Detail) 1986.*



2 *Tinker, Tailor... 1999.*



3 *Professor Daniel Reynaud. 2012.*



4 *Lindy Creighton-Chamberlain. (Detail) 2013.*



5 *Liesl Tesch AM; Paralympic Gold Medalist. 2014.*



6 *J.P. Grange; Australian/French Consulaire. (Detail) 2015.*



7 *Annie-Rose, my daughter. (Detail) 2012.*



8 *Beehives. 2015.*



9 *Self-portrait. (Detail) 2012.*



Photography: Amanda Brook



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Tuesday - Friday 10am - 5pm
Saturday 11am - 4pm