

Airspace Projects acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we stand today, the Gadigal and Wangal people of the Eora Nation. We would like to pay our respects to their Elders, past, present and ever emerging. We would also like to acknowledge all other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who come to the gallery to participate in its program of exhibitions and events. Sovereignty was never ceded.

BE WATER

BURGESS / FITZGERALD / HANDEL / LE DAIN / MURRAY / PANG

5.4.24 – 21.4.24

Water: its presence, its absence, its traces.

Water in its fluid state, pure and clear, a definer of place, with dualities and contradictions.

An agent of change.

Ultimately, water: essential for life.

Be water.

AIRSPACE

ARTIST STATEMENTS

Mandy BURGESS

Water sustains - physically and psychologically. But rivers and oceans are convenient to trash and over exploit, threatening natural systems. How wonderful is a free flowing river clear and full of living things.

Sarah FITZGERALD

The gravitational pull that the moon and the earth have on each other causes the shifting of the ocean tides. The tides are in a constant ebb and flow as the moon and the earth orbit around each other. The ocean tides then affect the rivers, deltas, creeks, and streams, indeed all the waterways of the world. These two works acknowledge this real physical force that we cannot control or prevent. We experience this in small ways every day often with no consideration for the force that lies behind the phenomenon. Both works suggest a failed attempt to measure and contain, both describe a spill, something has been poured, overturned, leaked, upset. There is nothing to do, just accept and clean up.

Jan HANDEL

The element of water - flowing, spreading, trickling, to finally reach stasis, calm and quiet.

Still water becomes a repository for contaminating particles in the air which settle on the surface before saturating and sinking.

The water evaporates and purifies, falls again, and the cycle is repeated.

AIRSPACE

Michelle LE DAIN

CALA (kaLə)

Paddling the harbour on ever changing surfaces.

CUAN (kuən)

Swimming and gazing above and below in ocean pools, each layer a different day, a different blue, a different feel.

The titles are both derived from Irish, CALA meaning harbour and CUAN meaning ocean. These works represent the way I spiritually connect to water, the names to my Irish roots and the colours and materials to my intuitive and playful nature.

Ro MURRAY

The Dyarubbin/Hawkesbury River enters the ocean at Broken Bay near my house at Killcare, surrounded by Bouddi National Park. This is Darkinjung Country, surrounded by water, the bay, the river, the ocean. The foreshore is irregular, carved by water. From my house, I can hear but not see the waves pounding on the beach. In the bay are sandbars and channels. Moored boats swing around their anchors with the tide that comes in and out. There is a force in the water.

Lisa PANG

This series of drawings combines intentioned marks – as blue-pigmented circles – among unintentional marks – the stains of washed art. Made on blotting paper holding the receded tide lines created by the processes of conserving art, these repeated circular motifs place the deliberate and planned in dialogue with the haphazard and random. It is a dance between agencies, between known and unknown, made visible by the action but ultimately, the absence of water.

AIRSPACE

Works

left to right

1. Michelle LE DAIN *Cuan /kuən/ (Irish) ocean*, 2014-2024, Acrylic and oil stick on board, 1200 x 90 cm
2. Michelle LE DAIN *Cala 2 /kaLə/ (Irish) harbour*, 2024, Perspex sheets, acrylic, paper, marker, 50 x 60 x 18 cm
3. Michelle LE DAIN *Cala /kaLə/ (Irish) harbour*, 2024, Perspex sheets, acrylic, paper, marker, 1500 x 50 x 10 cm
4. Sarah FITZGERALD *The gravity of the situation made her drop the measuring cup and she spilt everything all over the floor*, 2024, papier mache with artist canvas, acrylic paint, 60 x 50 x 12.5 cm
5. Lisa PANG *'Drops and Stains #1 - 9'*, 2024, Mineral and plant pigments, Gum Arabic, incense ash on art-stained blotting paper, 56 x 44 cm
6. Jan HANDEL *Essential Purity (waterfall drawings)*, 2024, water and ink on BFK Rives paper (25 drawings, 56 x 38 cm), Perspex tank, 120 x 56 x 8 cm, dimensions variable
7. Lisa PANG *'Drops and Stains #10 - 15'*, 2024, Mineral and plant pigments, Gum Arabic, incense ash on art-stained blotting paper, 56 x 44 cm
8. Sarah FITZGERALD *As she comprehended the gravity of the offence the shock stopped her in her tracks and the contents of the jug just poured out*, 2024, papier mache with artist canvas, acrylic paint, 38.5 x 39 cm height various
9. Ro MURRAY *Where the River Meets the Sky I, II, III, IV, V*, 2024, lino print on pianola roll, each approx. 420 x 30 cm. POA
10. Mandy BURGESS *Stilled*, 2024, cyanotype on mulberry paper, 190 x 53 cm
11. Mandy BURGESS *Flowing*, 2024, cyanotype on mulberry paper, 230 x 54 cm
12. Mandy BURGESS *Flowing 2*, 2024, cyanotype on mulberry paper, 110 x 31 cm

AIRSPACE