

Just Look Up!

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online purchasing enquiries:
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An exhibition of observations above and beyond...
around the New England.

You often see architectural façades that have stood the test of time, some are plain and some are delightfully ornate - living remnants from another time featuring fine craftsmanship that's rarely seen today.

City life is filled with visual pollution, ugly signage, with traffic, crowds - and frenzy. I guess that might be why city people are often so stressed. Walking around the little pocket of inner Sydney where I live, now full of large cars in narrow streets that were built for horses and carts, an instant escape is to look up. A big blue sky is very peaceful and invites you to think that anything is possible beyond... you can breathe.

Then there are the tops of the building façades. We know they are there but we never really notice them. Forgotten, often untouched by renovation (and paint), but surprisingly intact, sometimes they catch the beautiful light of late afternoon and look amazing! I love this time of day.

I completed my very first Artists' Residency here at NERAM in July. I know the New England as a visitor but to sit and contemplate a place allows you to see it much more intimately. My Residency was exciting and unforgettable experience! A few too many cloudy days did create some challenges though!

This collection was created from the Residency. It's not about history or preservation, my work is more about beautiful shapes, light and texture and these are contemporary views recently observed. Some are familiar, some are not so, but you can't help wondering what these ageing icons have seen and the stories they could tell! And of course there is the freedom of that endless sky beyond.

Suzy King, September 2022



Imperial Majesty

Oil on canvas, 43x43cm, framed

\$1100

Equidistant from Sydney and Brisbane, Armidale developed into a jewel of the New England. A centrepiece is this highly ornamented building featuring extravagant parapets decorated with Grecian urns and pediments on arches. No expense was spared from the returns from the nearby Hillgrove gold rush in the 1870s to build the majestic *Imperial Hotel*.



Corrugated

Oil on canvas, 43x43cm, framed

\$1100

The Chaff Shed next to *McCrossin's Mill* at Uralla was built as cheaply as possible when the times were tough. Enter the new material, corrugated iron!

Galvanised corrugated iron first arrived in Australia in the 1850s.

A revelation at the time, this innovative new material was easily and swiftly applied, light, compact, inexpensive, fireproof and immune from insect attack.

It was sometimes known as *White Man's Bark*. Perfect!



Second to None

Oil on canvas, 43x43cm, framed

● SOLD

After a few renames and relocations, Armidale's *Tattersalls Hotel* was reborn in 1889. The Beardy Street frontage was increased with the addition of an east wing and large cast iron balconies (the only ones in Australia at the time!). Further additions were completed in 1893 creating a superior level of luxury and sophistication for the discerning traveller and local alike – making Tattersalls “second to none” in the north.

In 1936-37 it was remodeled in Art Deco style, was connected to the new Armidale sewerage system and the first electric lift in the city was installed. Today Tattersalls still provides an unprecedented level of comfort and atmosphere.



Thank Heavens for the Blue

Oil on canvas, 43x43cm, framed

● SOLD

“The prized blue bricks of which St Paul’s Presbyterian Church is constructed are well relieved with various mouldings and dressings finished in cement, which have a very pleasing effect” – reported *The Armidale Express & New England General Advertiser*, in May 1882.

William Palmer was brought from Nundle in 1860 to make bricks and build the extensions to the slab homestead at Saumarez. On a visit to Armidale, Palmer’s wagon became bogged and at his feet he found a dark clay as he dug the wagon out. He soon acquired some 60 acres of land and established himself as a successful brick-maker.

His unique product, the *Armidale Blue Brick*, has created the distinctive character of major public and private buildings for which Armidale is renowned. Their quality was such that they were highly valued and used state-wide in the building industry.



Entitled

Oil on canvas, 43x43cm, framed

● SOLD

The striking *Land Titles Office* in Armidale contained meticulously arranged alphabetical listings of all the sheep and cattle stations in NSW with over 2,000 sheep or 500 cattle, or both combined. Each listing included the name of the station or holding, name of the owner or holder, postal address and lastly, the total number of stock.

The lists had been carefully checked and revised from directory returns with the books of the Stock Department to ensure correctness... and all hand written!!



Dress Circle

Oil on canvas, 43x43cm, framed

\$1100

A Gala charity opening on 27 July 1938 saw the screening of two movies, *Stolen Heaven* and *A Bride for Henry*. The magnificent Civic Theatre in Scone was an ornament to the district in the Art Deco style – state of the art, modern and amongst the first cinemas in the state to have full air-conditioning, much needed in a hot New England summer!



We've Seen 'em All

Oil on canvas, 43x63cm, framed

\$1450

The Royal Hotel opened in 1871 when breeding of thoroughbred racehorses began in the area as gradually Scone became the *Horse Capital of Australia*. Animated, and sometimes heated, stories of the *Scone Cup*, race horses gone good and bad, winners and losers, their lives and characters have all ventured through this great pub... *We've seen 'em all!*



Greenhouse Effect

Oil on canvas, 43x63cm, framed

\$1450

Looking unoccupied and derelict, this green weatherboard cottage at Willow Tree has intrigued me since I started exploring the New England region some years ago. The cottage has never changed.

A 1968 Triumph 2000 still sits in the garage where it's gathering dust and chicken feathers as the house slowly decays and quietly returns into the earth under hot New England summers and harsh New England winters.



And then came the Bank

Oil on canvas, 33x43cm, framed

\$980

Way back in the day, small farmers did not have bank accounts but relied on the local stores to get credit for the goods they bought. Things got busy as time passed, so when the railway came through Glen Innes in 1884, the Bank came too. Often the Bank was the most imposing building in town. Striking Italianate architecture situated on the high street was very popular, so if you see a handsome building sitting prominently in a main street somewhere, you can be sure it was most probably once a bank!



Arts & Parkes

Oil on canvas, 33x43cm, framed

● SOLD

When Sir Henry Parkes delivered his first Federation speech to the nation at the Tenterfield School of Arts in 1889 – the Hall was overflowing as the locals flocked to hear about the greatest constitutional change in the history of Australia – but to me it's about the rooflines against the sky.



Like Hollywood Boulevard

Oil on canvas, 33x43cm, framed

\$980

It was the talk of the town in 1938!

The new Civic Theatre was a sure sign of opulence and progress.

The Scone Advocate reported at the time: "The imposing and resplendent Civic Theatre has opened in a blaze of splendour and colour".

And it's so Hollywood with that tree!



Pastoral Symphony

Oil on canvas, 33x43cm, framed

\$980

In its heyday, Armidale's *Pastoral Chambers* featured a magnificent foyer, generous reception area with a cedar staircase, marble fireplaces and wide verandas – and some fine painstakingly hand sculpted wheat husks over the entrance.

Beethoven composed his *Pastoral Symphony* to express emotions of the joy of being in the country. I don't think Beethoven ever came to Armidale, but you can see the harmony!



Connected

Oil on canvas, 33x43cm, framed

\$980

By 1886 Glenn Innes boasted three banks, all in substantial two storied buildings and a few more came later as the town flourished. The banks would be excellent fodder for a Bushranger... like ripe fruit waiting to be picked from a tree!



Even Bushrangers Need a Break

Oil on canvas, 33x43cm, framed

● SOLD

Captain Thunderbolt (Frederick W Ward), was renowned for escaping from Cockatoo Island, and also for his reputation as the *gentleman bushranger* and his lengthy survival, being the longest-roaming bushranger in Australian history. He never shot anybody but wrought havoc across the New England and as far west as Bourke, holding up stagecoaches and banks. Clearly he was a very busy man!
The *Thunderbolt Cafe* in Walcha celebrates his legend, although Thunderbolt was not an actual visitor to this town.

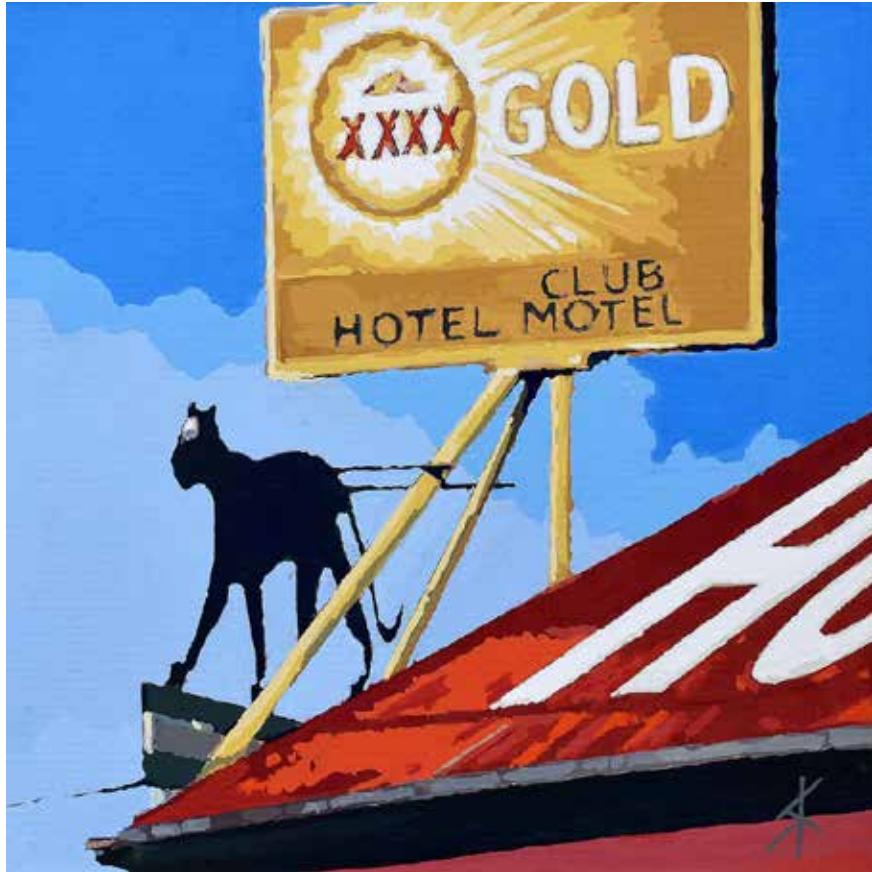


A Game Changer

Gouache on board, 15x15cm, 28x28cm framed

\$600

Once farmers realised the benefits that could be had in tractor-driven farming, popularity soared. There was no need for cumbersome manual labour when a simple machine like a tractor could do the job for you. It was a real game changer!



The Emmaville Panther

Gouache on board, 15x15cm, 28x28cm framed

\$600

In February 1959 a *large jet black animal about the size of a collie dog* was spotted on the Emmaville Road! There were other sightings too, of a *big black animal like a panther* near Tenterfield, Guyra, Keera and Bunzilla. Fact, fiction or legend... the mystery continues!

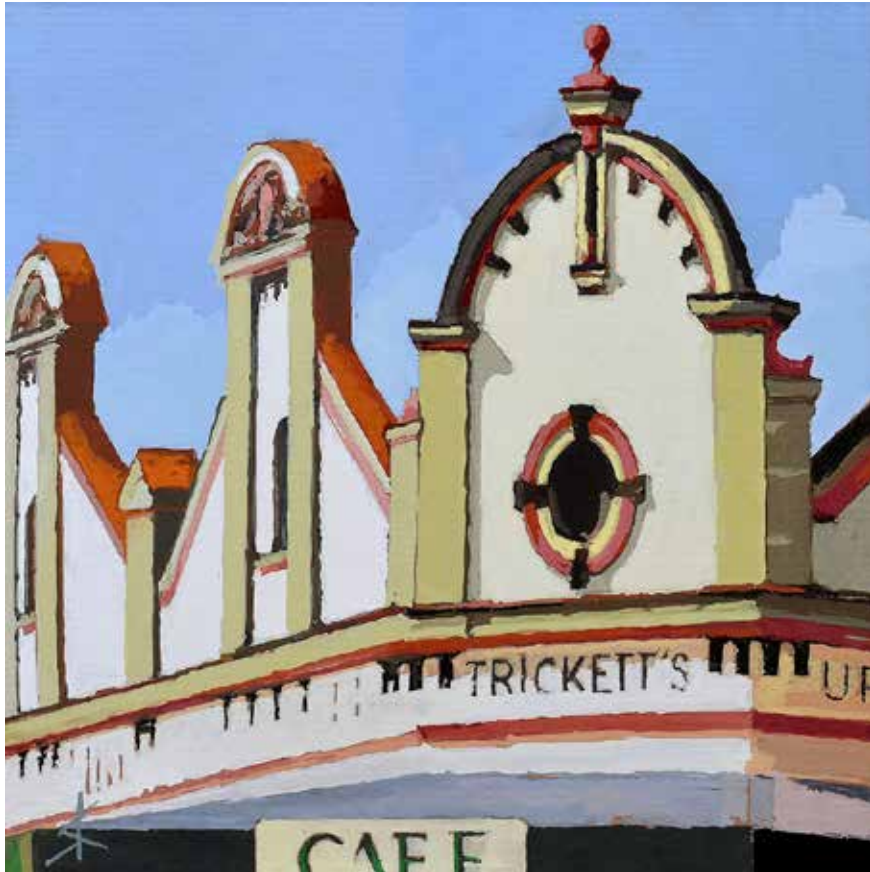


Riding on the Sheep's Back

Gouache on board, 15x15cm, 28x28cm framed

● SOLD

During the boom years of the wool industry, great wealth was made from wool exports and Australia was *riding on the sheep's back* as they say. The ram was a symbol of national prosperity - and what it was to be Australian. In those heady days also came the *Golden Fleece* petrol station. With its distinctive golden merino, named David of Dalkeith who was one of the most famous NSW merino sires in 1926. Rarely seen today but until the 80s *Golden Fleece* was a common sight for Australian motorists.



Fred's Vision

Gouache on board, 15x15cm, 28x28cm framed

\$600

This striking building was purchased by local retailer Fred Trickett in 1920, with a vision to create Uralla's main emporium, which he did. Fred's famous son, Edward (Ned) was the first Australian to be recognised as a world champion (in any sport) as a rower.

This is the country of the Aniwun People and *Uralla* means "ceremonial meeting place", so it's quite fitting that Trickett's now houses a great cafe!



Fortune Cookies & Chopsticks

Gouache on board, 15x15cm, 28x28cm framed

\$600

In the gold rush days, Chinese restaurants popped up in almost every town. These popular new restaurants featured unfamiliar offerings like fried rice, honey prawns, sweet & sour everything, and fortune cookies and chopsticks.



An Essential Service

Gouache on board, 15x15cm, 28x28cm framed

\$600

Cafes with neon lit signs, and old counters reminiscent of *milk bars* are still dotted around the countryside in most towns – offering coffee, hamburgers, shakes or smoothies and other breakfast treats are always a delight on any road trip!

