



Sphere No. 105 (2023)  
Inktense (pencil) on 300gsm Fabriano Artistico paper  
44cm x 19cm

### Drawing Space

A collection of small works on paper, *Drawing Space* explores possibilities of engaging the viewer in a pure emotive experience through texture, colour, and implied space, by presenting images stripped to a minimal in their representations of subject.

With the intent to open the experience of viewing to one that's unhindered by narrative, each work exhibited depicts a sphere, or spheres, and a horizon line only. While minimal in what is presented, these, along with the surface marks found in most, become the tools to negotiate the complexities of space, time, and the emotive power of colour and image. Conventional means with which to apply narrative are negated leaving nothing but a pure experience of what is before, the material substance of the work.

Deciding to use the sphere as a motif and tool to develop the pictorial space of the drawings gives the opportunity for a complex interpretation. The surface of a sphere is infinite, to engage in tracing a line upon it finds a continuum with no end and, eventually, a loss of a beginning. It offers no finite size for there are no points within it to ascertain exact measurements, and in the pictorial space when the only other objects presented to evaluate in comparison are also sphere in form, it's impossible to ascertain either's size. Without the ability to do so, the horizon line and its distance from or to becomes impossible to determine definitively. The only certain point of relativity in the Euclidian Space is the point at which the viewer is positioned within the gallery space itself. It is from there that the space found in the works is interpreted.

The acknowledgement of material and the process of making, which explores the materiality of the work, is reflected in the titling of each work. In keeping with the methodic approach each is attributed with simply a

number in chronological order following a reference to belonging to the *Sphere* collection of works. By title each and every work is non-distinct however, in contrast, what is recalled is the experience evoked when viewing the work.

To further develop layers of complexities, the methods employed in the use of the Inktense pencils and 100% cotton paper, and the framing choice specific to the aesthetics of the work, allow multiple boundaries to become blurred. The boundary between drawing and painting is left precarious and in question by the layering of colours and pencil marks similar to what is found with painting. This is compounded by the choice to frame to the edge of the work, without the traditional mounting on matboard found with drawings, while still placing the work under glass, as is found in the framing of drawings. The antiquated wide scoop style of the dark timber frame with its high edge leads to a removal of temporal positioning, a removal of time. This is further enhanced with the absence of any narrative in the pictorial space and the painterly approach to the application of the medium, they too allow a positioning of time and experience of space that is not now. Yet in contradiction, the abstract presentation of sphere and line heralds modernity and brings in to play a tension between contemporary and bygone and unveils a dichotomy within the work.

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Sphere No. 026 (2023)  
Inktense (pencil) on 300gsm Fabriano Artistico paper  
50cm x 50cm

## About the artist

Suzanne .k. Franklin (sue.k.) originally trained as an artist at Claremont School of Art graduating in 1992 with a Major in Sculpture and a Minor in Painting, though her forté has always been drawing. Since then, she has maintained an ongoing practice focussed on sculpture, drawing, and experimental video work, as well as performance pieces. Much of this work has been conducted under the name of sue.k. with a return to using her full birth name, Suzanne Franklin, taking place in 2012. For over three decades her work has been shown across Australia, UK, US, Europe, and Asia.

After more than 10 years of battling ill-health and struggling to find a way into an arts practice that doesn't take the physical toll that previous approaches to producing art had incurred, Suzanne .k. Franklin has at last produced her first solo exhibition since 2013 and her first in Western Australia since 2003. Though an approach to producing art work that's deep with complex dialogue and sits within the materialism genre is not new for the artist, for her creating the work for *Drawing Space* has left a sense of returning to the beginning. Without doubt, this is a 'new beginning' in her long career as an artist.

Suzanne .k. Franklin (formerly sue.k.)

*Drawing Space*

4<sup>th</sup> May 2024 - 30<sup>th</sup> June 2024

Opening event: 1-3pm, Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2024  
(official opening speech by Judith Hugo OAM)

Artist's talk: 1-2:30pm, Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2024

1:30-2:30pm, Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2024

Mundaring Arts Centre  
7190 Great Eastern Highway (corner of Nichol Street)  
Mundaring WA 6073

Tuesday - Friday 10am - 5pm,  
Saturday & Sunday 11am - 3pm  
Closed Monday & Public Holidays

Suzanne .k. Franklin