

BEING HERE Madeleine Clear

Mundaring Arts Centre | 13 November – 20 December 2015



It is with the greatest of pleasure that the Mundaring Arts Centre presents the works of esteemed artist Madeleine Clear, who celebrates nearly 60 years of living and working in the hills bush environment by sharing her personal responses to the hills in *Being Here*, her first solo exhibition since her representative gallery, Greenhills Galleries, closed.

The bush is a subject Madeleine has consistently returned to during her career. At home it surrounds her, imparting a sense of belonging through its wide vistas, its beautiful and intriguing minutiae as well as the creatures that live there. Madeleine uses her environment as a metaphor for her continuing exploration of the notion of fragility – emotional, psychological and physical, as well as environmental.



Being Here features work from Madeleine's student days, to the early 1980's and through to more recent works, providing a retrospective aspect of how this environment has influenced her, how her perceptions have changed and her spiritual connection has deepened. It is also an opportunity for Madeleine to 'give back' to the community that has embraced her.

"There is a feeling of intimacy about trying to reflect back to one's own community a creative response to the shared environment, believing quite passionately that there is value in communicating that response." says Madeleine.



Presenting works in charcoal, pastel, pencil and oils, *Being Here* articulates Madeleine's passion for drawing as a way of defining a sense of structure as well as feeling through a drawn line. Respected for her works with mixed media, Madeleine creates a multi-coloured ground on which to extract an image using charcoal and soft pastel, exploring colour through different mediums and techniques.



Madeleine Clear has produced a series of successful exhibitions in Australia since 1981, as well as receiving a number of prestigious awards. She is in some of the State's most influential collections including the Art Gallery of Western Australia, Shire of Mundaring, Holmes à Court Collection, Princess Margaret Hospital, BHP and the Lotteries Commission, as well as numerous private collections internationally.

Being Here opens on Friday 13 November and continues until Sunday 20 December. It will be opened by fellow hills dweller, photographer Richard Woldendorp AM, who shares Madeleine's passion for the bush and has witnessed her work evolve over the years.

Gifted | Louise Simonette | Mikaela Castledine | Kath Stanwix | Helen Clarke

Leading into the festive season, Gallery 2 continues our Artists in Focus program with GIFTED. Artists 'pop-up' for a week each to offer an insight into their creative practices as well as offering small artworks perfect for gifting. From 13-22 November, ceramicist **Louise Simonette** sets up her studio to demonstrate not only her ceramic jewellery, but her more recent foray into clay sculpting. Visitors can watch Simonette play with clay as she works in residence on Wednesday 18 and Thursday 19 November from 11am-3pm. 27 Nov – 6 Dec sees **Mikaela Castledine** set up her stunning collages and crocheted sculptural works – with perhaps a hint at her next masterpiece for Sculpture by the Sea 2016. 11-20 December **Kath Stanwix'** gorgeous timber jewellery pieces meet the intricate detail of **Helen Clarke's** lino cut and etching prints for a double celebration leading into Christmas. Many of these artists will be hosting workshops during these times, with information and bookings available at www.mundaringartscentre.com.au/workshops-events



These exhibitions are on display from 13 November until 20 December. Mundaring Arts Centre is at 7190 Great Eastern Hwy in the heart of Mundaring. Entry is free and the Gallery and Shop are open Tuesday-Friday 10am–5pm; Saturday-Sunday 11am–3pm (closed Mondays and Public Holidays). These are the final exhibitions for 2015. Please note, Mundaring Arts Centre will be closed from 25 Dec 2015 – 12 February 2016. For further information, please contact 9295 3991 or visit www.mundaringartscentre.com.au



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Images: details from works by Madeleine Clear (t-b) *Summer Gothic – Deo Gratias*, 1985; *Burnt Valley*, 2015; *The Little Waterfall*, 2014; *Bronze Wing*, 2011; examples of works by Gifted artists(l-r) Louise Simonette, ceramic sculptures; Mikaela Castledine, *Before You Can Be Freed You Must Be Captured*, crocheted finch sculpture; Kath Stanwix, timber jewellery; and Helen Clarke, *Grevillea*, reduction lino cut print