



University of
Southern
Queensland

Moree: Mehi After the Flood

David Usher and Invited Artists
Original Work: Visual Art Work (Visual Arts)

Exhibition by David Usher (UniSQ) and Leo Robba (WSU) and Invited
Group

[Original Work Submission Year: 2021]

Background

Australian artists Sydney Nolan, Arthur Boyd and John Percival continued a long tradition of *en plein air* practice that involved processes of transferring the narrative encountered in the Australian bush through sketches and paintings completed in the artist's own studio. There is still much to be explored in interpreting the immediacy of contemporary landscape through this approach and impacts of studio environments upon individual artist's experiences.

Contribution

The original paintings and ceramic works generated for *Moree – The Painted River Project* group exhibition are a direct response to traveling into these western districts to investigate the environment and then respond to the experience via sketches and studies completed on site. Returning to the studio, new works are undertaken that utilised the *en plein air* experiences as a point of departure were completed. The studio paintings again explore ways of reinterpreting light and provide a platform for reflection and finding new ways of extending beyond *en plein air* traditions and to extend on representations of the landscape through abstracted imagery.

Significance

This initial project has been well received with attendance of 300 visitors at the Mary Banks Park event and the subsequent exhibition held at the Moree regional gallery (BAMM). This was supported by an 80 page full-colour catalogue. There are further invited exhibitions planned and another event being subsequently held in Moree and at BAMM in 2022 and 2023. This is an ongoing research project from 2020 to 2023. The 2023 exhibition will also be supported by an accompanying full-colour catalogue publication.



David Usher

Mehi Gums (the tangle of the river)

Artwork from 'Moree: Mehi after the flood' The Painted River Project 2021

Acrylic on canvas

153cm x 198cm



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David Usher

Mehi Gums (the tangle of the river) River Gum Vessels

Artworks from 'Moree: Mehi after the flood' The Painted River Project 2021

Acrylic on canvas

25cm x 35cm



David Usher

Gwydir River Gums (Study 3)

Artwork from 'Moree: Mehi after the flood' The Painted River Project 2021

Acrylic on canvas

30cm x 30cm



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David Usher

Close to the Water

Artwork from 'Moree: Mehi after the flood' The Painted River Project 2021

Acrylic on canvas

30cm x 40cm



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David Usher

Mehi Canopy (over the bank)

Artwork from 'Moree: Mehi after the flood' The Painted River Project 2021

Acrylic on canvas

30cm x 40cm



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David Usher

Mehi Vessels (detail)

Artwork from 'Moree: Mehi after the flood' The Painted River Project 2021

Acrylic on canvas

30cm x 40cm



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David Usher

Mehi Vessels (detail)

Artwork from 'Moree: Mehi after the flood' The Painted River Project 2021

Acrylic on canvas

30cm x 40cm



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David Usher

Leaving the Water

Artwork from 'Moree: Mehi after the flood' The Painted River Project 2021

Acrylic on canvas

35cm x 40cm



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