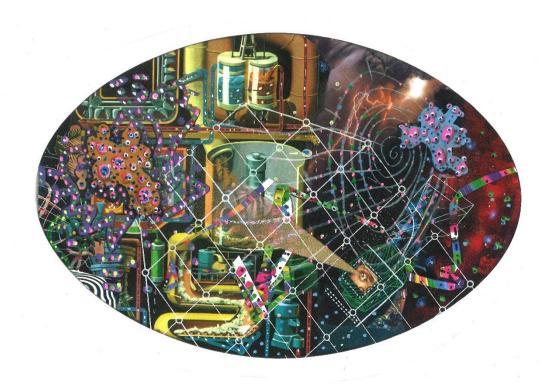
Toowoomba Regional Art Gallery

Gathering in the Light Stephen Spurrier and David Usher 5 December – 24 January 2021



End of Exhibition Report

Toowoomba Regional Art Gallery 531 Ruthven Street Toowoomba QLD 4350

P 07 4688 6652 E <u>art@tr.qld.gov.au</u> www.tr.qld.gov.au/trag

Image caption: Stephen SPURRIER / Escape from the factory 2020 / mixed media on paper / $18 \times 28 \text{cm}$ / Courtesy Alexandra Lawson Gallery © the artist

Document Number: 9516068



Our Reference: DM#9516068 Contact Officer: Tina Wilson Telephone: (07) 4688 6488

29 March 2021

Alexandra Lawson
Alexandra Lawson Gallery
info@alexandralawsongallery.com

Dear Alexandra,

Re: Gathering in the Light: Stephen Spurrier and David Usher

The Toowoomba Regional Art Gallery would like to thank you for the opportunity to exhibit *Gathering in the Light: Stephen Spurrier and David Usher* in Gallery 1 from 5 December – 24 January 2021. The selection of work was a wonderful demonstration of the artistic journeys taken by both exhibiting artists and the curation of the exhibition showcased this moment in time in their practices. The didactics were an informative contribution to the exhibition and were of particular interest to patrons who enjoyed learning about the intricacies of each of the artists' practice. David Usher's large-scale paintings received a lot of positive feedback from members of our audience as did Stephen Spurrier's small-scale sculptural 'Angels'.

Notable comments captured include:

- 15 December 2020 "I love the angels and the hang of the small works. Great show, I came to see Gathering in the Light I always come to the Gallery whenever I come to Toowoomba."
- 6 January 2021 "It was excellent, the artwork descriptions were wonderful."
- 13 January 2021 "Haven't been in years but I saw Gathering in the Light on the TV outside and thought to come in. David and Stephen's work is fantastic love how they collaborate together."
- 13 January 2021 "Read about Gathering in the Light in BOLD magazine lots of inspiration taken from Gathering in the Light – Stephen's Einstein quote especially – I took a photo to share with the family to inspire them."

The artist talk with David Usher and Stephen Spurrier hosted at Alexandra Lawson Gallery on Saturday 12 December 2020, brought across an engaged audience and we appreciate the effort taken to cross-promote *Gathering in the Light* and our gallery. Over the period of the exhibition, we had a total number of 2,367 visitors.

For your interest please find below the exhibition's documentation images and associated Gallery material and promotional items.

The team at Toowoomba Regional Art Gallery wish to thank you for your contribution to our exhibition program and for your patience, understanding and flexibility through legislated restrictions due to COVID-19. We enjoyed working with you on this project and wish you every success in your future artistic endeavours.

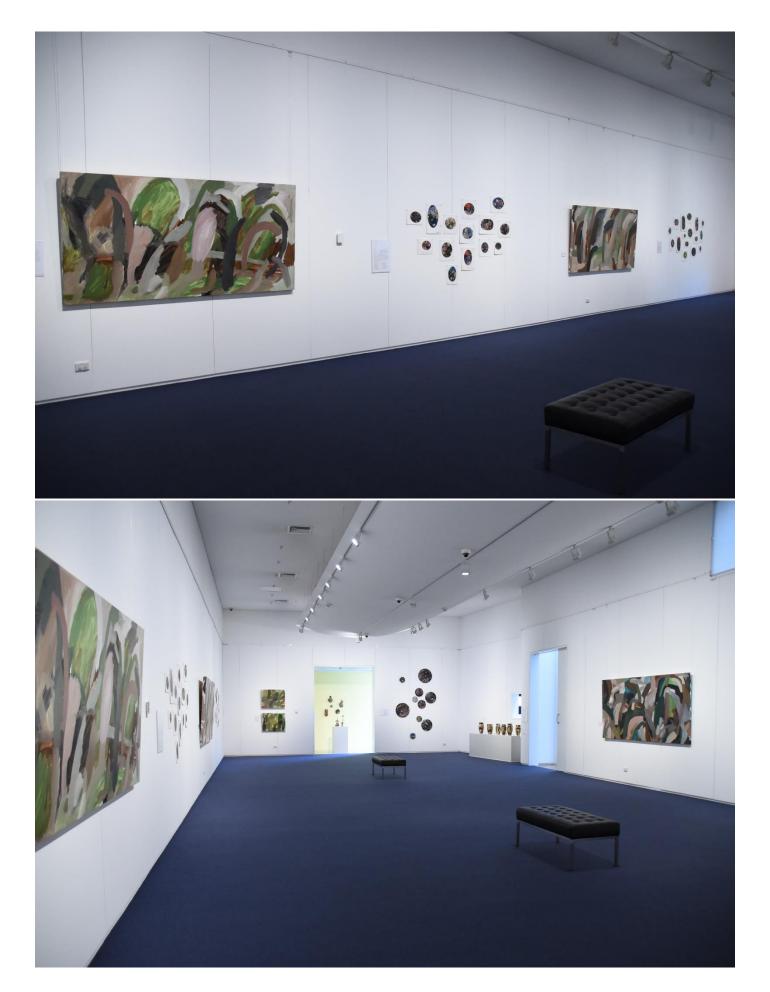
On behalf of the Toowoomba Regional Art Gallery team, Yours sincerely

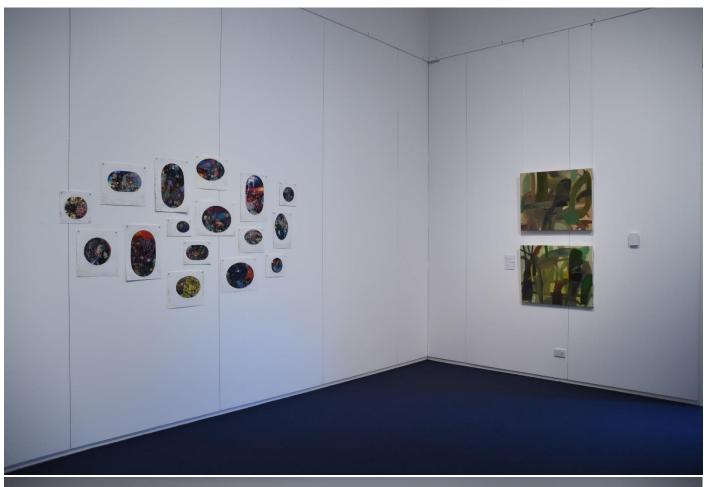
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Coordinator Exhibitions and Public Programs (Acting)
Toowoomba Regional Art Gallery





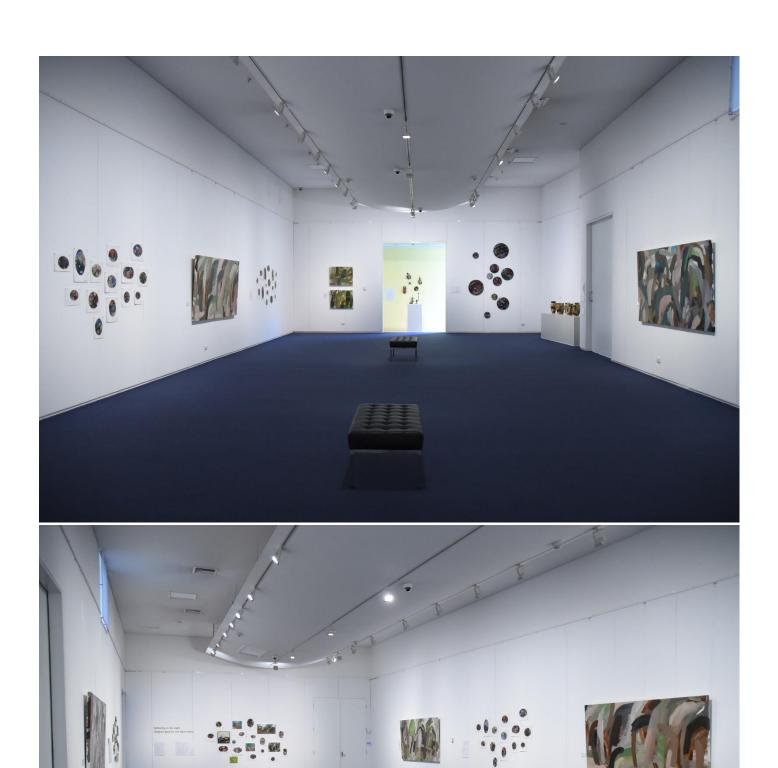












List of Works on Display

West Wall

Stephen SPURRIER	Stephen SPURRIER
Green comet 2020	Secret code 2019-2020
mixed media on paper	mixed media on paper
29 x 29cm	30 x 34cm
David USHER	Stephen SPURRIER
There is a place 2020	Blood moon chaos 2020
acrylic on board 38 x 38cm	mixed media on paper 30 x 42cm
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David USHER	Stephen SPURRIER
Shed and cloud 2020 acrylic on canvas	Random moment 2020 mixed media on paper
26 x 30cm	21 x 30cm
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Stephen SPURRIER Moon dancer 2019-2020	Stephen SPURRIER Escape from the factory 2020
mixed media on paper	mixed media on paper
19 x 18cm	26 x 36cm
David USHER	Stephen SPURRIER
The bones of the farmhouse 2020	Falling man with eclipse 2020
acrylic on canvas	mixed media on paper
20 x 25cm	42 x 30cm
Stephen SPURRIER	David USHER
Ghost forever 2020	The flooding boxes 2020
mixed media on paper	acrylic on canvas
21 x 27cm	25 x 30cm
Stephen SPURRIER	David USHER
Sky dogs 2019-2020	Gather at the river crossing 2020
mixed media on paper 25 x 30cm	acrylic on canvas 30 x 61cm
25 X 30Cm	30 X 61CH
Stephen SPURRIER	Stephen SPURRIER
Blue moon 2020	Carnival scramble 2019-2020
mixed media on paper 32 x 27cm	mixed media on paper 21 x 21cm
02 X 27 0111	ZIAZIOIII
Stephen SPURRIER	Stephen SPURRIER
Pink moment 2020	Pink coding 2020
mixed media on paper 21 x 30cm	mixed media on paper 31 x 27cm
21 / 000111	OT A Z TOTT

David USHER
There is only the morning 2020
acrylic on canvas
30 x 40cm

Stephen SPURRIER

The last untanglers 2019-2020
mixed media on paper
30 x 18cm

North Wall

David USHER Tracing the pathways 2020 acrylic on board 120 x 240cm	Stephen SPURRIER Dog lover #17 2019 mixed media on paper 21 x 30cm
Stephen SPURRIER Sky snake 2020 mixed media on paper 21 x 30cm	Stephen SPURRIER Constellation evolution 2020 mixed media on paper 42 x 30cm
Stephen SPURRIER Cosmic codes #13 2020 mixed media on paper 30 x 30cm	Stephen SPURRIER Lost in the Cosmos 2020 mixed media on paper 28 x 29cm
Stephen SPURRIER Ghost moment 2019 mixed media on paper 30 x 31cm	Stephen SPURRIER Escape from the laboratory 2020 mixed media on paper 30 x 23cm
Stephen SPURRIER Blood in my eyes 2019 mixed media on paper 34 x 30cm	Stephen SPURRIER Blue sky puzzle 2020 mixed media on paper 29 x 33cm
Stephen SPURRIER Green dog moment 2019 mixed media on paper 29.0 x 24.5cm	Stephen SPURRIER Deep sea cosmos 2020 mixed media on paper 30 x 39cm
Stephen SPURRIER The two guardians of the Universe 2020 mixed media on paper 26 x 35cm	Stephen SPURRIER Alternate interpretations of reality 2019 mixed media on paper 21 x 24cm
Stephen SPURRIER Towards the factory 2019 mixed media on paper 30 x 32cm	David USHER Gathering in the heather 2020 acrylic on board 120 x 240cm

Stephen SPURRIER Pink coding 2020 mixed media on paper 21 x 21cm	Stephen SPURRIER Chuzzling realm 2020 mixed media on paper 33 x 30cm
Stephen SPURRIER Escape from Wittenoom 2020 mixed media on paper 30 x 34cm	Stephen SPURRIER Towards the underground 2020 mixed media on paper 42 x 30cm
Stephen SPURRIER The last entanglers 2020 mixed media on paper 42 x 30cm	Stephen SPURRIER Shroud 2020 mixed media on paper 13 x 21cm
Stephen SPURRIER Starry night 2020 mixed media on paper 30 x 34cm	Stephen SPURRIER Towards the jungle 2020 mixed media on paper 30 x 34cm
Stephen SPURRIER Return the witness #13 2020 mixed media on paper 30 x 34cm	Stephen SPURRIER Dark comet 2020 mixed media on paper 30 x 34cm
Stephen SPURRIER Arctic rain 2020 mixed media on paper 30 x 42cm	Stephen SPURRIER Sky dog event 2020 mixed media on paper 21 x 28cm
Stephen SPURRIER Lightening event #17 2020 mixed media on paper 42 x 30cm	Stephen SPURRIER Ghost story 2020 mixed media on paper 21 x 20cm
Stephen SPURRIER Fuzzmic realm 2020 mixed media on paper 33 x 30cm	Stephen SPURRIER Blue remittance 2020 mixed media on paper 21 x 24cm

East Wall - North of Alcove

David USHER All the forgotten places 2020	David USHER The climbing vine 2020
acrylic on canvas 61 x 71cm	acrylic on canvas 61 x 71cm

East Wall - Yellow Alcove

Stephen SPURRIER
Angel #1 - #9 2020
mixed media
various dimensions, 32cm tallest

East Wall - South of Alcove

Stephen SPURRIER Serpentine sky 2019 mixed media on board 20cm diameter	Stephen SPURRIER Ghost runner 2019-2020 mixed media on board 40cm diameter
Stephen SPURRIER Green cosmos 2019 mixed media on board 20cm diameter	Stephen SPURRIER Flight of the mystics 2020 mixed media on board 50cm diameter
Stephen SPURRIER Self-portrait with night rider 2019 mixed media on board 50cm diameter	Stephen SPURRIER Mailstrom 2019 mixed media on board 20cm diameter
Stephen SPURRIER Rise and fall 2019-2020 mixed media on board 40cm diameter	Stephen SPURRIER Sensuous skies 2019 mixed media on board 30cm diameter
Stephen SPURRIER Floating dimension 2020 mixed media on board 30cm diameter	Stephen SPURRIER Tears in rain 2019 mixed media on board 20cm diameter

South Wall

David USHER Amongst the gums #1 - #8 2020 ceramic vessels 35cm high (tallest)	David USHER Tangled in the undergrowth (and laughing) 2020 acrylic on canvas 120 x 240cm
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South Wall - Suite 11

Stephen SPURRIER and David USHER Take me to the wishing well (and throw me in) 2020 acrylic on board 17 x 25cm	Stephen SPURRIER and David USHER Dawn of the axe 2020 acrylic on canvas 20 x 25cm
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Stephen SPURRIER and David USHER barium dog 2020 acrylic on canvas 20 x 25cm	Stephen SPURRIER and David USHER The Universe and the trees on fire #5 (big fat tree on the left) 2020 mixed media on paper 20 x 25cm
Stephen SPURRIER and David USHER Laughing dog 2020 acrylic on canvas 12 x 23cm	Stephen SPURRIER and David USHER Funky river study 2020 acrylic on canvas 12 x 23cm
Stephen SPURRIER and David USHER Apocalypse appaloosa 2020 acrylic on canvas 20 x 25cm	Stephen SPURRIER and David USHER Return to the swamp 2020 acrylic on canvas 12 x 23cm
Stephen SPURRIER and David USHER The Universe and the trees on fire #7 (possible top) 2020 mixed media on paper 42 x 30cm	Stephen SPURRIER and David USHER The Universe and the trees on fire #6 (Paula and the three dots) 2020 mixed media on paper 42 x 30cm
Stephen SPURRIER and David USHER Dog at the gate 2020 acrylic on canvas 25 x 20cm	Stephen SPURRIER and David USHER Rain maker 2020 acrylic on canvas 12 x 23cm
Stephen SPURRIER and David USHER Beach dogs (waiting for Daddo) 2020 acrylic on canvas 20 x 25cm	Stephen SPURRIER and David USHER Ghost of the shearer 2020 acrylic on canvas 20 x 25cm

Exhibition Roomsheet/Intro Panel

Gathering in the Light features a dialogue about the working practices of two Toowoomba based artists, Stephen Spurrier and David Usher. On display are works that explore their creative processes – looking at how they respond to isolation, their surroundings and the social, environmental, and cosmic influences that have shaped 2020.

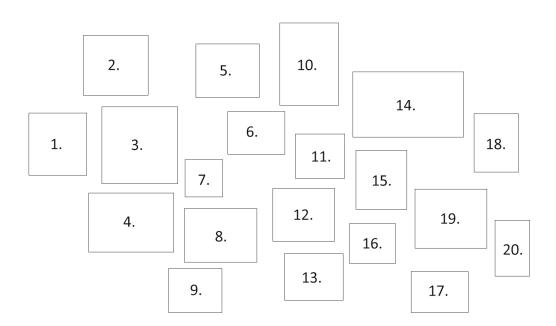
These works celebrate how Spurrier and Usher embrace the landscape in their respective practices; especially the critical role light plays in balancing image making.

Shifting across painting, printmaking, ceramics and small-scale sculpture, the exhibition explores the many ways in which the process of making reflects layers of lived experience. It delves into the artists' psychological and emotional responses to physical locations. There is a particular focus on *memory* and the pivotal moments, situations and social issues that influence and translate into an artists' work. Included in the exhibition are works made by each artist during the isolation period of 2020 as well as collaborative and individual works made thereafter.

Exhibition curated by Alexandra Lawson.

Exhibition Didactic/s including Children's Didactics (with related diagrams as applicable.)

West Wall



- 1. Stephen SPURRIER Green comet 2020 mixed media on paper
- 2. Stephen SPURRIER
 Secret code 2019-2020
 mixed media on paper
- **3. David USHER There is a place** 2020 acrylic on board
- 4. Stephen SPURRIER Blood moon chaos 2020 mixed media on paper
- 5. David USHER
 Shed and cloud 2020
 acrylic on canvas
- 6. Stephen SPURRIER
 Random moment 2020
 mixed media on paper
- 7. Stephen SPURRIER

 Moon dancer 2019-2020

 mixed media on paper

- 8. Stephen SPURRIER
 Escape from the factory 2020
 mixed media on paper
- 9. David USHER
 The bones of the farmhouse 2020
 acrylic on canvas
- 10. Stephen SPURRIER
 Falling man with eclipse 2020
 mixed media on paper
- **11. Stephen SPURRIER Ghost forever** 2020
 mixed media on paper
- **12. David USHER**The flooding boxes 2020 acrylic on canvas
- 13. Stephen SPURRIER
 Sky dogs 2019-2020
 mixed media on paper
- 14. David USHER

 Gather at the river crossing 2020
 acrylic on canvas

- **15. Stephen SPURRIER Blue moon** 2020
 mixed media on paper
- 16. Stephen SPURRIER Carnival scramble 2019-2020 mixed media on paper
- 17. Stephen SPURRIER
 Pink moment 2020
 mixed media on paper
- 18. Stephen SPURRIER
 Pink coding 2020
 mixed media on paper
- 19. David USHER

 There is only the morning 2020
 acrylic on canvas
- 20. Stephen SPURRIER

 The last untanglers 2019-2020
 mixed media on paper

Stephen Spurrier and David Usher convey their experience of the recent isolation period in these paintings and works on paper. These works embody the artists' depiction of their changed physical experience as a result of not being able to leave their homes in early 2020.

David Usher's art practice depicts his immersion in the landscape, presenting colours, light and his experience of the environment. During the lockdown Usher's paintings shifted to capture hollow structures representing his immediate surroundings, which was his home, garden and studio. Usher's works rarely show the structural environment, which is ordinarily not significant to his artwork.

The imagery in Stephen Spurrier's works on paper refer to society and culture at large, examining the Cosmos, societal structures, economics, politics and community. During the isolation period imagery appeared of an 'anti-virus', in response to the pandemic.

Spurrier's working process involves making notes around the edges of his works (they might be based on an interview he's listening to on the radio, for example). These notes act as a diary, capturing a moment in time when the works are conceived. This is the first time these notes are being shown, they are usually hidden during the framing process, however are important towards informing a narrative.

North Wall

David USHER

Tracing the pathways 2020

acrylic on board

In this painting Usher captures the landscape at Dromore, a family property near St George in South-West Queensland. Usher chooses a palette that depicts his surroundings. The raw umber (deep purple/red/brown) depicts a grass that seeds at Dromore. This colour represents the earth and is indicative of the time of year spent in the area. This painting is devoid of the structures Usher has previously included and he instead depicts his experience as he prefers, uncontained in the landscape. The horizon line in the lower third of the painting grounds the work.

David USHER

Tracing the pathways 2020

acrylic on board

For kids

David likes to make artworks about the Australian bush and the environment around him. He likes to remember the landscape and then paints the colours, shapes and shadows that he remembers.

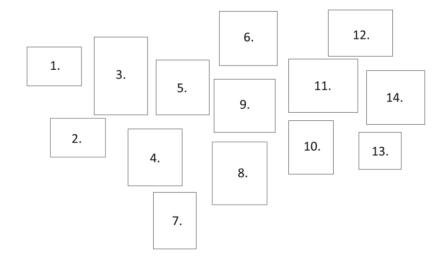
In this way, his paintings are just like memories – they express how he sees and remembers the world around him.

Sometimes the colours, shapes and shadows merge in his memory and he creates a new landscape when he paints – one that is half-remembered and half created.

Look at the colours David has used in his painting. Where do you think he is?

What sort of climate do you think it was?

Does it look hot or cold? Dry or wet?



In this series of works on paper Spurrier's palette has evolved. As time passes, and life and Spurrier's environment both physically and ideologically change, so does his works and the imagery and notes that are immersed within.

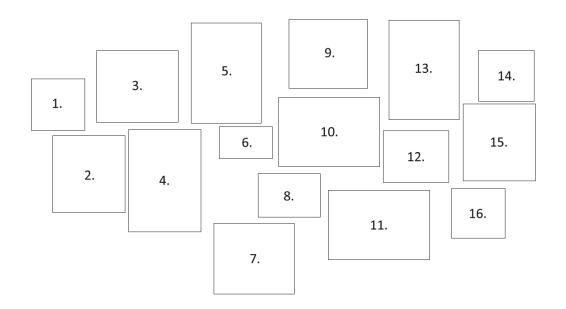
The works contain layers of information that become environments in themselves, the rich surroundings that Spurrier creates relate to the Cosmos through moons, stars and the earth; as well as our environment closer to home with clouds and rich skies. Spurrier references history and social structures through the long strips of coloured coding that could relate to Morse code, or a secret language, as well as history.

Stephen SPURRIER

- 1. Dog lover #17 2019
- 2. Sky snake 2020
- 3. Constellation evolution 2020
- 4. Cosmic codes #13 2020
- 5. Lost in the Cosmos 2020
- 6. Ghost moment 2019
- 7. Escape from the laboratory 2020

- 8. Blood in my eyes 2019
- 9. Blue sky puzzle 2020
- 10. Green dog moment 2019
- 11. Deep sea cosmos 2020
- 12. The two guardians of the Universe 2020
- 13. Alternate interpretations of reality 2019
- 14. Towards the factory 2019

All works mixed media on paper



Stephen SPURRIER

- **1. Pink coding** 2020
- 2. Chuzzling realm 2020
- 3. Escape from Wittenoom 2020
- 4. Towards the underground 2020
- 5. The last entanglers 2020
- **6. Shroud** 2020
- **7. Starry night** 2020
- **8. Towards the jungle** 2020

- **9.** Return the witness **#13** 2020
- **10. Dark comet** 2020
- **11. Arctic rain** 2020
- **12. Sky dog event** 2020
- **13. Lightening event #17** 2020
- **14. Ghost story** 2020
- 15. Fuzzmic realm 2020
- 16. Blue remittance 2020

All works mixed media on paper

Stephen SPURRIER

Arctic rain 2020

mixed media on paper

For kids

Stephen is very interested in the Universe or *Cosmos*. This includes everything that exists – all the planets, moons, stars, space, people, places and things.

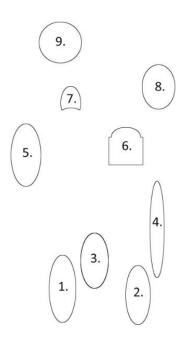
He is also interested by how humans think, behave and what they do in the world.

In his artworks he combines lots of different shapes and images to create imaginary worlds. Can you imagine what it would be like living there?

Stephen uses a process called screen printing. This means he can repeat images in different configurations. Can you find the same shapes in different artworks?

Artwork No. 11 is titled *Arctic rain*. Can you see the rain? Where in the Universe do you think this place is?

East Wall - Yellow Alcove



Stephen SPURRIER

- 1. Angel #1,
- 2. Angel #2
- 3. Angel #3
- 4. Angel #4
- 5. Angel #5
- 6. Angel #6
- 7. Angel #7
- 8. Angel #8
- 9. Angel #9

All works created 2020, mixed media

In this ongoing series of works, Spurrier is investigating the concept of the guardian angel.

His inspiration came from an Italian Renaissance exhibition where paintings of angels were depicted as grotesque rather than using contemporary notions of beauty. This raised the question for him - does a good protector or guardian need to be idealised?

Spurrier related this concept to the menacing figureheads of the Roman and Viking ships of earlier times, and this series of objects began to evolve.

The works on display are both simulations of ships' figureheads and independent guardian angels. They are assembled from found objects including banksia pods, coral remnants, fabrics, donated human hair and broken toys. Throughout each construction, the figures or 'angels' have evolved into their own personalities.

Spurrier's circular works are an expansion from the two-dimensional form, acting as a threshold to other worlds. They offer an evolving view of the Universe and other possibilities for the viewer to explore.

The works investigate the nature of the Cosmos as non-rectilinear, and which are purposefully in contrast to most manufactured structures.

Stephen SPURRIER

- 1. Serpentine sky 2019
- **2. Ghost runner** 2019-2020
- 3. Green cosmos 2019
- 4. Flight of the mystics 2020
- 5. Self-portrait with night rider 2019

- **6. Mailstrom** 2019
- **7. Rise and fall** 2019-2020
- 8. Sensuous skies 2019
- 9. Floating dimension 2020
- **10.** Tears in rain 2019

All works mixed media on board

Stephen SPURRIER

Ghost runner 2019-2020 mixed media on board

For kids

Notice the round shape of Stephen's artworks. They are different sizes and different distances apart.

What does the entire arrangement remind you of?

Each work looks like its own world. Where would you need to be to see the world from this view?

Can you find the 'Ghost runner' in artwork No. 2? Why do you think Stephen called it that? What do you think a ghost would look like running? What sound would it make?

David USHER

Tangled in the undergrowth (and laughing) 2020 acrylic on canvas

For kids

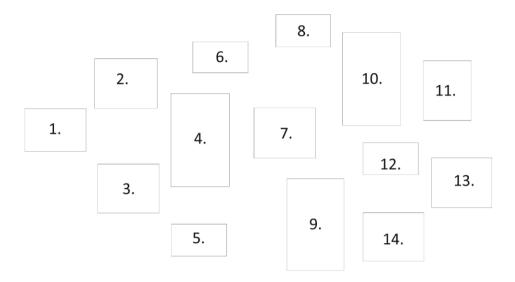
This painting of David's is called *Tangled in the undergrowth (and laughing)*.

Why do you think David has called his painting this? What do you think may have happened?

How do the shapes make it look tangled?

Can you make some of the shapes with your body?

Act out what you would look like if you were tangled in a vine and laughing.



- 1. Stephen SPURRIER and
 David USHER
 Take me to the wishing well (and throw me in) 2020
 acrylic on board
- Stephen SPURRIER and David USHER
 Dawn of the axe 2020 acrylic on canvas
- 3. Stephen SPURRIER and David USHER barium dog 2020 acrylic on canvas
- 4. Stephen SPURRIER and
 David USHER

 The Universe and the trees on fire
 #5 (big fat tree on the left) 2020
 mixed media on paper
- 5. Stephen SPURRIER and David USHER Laughing dog 2020 acrylic on canvas
- 6. Stephen SPURRIER and

- David USHER Funky river study 2020 acrylic on canvas
- 7. Stephen SPURRIER and
 David USHER
 Apocalypse appaloosa 2020
 acrylic on canvas
- 8. Stephen SPURRIER and
 David USHER
 Return to the swamp 2020
 acrylic on canvas
- Stephen SPURRIER and
 David USHER
 The Universe and the trees on fire
 #7 (possible top) 2020
 mixed media on paper
- 10. Stephen SPURRIER and
 David USHER
 The Universe and the trees on fire
 #6 (Paula and the three dots)
 2020
 mixed media on paper

- 11. Stephen SPURRIER and
 David USHER
 Dog at the gate 2020
 acrylic on canvas
- 12. Stephen SPURRIER and
 David USHER
 Rain maker 2020
 acrylic on canvas
- 13. Stephen SPURRIER and
 David USHER
 Beach dogs (waiting for Daddo)
 2020
 acrylic on canvas
- 14. Stephen SPURRIER and David USHERGhost of the shearer 2020 acrylic on canvas

These collaborative works by Spurrier and Usher provide an ongoing opportunity to expand upon their individual visions of the world. As long-term collaborative artists and friends these works provide a platform for pushing the boundaries of each artist's individual practices.

The collaborations usually start with Usher forming a landscape which is added to by Spurrier, through his layering of imagery. This interlocks Spurrier's ideas with Usher's, resulting in works that have a cross section of the natural, and structural worlds.

These works continue to examine how Spurrier and Usher embrace 'light' and 'dark' in their respective practices and investigates the critical role light plays in balancing image making.

For kids

Artists Stephen Spurrier and David Usher make 'collaborative artworks'. This means they work together or 'collaborate' on the same artwork.

When Stephen and David work together, they create artworks which appear 'other worldly' or not from this world.

What things can you see that may belong to another world? Can you see the trees with faces? Or the faces in the sky?

Artwork No. 5 is titled *Laughing Dog*. Why do you think the artists called it that?

What could the dog be laughing at?

Look at all the artworks closely. Can you recognise which parts have been made by Stephen and which parts have been painted by David?

HINT: Look at the other works in the exhibition to recognise their style - some of the works have been made only by Stephen and others are made only by David.

Public Programs Overview

Public Programs	The public safety restrictions put in place to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic impacted the ability of the Gallery sector to host public programs. As a result, TRAG suspended its usual events, including an opening function. Fortunately, as part of the resumption of service roadmap, TRAG was able to resume educational tours and facilitate group visits. A trial 'Meet the Artist' event for local artist Jenny Foxton was held in Gallery 1 during the <i>Gathering in the Light</i> exhibition duration. This event provided extra exposure for the artists.	
Opening Event Overview	N/A– All public programs cancelled due to COVID-19	
	Date/ Time: Tuesday 1 December 2020, 2pm	Staff: N/A
Self- guided Tour Details	Group details: Brisbane Advent College Attendance: 7 Students 2 Adults	
Meet the Artist	Date/ Time: Saturday 16 January 2021, 1.30pm Staff: Tina Wilson	
Jenny Foxton Event (held in	Group details: Gallery patrons	
Gallery 1)	Attendance: 30 adults	

Promotions Overview

Exhibition & Public Program Promotion Overview

The Gallery generated promotional material that spanned across print, digital and radio and worked with Toowoomba Regional Council network and several media outlets to engage local, regional and national audiences. Media highlights included the response to the media release which generated an engaging interview with David Iliffe and David Usher on Southern Cross Queensland ABC radio.

Digital audiences were engaged on a variety of online platforms including web and email. The Gallery's monthly enews was sent to over 400 subscribers. The exhibition was promoted on the Toowoomba Region Events register for the duration of the exhibition.

A total of 18 different media pieces were generated reaching regional, national and international audiences.

Promotion [In- house design]	Date of Publication	Reach / Audience
Media Release:	2 December 2021	Local media outlets
E-Newsletter	December 2020 January 2021	430 Local and regional residents
Events register	Duration of exhibition	Unattainable
BOLD Magazine	January/February 2021	Print 68,000 Online: 999 Subscribers Toowoomba Region residents
Gallery Slide	14 September 2020	2,367 +
Promotion [Media]	Date of Publication	Reach / Audience
Southern Queensland Radio	17 December 2020	Local and regional residents

Promotion	Date of Buldingtion	Decelo / Acciliones
[External]	Date of Publication	Reach / Audience
		8,000 weekly average readership
Exhibition Review	11 December 2020	Toowoomba, Lockyer Valley &
		Darling Downs Regions
Newspaper [Print]-	11 December 2020	8,000 weekly average readership
The Chronicle		Toowoomba, Lockyer Valley &
The Chlonicle	8 January 2021	Darling Downs Regions
The Chronicle Style	December 2020	8,000 weekly average readership
The Chronicle Style		Toowoomba, Lockyer Valley &
Magazine	January 2021	Darling Downs Regions
Art Almanac	B 1 // 000/	Print 10,000 National
[Online]	December/January 2021	Online 16, 000 / month National
Art Guide [Print &	Print: November/December 2020	Print 36,000 National
Online]	Online: December/January 2021	Online 36, 420 / month National
Franking (Online 0	Online: December/January 2021	Print 36,000 National &
Eyeline [Online &		International
Facebook]	Facebook: 2 December 2020	Facebook 2,738 Followers
Imprint [Print]	Print: December – February 2021	14,000 Print & Online National

Media Release | 2 December 2021



Last Updated: Wednesday, 02 December 2020 10:43 Published: Wednesday, 02 December 2020 10:43



Established Toowoomba artists Stephen Spurrier and David Usher have joined forces to present an exhibition that casts light on a dramatic year.

The exhibition, Gathering in the Light, captures Stephen and David's direct responses to social, environmental and cosmic influences that shaped 2020.

The exhibition will be on display at Toowoomba Regional Art Gallery from December 5, 2020, until Sunday, January 24, 2021.

Art works explore the artists' creative processes. Stephen has been making art for 30 years, and David has been a creative professional for 20 years.

The works on display demonstrate how both artists respond to their surroundings and embrace the landscape in their respective practices.

"I wanted to share this work with the community as I saw such an interesting shift in both artists' work as a result of their subconscious documentation of events occurring in 2020. I think it's interesting how social issues translate in artists' works," said Alexandra Lawson, exhibition curator and Director Alexandra Lawson Gallery.

Shifting across painting, printmaking and ceramics, the exhibition includes works made by each artist during the isolation period of 2020, as well as collaborative and individual works made thereafter.



The exhibition delves into the artists' psychological and emotional responses to physical locations and the unusual events of 2020.

There is a keen focus on landscape and the cosmos, and the pivotal moments and environmental situations that have influenced their work.

Stephen Spurrier and David Usher are represented by Alexandra Lawson Gallery, Toowoomba.

For more information, please see: www.tr.qld.gov.au/events

Toowoomba Regional Art Gallery is open from 10.30am to 3.30pm Tuesday to Saturday and Sunday from 1pm to 4pm. Admission is free.

Image: David Usher and Stephen Spurrier / 2020 / Courtesy Alexandra Lawson Gallery

Toowoomba Regional Art Gallery Exhibitions & Events E-Newsletter December 2020

Gathering in the Light: Stephen Spurrier and David Usher

Gathering in the Light features a dialogue about the working practices of two Toowoomba-based artists, Stephen Spurrier and David Usher. The exhibition explores their creative processes – looking at how they respond to isolation, their surroundings and the social, environmental and cosmic influences that have shaped 2020.

Exhibition on display 5 December - 24 January 2021

See here for more details





Image Top: Stephen SPURRIER / Escape from the factory 2020 / mixed media on paper / 18 x 28cm / Courtesy Alexandra Lawson Gallery @ the artist

Image Bottom: David USHER / Bend of the river 2020 / acrylic on canvas / $62 \times 62 \text{cm}$ / Courtesy Alexandra Lawson Gallery © the artist

Toowoomba Regional Art Gallery Exhibitions & Events E-Newsletter January 2021

Gathering in the Light: Stephen Spurrier and David Usher

Gathering in the Light features a dialogue about the working practices of two Toowoomba-based artists, Stephen Spurrier and David Usher. The exhibition explores their creative processes – looking at how they respond to isolation, their surroundings and the social, environmental and cosmic influences that have shaped 2020. Exhibition curated by Alexandra Lawson.

Exhibition on display 5 December - 24 January 2021

See here for more details



Image: Stephen SPURRIER and David USHER / The Universe and the trees on fire #7 (possible top) 2020 / mixed media on paper / 42 x 30cm / Courtesy Alexandra Lawson Gallery © the artists

TR Events register exhibition

Exhibition | Gathering in the Light: Stephen Spurrier and David Usher 🎤 [ID: 83608]





From:	Saturday 05 December 2020
To:	Sunday 24 January 2021
Location:	Toowoomba Regional Art Gallery, 531 Ruthven Street, Toowoomba, QLD 4350 Australia

FREE ADMISSION | GALLERY OPEN: Tuesday to Saturday 10.30am - 3.30pm | Sunday 1pm - 4pm | Closed Mondays & Public Holldays

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Exhibition on display 5 December - 24 January 2021



Image Left: Stephen SPURRIER / Escape from the factory 2020 / mixed media on paper / 18 x 28cm / Courtesy Alexandra Lawson Gallery © the artist

Image Right: David USHER / Bend of the river 2020 / acrylic on canvas / 62 x 62cm / Courtesy Alexandra Lawson Gallery © the artist

Image above: David Usher and Stephen Spurrier / 2020 / Courtesy Alexandra Lawson Gallery

Gathering in the light artists' response to 2020

'Gathering in the Light' is an exhibition which explores the creative processes of two Toowoomba-based artists, Stephen Spurrier and David Usher. Both artists have established careers, with Stephen's spanning 30 years and David's 20.

This exhibition captures their direct responses to the social, environmental and cosmic influences that have shaped 2020.

Gallery Director and Exhibition Curator, Alexandra Lawson said, "I wanted to share this work with the community as I saw such an interesting shift in both artists' work as a result of their subconscious documentation of events occurring in 2020."

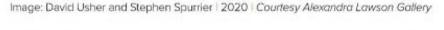
Their work transfers across painting, printmaking and ceramics, the exhibition includes collaborative works as well as individual works made during the isolation period.

Both artists are represented by the Alexandra Lawson Gallery.

Gathering in the Light: Stephen Spurrier and David Usher will be on display at the Toowoomba Regional Art Gallery until Sunday 24 January 2021.

ALEXANDRA LAWSON GALLERY + studios





TRAG TV Exhibition slide



Gathering in the Light: Stephen Spurrier and David Usher

EXHIBITION ON DISPLAY

5 December - 24 January 2021

GALLERY 1

Gathering in the Light features a dialogue about the working practices of two Toowoomba based artists, Stephen Spurrier and David Usher. The exhibition explores their creative processes – looking at how they use solitude while overcoming isolation through collaboration.

Image: David USHER and Stephen SPURRIER | *There's a garden in my plane* 2015 acrylic and ink on canvas | 20 x 20cm | Courtesy Alexandra Lawson Gallery © the artists

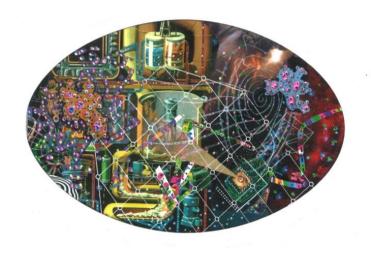


Toowoomba Regional Art Gallery

P (07) 4688 6652 E art@tr.qld.gov.au www.tr.qld.gov.au/trag Gallery Hours
Tuesday to Saturday 10.30am – 3.30pm | Sunday 1pm – 4pm
Closed Other Mondays & Public Holidays



TRAG TV Exhibition slide



Gathering in the Light: Stephen Spurrier and David Usher

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Image: Stephen SPURRIER | Escape from the factory 2020 | mixed media on paper | 18 x 28cm Courtesy Alexandra Lawson Gallery © the artist



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TRAG TV Exhibition slide



Gathering in the Light: Stephen Spurrier and David Usher

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Image: David USHER | Bend of the river 2020 | acrylic on canvas | 62 x 62cm Courtesy Alexandra Lawson Gallery © the artist

ALG ALEXANDRA LAWSON GALLERY

Toowoomba Regional Art Gallery

P (07) 4688 6652 E art@tr.qld.gov.au www.tr.qld.gov.au/trag Gallery Hours
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THECHRONICLE.COM.AU FRIDAY DECEMBER 11 2020

ART 13

City centre takes creative turn



AROUND THE GALLERIES SANDY POTTINGER

LANDSCAPE as influence, the experience of living, cosmic tangents, suburban images, calling cards, fragmented memories, and the presence of all-encompassing light that shapes shadows and highlights transient details: these are the elements that give meaning and dimension to two local exhibitions.

The Toowoomba Regional Art Gallery is hosting Gathering in the light, a tour de force exhibition by Stephen Spurrier and David Usher created during this year's enforced isolation.

The ambiguity of the title is a perfect foil for a body of work that was gathered together in the light of shared experience, but which also embraces the nature of light as illumination and insight.

Spurrier incorporates painting, printmaking, and small sculptures to make statements that create tangential associations that cross intergalactic boundaries and include snippets of art history, science, astronomical trajectories, amorphous imagery, and dogs barking at the moon.

The new pieces reference previous works and carry the whimsical, idiosyncratic motifs synonymous with Spurrier's style.

Some of the most compelling are the leaves from a sketchbook with their margin notations and thought processes.

Offering macabre humour and bizarre relief is the series of banshee angels, small sculptural assemblages like a swarm of anti-plague voodoo dolls invoked to banish the pandemic.

Usher's paintings carry bold, assured gestures that are also introspective revelations about nature, the environment, and our place in the world.

Layered branches, strangling undergrowth, and dimly lit tunnels leading towards some promised oblivion are about struggle and survival, anguish, and hope.

Usher's installation, Among the gums, comprises a series of sentinel-like ceramic vessels grouped as a forest.

The collaborative works by Spurrier and Usher are clever and rewarding compilations.

They are poetic salutes to the individuality of each artist but are also coherent, integrated artworks enriched by their duality.

The Alexandra Lawson Gallery, through the auspices of the Toowoomba Regional Council's exciting "Creative CBD-Toowoomba" project, is occupying a pop-up space in the Walton Stores complex in what was the old Rivers shop at 482 Ruthven Street.

The impressive building offers studio space to a number of artists, the potential for artist-run workshops, and a "shop front" gallery.

The inaugural exhibition, Satellites, presents the work of 13 independent artists who also flourish within the orbit of ALG.

Stephen Spurrier and David Usher are two of the artists and will speak about their work and their exhibition up the road at the Toowoomba Regional Art Gallery at 2pm tomorrow, at ALG.

The official opening of Satellites will follow at 4pm. Key works in Satellites in-

Key works in Satellites include Hayley Megan French's exquisite painted Polaroids, Peta Berghofer's funky ceramics, earth paintings by Jude Roberts, Catherine Parker's



EARTH PAINTINGS: Stone Story Series #7 by Jude Roberts at 482 Ruthven Street. PICTURES: Contributed



RIGHT: Detail from Pipeline Guildford 4 by Hayley Megan French at 482 Ruthven Street.

LEFT: Ceramics by David Usher at Toowoomba Regional Art Gallery.



post card vignettes, Rhi Johnson's multi coloured lino cut prints, photography by Sarah Ryan, and embroidered cartes de visite by Tiffany Shafran.

ALG hours are 12-5.30pm, Wednesdays to Saturdays.







5 December - 24 January 2021

Gathering in the Light: Stephen Spurrier and David Usher

Image: Stephen SPURRIER and David USHER
The Universe and the trees on fire #7 (possible top) 2020
mixed media on paper | 42 x 30cm
Courtesy Alexandra Lawson Gallery © the artists

ALG

ALEXANDRA LAWSON GALLERY

Toowoomba Regional Art Gallery:

531 Ruthven Street, Toowoomba QLD 4350

P 4688 6652 E art@tr.qld.gov.au

W www.tr.qld.gov.au/trag

Open Tues to Sat 10.30am-3.30pm, Sun 1pm-4pm. Closed Mondays & Public Holidays. Free entry. Closed from Thursday 24 December. Gallery reopens Tuesday 5 January 2021.

Rosalie Gallery is closed and will reopen on Thursday 28 January 2021.

Rosalie Gallery: 89 Mocatta St, Goombungee QLD 4354

P 4696 5600 E rosalie.gallery@tr.qld.gov.au W www.tr.qld.gov.au/rosaliegallery
Open Thurs to Sat 10.30am-3.30pm. Closed Sun to Wed & Public Holidays. Free entry.

Crows Nest Regional Art Gallery is temporarily closed until further notice.

Crows Nest Regional Art Gallery: New England Highway, Crows Nest QLD 4355 P 4698 1687 E crowsnestart@tr.qld.gov.au W www.tr.qld.gov.au/crowsnestgallery

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TOOWOOMBA REGION ART GALLERIES



5 December - 24 January 2021

Gathering in the Light: Stephen Spurrier and David Usher

Image: Stephen SPURRIER and David USHER
The Universe and the trees on fire #7 (possible top) 2020
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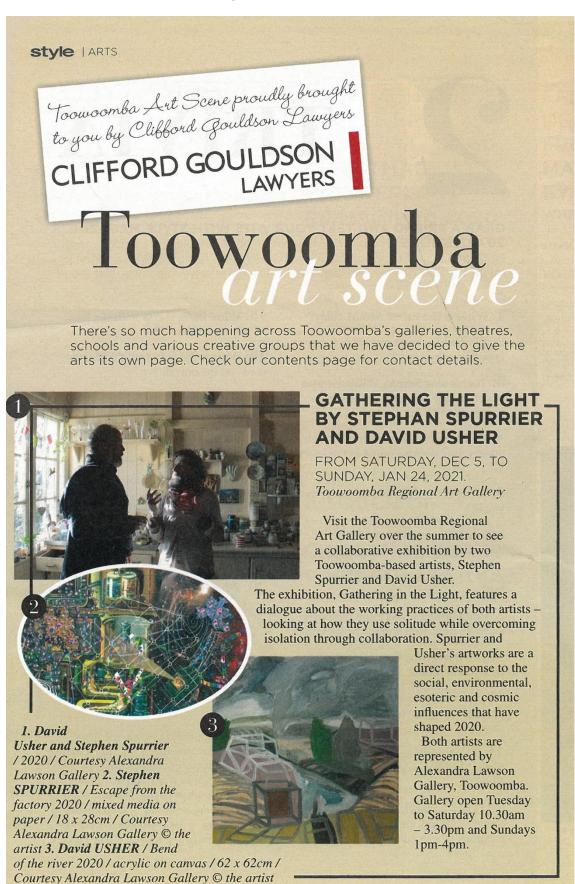
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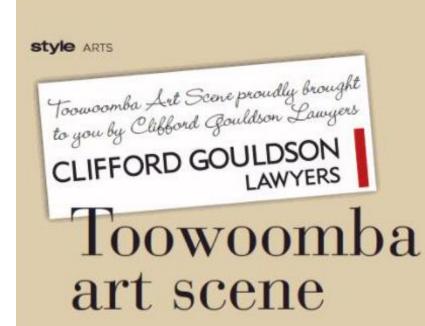
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TRC_SEC_080121_TC_arts

The Chronicle Style Magazine | December 2020



The Chronicle Style Magazine | January 2021



There's so much happening across Toowoomba's galleries, theatres, schools and various creative groups that we have decided to give the arts its own page. Check our contents page for contact details.

GATHERING IN THE LIGHT: STEPHEN SPURRIER AND DAVID USHER

UNTIL SUNDAY, JANUARY 24, 2021 TOOWOOMBA REGIONAL ART GALLERY



Gathering in the Light: Stephen Spurrier and

David Usher, is on display in Gallery 1. Showcasing recent works by both artists that explores their creative processes, the exhibition features works made by each artist during the isolation period of 2020, as well as collaborative and individual works made thereafter. The exhibition is curated by Alexandra Lawson Gallery.



Jenny Foxton's Skeletons 2020. Reproduced by kind permission © the artist

LANDSCAPES OF CHANGE

FROM TUESDAY, JANUARY 12, 2021 TOOWOOMBA REGIONAL ART GALLERY

From January 16, the Cam Robertson Gallery will display works by Jenny Foxton in the exhibition Landscapes of Change. Foxton's paintings depict denuded and regenerated landscapes that explore the beauty, fragility and resilience of the Australian environment that is so frequently devastated by drought, fire and floods.

The Gallery is open Tuesday to Saturday 10.30am – 3.30pm and Sundays 1pm-4pm.

Art Guide – hardcopy | November/December 2020

artguide.com.au

Redland Art Gallery continued...

Endeavour's voyage along the east coast of Australia. Scientists Joseph Banks and Daniel Solander, together with illustrator Sydney Parkinson, gathered and recorded many "...curious plants [they] met with on shore". Showcasing new works by members of the Botanical Artists' Society of Queensland, the exhibition is an innovative exploration of the artistic, scientific, environmental and cultural significance of this chapter in Queensland's botanical heritage.

Rockhampton Art Gallery

(rockhamptonartgallery.com.au)

62 Victoria Parade, Rockhampton, QLD 4700 [Map 17] 07 4936 8248 Find us on Facebook. See our website for latest information.

Stanthorpe Regional Art Gallery

srag.org.au

Weeroona Park, 56 Lock Street, Stanthorpe, QLD 4380 07 4681 1874 Sat & Sun 10am—1pm, Tues to Fri 10am—4pm. See our website for latest information.



Rob Allen, Passing through, detail, 2019.

22 October—6 December *Imagined Boundaries* Rob Allen and Adrian Ashman

Humans characteristically set boundaries around their physical, social, and conceptual environments. In this exhibition, the artists question the need for those artificial divisions. They chose an area of 50 kms around Stanthorpe as their playground. This rough circle crosses state and local government areas and allowed them to harvest images from the abundance of wild and settled environments.



Adrian Ashman, Hoofprints in the sand, detail, 2020.

10 December - 31 January 2021

Back to the Dreaming Cheryl Moggs

Cheryl Moggs has been out to Country to create this amazing exhibition. Back to the Dreaming gives insight into the Dreaming concept embedded in the ancient culture of Indigenous society.

10 December - 31 January 2021

A Space Within Stanthorpe Pottery Club

This exhibition is a collection of works that are inspired by the opportunity to create art from space. The use of the space that was created remains a mystery to the creator. This mystery is given to the audience.

Toowoomba Regional Art Gallery

tr.qld.gov.au/trag

531 Ruthven Street, Toowoomba, QLD 4350 [Map 16] 07 4688 6652

Tues to Sat 10:30am-3:30pm, Sun 1pm-4pm.

Closed Mon & Public Hols. Free entry. See our website for latest information.

14 July-15 November

Breaking News: Captain Cook in 2020
Captain James Cook's three historic voyages across the Pacific Ocean 1768-1780 are breaking news—especially in Australia this year. New information, interpretations and images about his voyages make them not simply past events but also currently occurring and developing stories. This exhibition showcases original engravings from the Lionel Lindsay Gallery and Library Collection's extensive holdings of Cook literature as well as contemporary artworks that present alternative and Indigenous views of Cook's voyages.

21 November—14 March 2021 Darkness Within: Weird and eerie works from the Collections



Lionel Lindsay 1874-1961, Night heron, 1935, wood engraving, unnumbered impression, edition of 100, 13.2 x 13.2 cm. Lionel Lindsay Gallery and Library Collection 298, @ National Library of Australia

vagrant melancholy was haunted' by the mysterious, morose and grotesque worlds of Gothic writer Edgar Allan Poe. Lindsay's wood engravings tended to project his inner darkness, his fears and torments, and his dread of his times. While answering to our uncertain 'new normal', this selection of pre-COVID-19-era works shows that it is not unprecedented for visual art to express states of tension and depression, unease and weirdness. Featuring works by Lindsay and other Australian artists, including Peter Booth, Margery Edwards, James Gleeson and Anne Wallace.



David Usher and Stephen Spurrier, There's a garden in my plane, 2015, acrylic and ink on canvas, 20 x 20 cm. Courtesy of Alexandra Lawson Gallery, © the artists.

5 December – 24 January 2021

Gathering in the Light: Stephen Spurrier and David Usher Featuring a dialogue about the working

practices of two Toowoomba based artists, Stephen Spurrier and David Usher. The exhibition explores their creative processes—looking at how they use solitude while overcoming isolation through collaboration. Capturing a moment in time, Spurrier and Usher's artworks are a direct response to the social, environmental, esoteric and cosmic influences that have shaped 2020. These works celebrate how Spurrier and Usher embrace the landscape in their respective practices; especially the critical role light plays in balancing image making.

Art Guide – online | December 2020/ January 2021



David Usher and Stephen Spurrier, There's a garden in my plane, 2015, acrylic and ink on canvas, 20 x 20 cm. Courtesy of Alexandra Lawson Gallery, @ the artists.

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Shifting across painting, printmaking and ceramics, the exhibition explores the many ways in which the process of making reflects layers of lived experience. It delves into the artists' psychological and emotional responses to physical locations. There is a particular focus on memory and the pivotal moments, situations and adventures that influence an artwork.

5 Dec - 24 Jan

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Toowoomba Regional Art Gallery

531 Ruthven Street Toowoomba QLD 4350

www.tr.qld.gov.au/trag



Art Almanac - online | November/December 2020

Dec 5 to Jan 24, 2021 *Gathering in the Light: Stephen Spurrier and David Usher. Gathering in the Light* features a dialogue about the working practices of two Toowoomba based artists, Stephen Spurrier and David Usher. The exhibition explores their creative processes – looking at how they use solitude while overcoming isolation through collaboration. Capturing a moment in time, Spurrier and Usher's artworks are a direct response to the social, environmental, esoteric and cosmic influences that have shaped 2020. These works celebrate how Spurrier and Usher embrace the landscape in their respective practices; especially the critical role light plays in balancing image making. Shifting across painting, printmaking and ceramics, the exhibition explores the many ways in which the process of making reflects layers of lived experience. It delves into the artists' psychological and emotional responses to physical locations. There is a particular focus on memory and the pivotal moments, situations and adventures that influence an artwork.



David Usher and Stephen Spurrier, There's a garden in my plane, 2015, acrylic and ink on canvas, 20 x 20cm. © the artists. Courtesy Alexandra Lawson Gallery

Eyeline Contemporary – online | December 2020/January 2021

GATHERING IN THE LIGHT: STEPHEN SPURRIER AND DAVID USHER

TOOWOOMBA REGIONAL ART GALLERY

SATURDAY, 5 DECEMBER, 2020 TO SUNDAY, 24 JANUARY, 2021



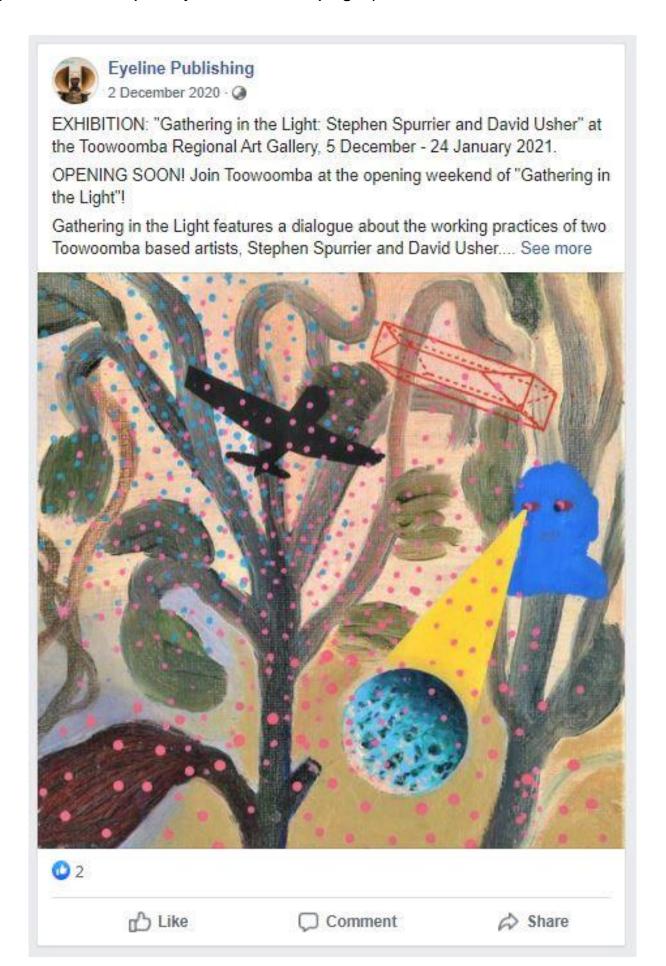
David USHER and Stephen
SPURRIER | There's a garden in
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Reproduced by kind permission
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Eyeline Contemporary – Facebook page | Posted 2 December 2020



Imprint Magazine- advertisement hardcopy

Issue 55 – December 2020 – February 2021

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5 December – 24 January 2021



Image: David USHER and Stephen SPURRIER There's a garden in my plane 2015 acrylic and ink on canvas | 20 x 20cm Courtesy Alexandra Lawson Gallery © the artists

ALG
ALEXANDRA LAWSON GALLERY



Toowoomba Regional Art Gallery 531 Ruthven St, Toowoomba QLD 4350

E art@tr.qld.gov.au | P 07 4688 6652

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Gallery opening hours are available on the website.