



University of
Southern
Queensland

When the Night Comes

Original Work in Solo Exhibition (Visual Arts)

Featured artist: David Usher (UniSQ)

Curated by Alexandra Lawson (UniSQ)

[Original Work Submission Year: 2021]



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When the Night Comes is a solo exhibition by artist David Usher (UniSQ) at Toowoomba Regional Gallery with further invited exhibitions being subsequently held at Latrobe Gallery, Brisbane in 2020 and 2021. The exhibition resulted in again being invited to be part of the Western Sydney University initiative, the Paint the River Project, in Moree, with an invited group residency and exhibition. This is an ongoing research project from 2021 to 2023. The 2021 exhibition was supported by an accompanying full-colour 80-page catalogue publication and the current 2022.

Curator: Alexandra Lawson (UniSQ)

Artist: David Usher



RESEARCH STATEMENT

When the Night Comes Solo Exhibition at Alexandra Lawson Gallery

Background

Australian artists Arthur Streeton and Tom Roberts demonstrated a long tradition of *en plein air* practice that involved processes of transferring the light encountered in nature through sketches and paintings completed in the artist's own studio. There is much to be explored in interpreting the immediacy of contemporary landscape through this approach and the impacts of studio environments upon individual artist experiences.

Contribution

The original paintings and ceramic works in the solo exhibition, *When the Night Comes*, are a direct response to making *en plein air* work. Working firstly in the field and then creating new works in the studio as a response to these initial landscape studies provides a unique platform for distilling the experience. The memory of the experience painting in the landscape while working in the studio initiates innovative ways of abstracting the landscape imagery. This exhibition also explores the uncommon process of 'nightscapes' as a counterpoint to daylight painting, often associated with *en plein air* representations.

Significance

This exhibition was well received with attendance of over 200 visitors at the Alexandra Lawson Gallery, Toowoomba, with further invited exhibitions being held in Lethbridge Gallery, 2020, 2021. These follow-up exhibitions, *What if the Sky Doesn't Fall on Us* and *Places We Go* involved high profile artists, Naomi White and Leisl Baker at Latrobe Gallery, Brisbane. This salon-hang created a new landscape experience for the viewer which built upon the original exhibition *When the Night Comes*.



David Usher

Places Can Change

Artwork from 'When the Night Comes' 2021

Oil on canvas

60cm x 45cm



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David Usher

Into the Night #1 (Take the Long Way Home)

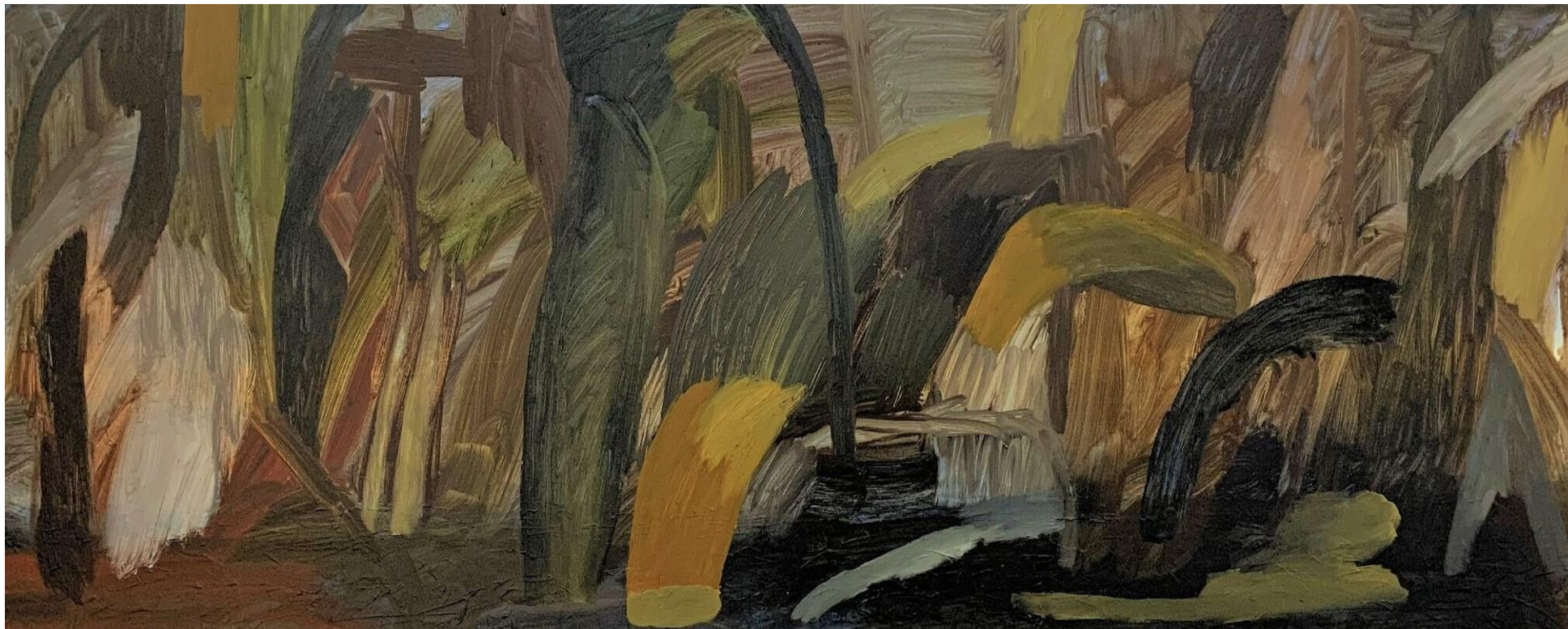
Artwork from 'When the Night Comes' 2021

Oil on canvas

183cm x 61cm



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David Usher

Into the Night #2 (The Earth Shimmers)

Artwork from 'When the Night Comes' 2021

Oil on canvas on canvas

183cm x 61cm



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David Usher

Into the Night #3 (Close the Gate)

Artwork from 'When the Night Comes' 2021

Oil on canvas on canvas

183cm x 61cm



David Usher

In My Memory (We are still there)

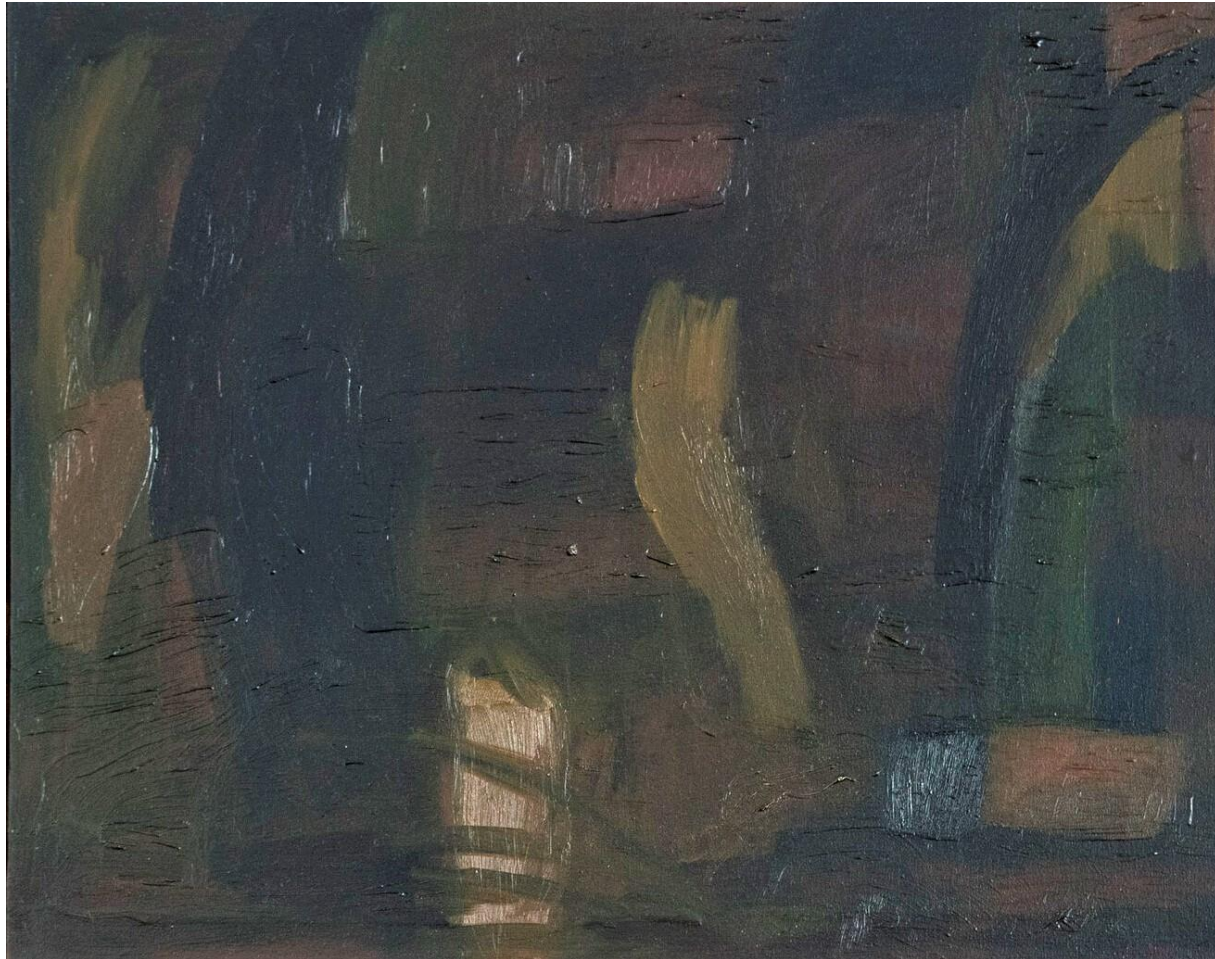
Artwork from 'When the Night Comes' 2021

Oil on canvas on canvas

79cm x 64cm



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David Usher

Night Sounds

Artwork from 'When the Night Comes' 2021

Oil on canvas on canvas

79cm x 64cm



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David Usher

The Gospel of Night

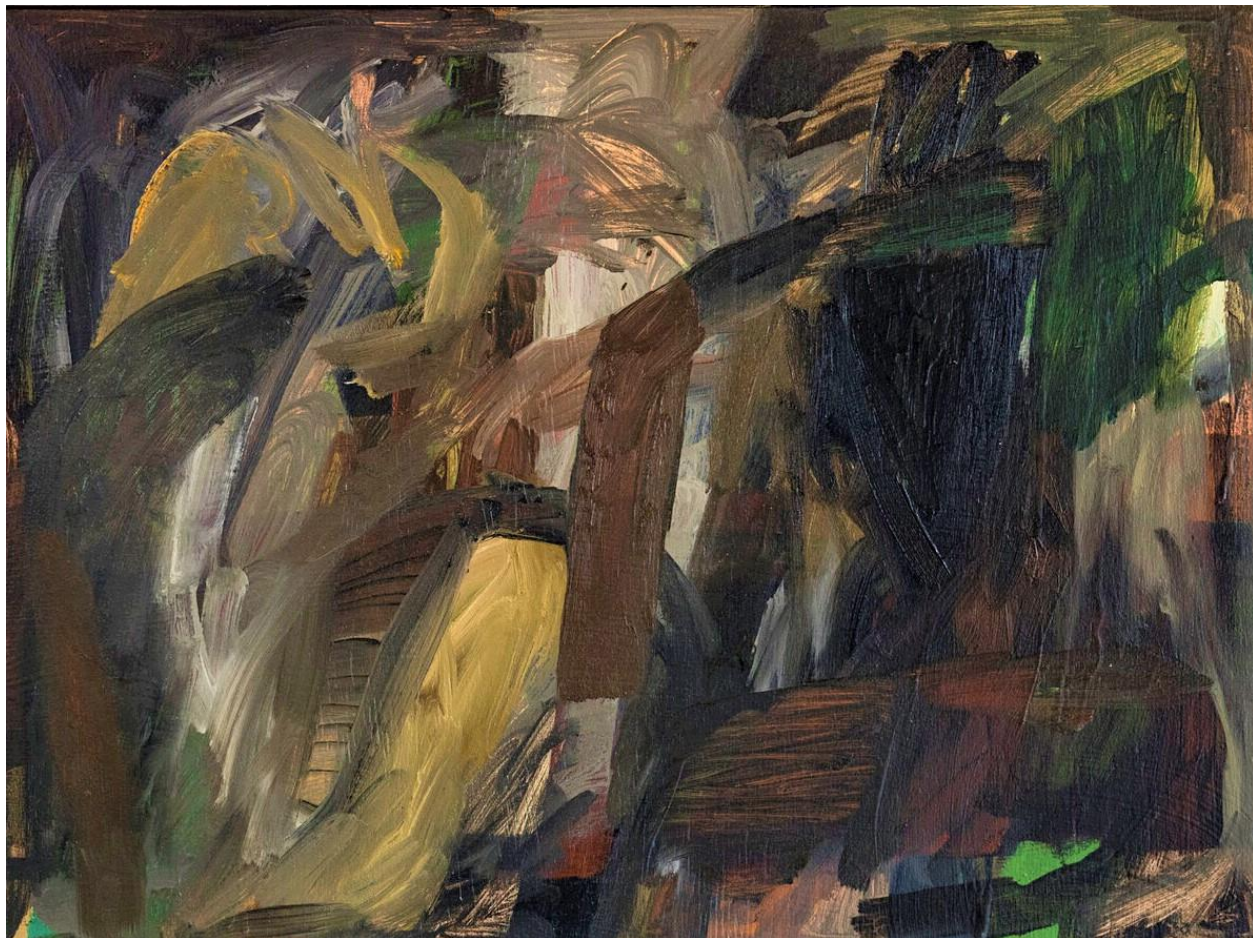
Artwork from 'When the Night Comes' 2021

Oil on canvas on canvas

60cm x 30cm



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David Usher

Night Sounds

Artwork from 'When the Night Comes' 2021

Oil on canvas on canvas

79cm x 64cm



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