

Artist: David Collins



Nightlife, 2017,
oil on canvas,
106.5 x 242cm

Information from David Collins

Long nights around a campfire. All is darkness except for the points of intense light pulsing through the inky depths of the sky. One is compelled to gaze up, to look for pattern, relationships and meaning. Just as humans have always done. I first became interested in the night sky as a subject for painting while camping in the Kimberley and Pilbara regions of Western Australia. There, light pollution is at a minimum and the stars can feel like they're within arm's reach. A reoccurring though ever changing moment of light. The night sky with its vast space, movement, drama and contrast continues to fascinate.

Studying

Luminosity and brightness of stars in the night sky has been a theme explored by painters such as Georgia O'Keefe, Edvard Munch and Vincent Van Gogh. Find examples of the night sky by each artist.

On a clear night use a pair of binoculars or a telescope to gaze upon the night sky observing the **luminosity** of distant stars and galaxies. Explain how your observations compare with the artist's depictions of the night sky?

Making

Cover the surface of a large sheet of paper with graphite or charcoal.

When nightfall arrives make direct observations into the graphite/charcoal. Using a putty rubber for mark making, and to remove dark areas, highlight the most **luminous** stars in the night sky and make connections and patterns between constellations.