

MEDIA RELEASE

Borders



Image details: Ro Murray, Fallen Sky, 2021, Linoprint, 56 x 228cm

7 - 29 October 2022

Murray and Burgess, Sarah Fitzgerald, Jan Handel,
Michelle Le Dain, Ro Murray, and Lisa Pang

'I love borders. August is the border between summer and autumn; it is the most beautiful month I know. Twilight is the border between day and night, and the shore is the border between sea and land. The border is longing when both have fallen in love but still haven't said anything. The border is to be on the way. It is the way that is the most important thing.'

Finnish artist and writer Tove Jansson

Inspired by this quote from Finnish artist Tove Jansson, six artists have come together with an exhibition built around the idea of 'Borders'. Each artist has responded differently to this theme, some contemplating physical ideas of borders between real spaces within real landscapes, while others have been inspired by conceptual ideas such as life on the edge of extinction, or transitions through spaces and separation from place and belonging.

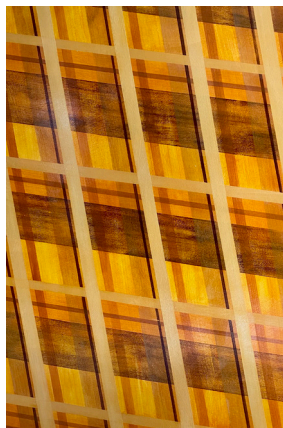
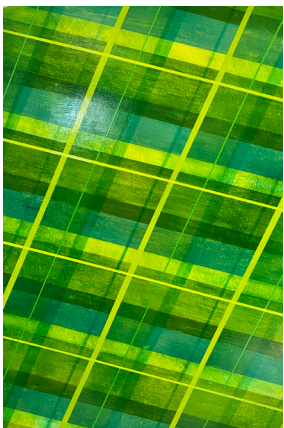


Image details: R-L

Jan Handel, Nature Un-nature (progression) Panel 1, 2 & 3, 2022

Lisa Pang, Half (Circle), 2022 and Half (Square), 2022

High resolution images are available.

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Michelle Le Dain, Jan Handel, Ro Murray and Murray and Burgess, have been inspired by borders that exist in the landscape but in very different ways. Michelle Le Dain contemplates an imagined view from above, like that of fields seen from a plane whilst travelling to far away destinations that she playfully describes in constructions using children's blocks. In contrast Jan Handel uses organic forms as a contrast against the rigid structure of the grid. Her work in this exhibition expresses the evolving changes to boundaries between wild country, tamed agricultural fields and urban consolidation. Ro Murray looks past artificial manmade borders designed to divide the land, to natural borders like the horizon. She looks at these natural borders as changing, extending connections, below and above ground, where new geographical discourse suggest that species are connected, not bound by borders that once divided us. Murray and Burgess collaboratively consider the plight of the Regent Honeyeater (*Anthochaera Phrygia*), a bird on the edge of extinction. The longing for the wholeness of life undamaged by human borders is contemplated in a visual interpretation of the disappearing birdsong.

Moving away from tangible places and the landscape, Lisa Pang looks at borders within art itself. She locates her works between painting and sculpture; surface and object; art and craft. She has responded to the idea of borders as transitional spaces, of porosity, exchange and movement and has used Noren curtains to playfully enact actual and metaphorical divisions between spaces. In a similar sense Sarah Fitzgerald has used the actual spaces in the gallery to divide her work to suggest a separation from a sense of place. Looking at the history of the gallery space itself, as both home and boarding school, a home away from home, she suggests that we create a sense of identity and connection to place based on an a priori understanding that home continues to exist when we are displaced and dislocated.

SHORT STATEMENT

BORDERS - 7 - 29 October 2022

Sarah Fitzgerald, Jan Handel, Michelle Le Dain, Ro Murray, Lisa Pang and Murray and Burgess explore notions of borders between physical spaces, people, ideas, politics and art itself. Through varied approaches the artists contemplate actual physical borders within real landscapes, as well as conceptual ideas such as life on the edge of extinction, or transitions through spaces and separation from place and belonging.

The Grace Cossington Smith Gallery is a not-for-profit gallery, run by Abbotsleigh, serving the public through free admission and a changing exhibition program.

The Grace Cossington Smith Gallery acknowledges the Dharug people as the Traditional Custodians of the land upon which the gallery rests. We acknowledge the Elders, past, present and emerging.