

**Artist****DAVID COLLINS***Island Fever*, 2018, Oil on Canvas, 108 X 187 cm**Information from the artist**

*I have lived on the Hawkesbury for over 30 years. During that time, the river and surrounding environment has been the primary inspiration and focus of my work. The river's reflected light, its tidal fluctuations, the lines of its bridges, man-groves and jetties, all are entry points into paintings which are essentially about relationships. Relationships of colour, shape, space, tone, mark and the relationship of myself to the environment in which I live.*

**Studying**

The Hawkesbury River has a deep impact upon Collin's practice. To access his home and studio situated on Dangar Island he uses a rowing boat, often fighting against the strong tidal current. The proximity and his relationship to the forces of nature is captured in semi-abstract paintings and drawings. Collin's seeks the very essence of place looking for connections between colour, shape and tone by removing detail and solid form, blurring the boundaries between real and imagined.

- Collin's defines his expressive painting style as 'gestural', characterised by the energetic, expressive brushstrokes created by the sweep of the painter's arm or movement of his hand. This gives the artwork a quality of being done quickly, instinctively and spontaneously to display emotion and personal feeling. Research the origins of 'gestural' painting as seen in the work of Franz Kline, Willem de Kooning, Hans Hoffman and Robert Motherwell.

**Making**

- Make a visit to a water-side environment. Create a series of quick pen and ink drawings on wet watercolour paper using gestural mark making to capture the movement of the current or tide.