

Artist

Viola Dominello



*Cosmos #1*, diameter 29cm. *Cosmos #2*, diameter 38cm. *Cosmos #3*, diameter 43cm. All 2017, oil on board, led light.

#### Information from Viola Dominello

*The series began as night en plein-air studies then reworked in the studio using memory and imagination. The intention was to translate a "rod experience" into a "cone experience," using a circular format to convey an optical sensation of the mysterious light of the cosmos. Moonlight is simply the white light of the sun reflecting off the grey surface of the moon.*

#### Studying

- Research 'cone' and 'rod' photoreceptors of the human retina  
<https://faculty.washington.edu/chudler/retina.html>
- Research the term *en-plein air*, and note its importance to impressionist painters of the Australian landscape and the Heidelberg School.

#### Making

Prepare a support with a dark or black ground. Choose a location to view the moon and night sky *en plein-air* with little light pollution. Give your eyes time to adjust then study the luminous light source of the moon cast upon clouds forms above and the landscape below. Select a few coloured pastels or chalks that closely resemble the colourful grey tones observed. Use mark making to describe the luminous scene and use blending to soften or diffuse colour.