

Val Egan

Walk Into the Landscape

Edited by Trevor Lang

An artist who finds rich inspiration in her country surroundings works with a range of subjects including captivating Australian landscapes.



Val Egan lives and paints at Gunnedah in New South Wales. Her art career has spanned more than 30 years thus far. She has studied drawing, design, watercolour techniques and fabric crafts with the South Australian College of External Studies.

Further learning has been achieved through attending summer schools, winter schools and workshops at the University of Southern Queensland; and through studying with Pat Rowley at Gunnedah TAFE.

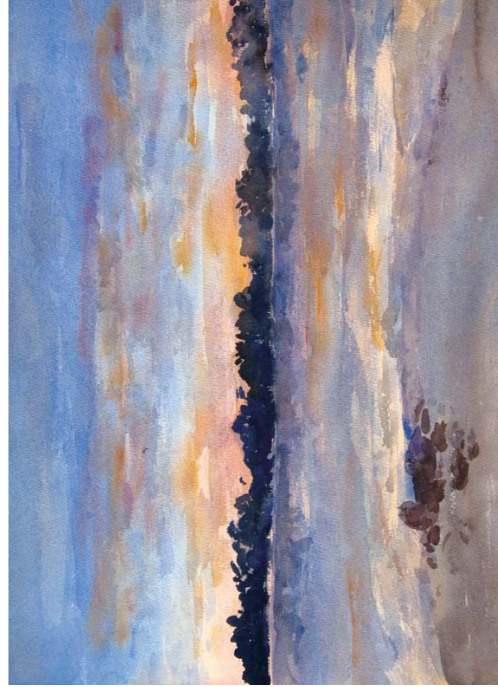
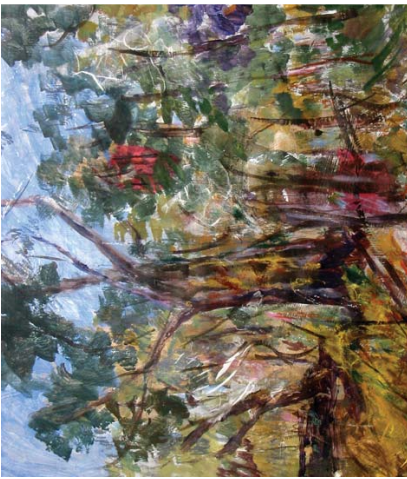
Much of Val's inspiration comes from the local countryside. Living near a watercourse west of Moree for 15 years gave her a lot of creative material to exercise her mind; and since settling (some time ago) in Gunnedah she has discovered a strong interest in painting still life subjects. A landmark achievement for Val Egan was winning the 'Any Other Medium' section at Currabubula recently.

The annual Red Cross Art Exhibition began at the township of Currabubula in 1964, and it has since grown to become one of the most prestigious art events in country New South Wales. It has been known to include more than 700 paintings – taking up every available centimetre of wall space in the village hall.

Val entered a lovely painting entitled 'In the Bush' at Currabubula, and she was thrilled to receive her prize.

At another exhibition held at Gunnedah in 2006, a judge had this to say about a landscape work displayed by Val Egan: "This artist showed great sophistication in the use of paint. There is a marvellous spontaneity to the picture, especially in the treatment of the foreground. There are many colours in this work that are kept fresh and alive. It's so easy to allow multi-coloured watercolours to become muddy. As with all good paintings, this landscape has strong abstract qualities in the conception of the composition. Again in this landscape, the artist is inviting us to 'walk' into the landscape and continue through to the background."





Paintings by this talented lady have been available in commercial galleries in Moree and Gunnedah. The Moree Civic Collection has acquired three of her paintings, and one of her woodcut prints has been added to their print collection. She has received numerous awards from competitive exhibitions over the years.

Val Egan's enthusiasm for art remains constant. It is obviously a mainstay in her life, which provides great enjoyment and satisfaction. She is happy to explain her fascination for creating beautiful pictures.

"Painting and drawing never gets boring – there is always a new direction to follow; and I love it!" she maintains.

Doubtless many of the people who view her work love it, too. ■

