

MICHELLE WALKER

ARTIST STATEMENT

The land is the source of inspiration for my art – the power and presence of natural places, the deep loss in its destruction.

I'm agnostic when it comes to media, working with acrylics, oils, earth, charcoal, inks, metal, enamel and wood in my practice. I layer colour and texture, allow the primal use of marks and contrast solid with translucent to evoke the layered nature of our connections to place and landscape. By taking an aerial perspective, I am bringing my background as an environmental planner working with maps and satellite images through as a distinct feature.

For me the artwork communicates a deep-felt relationship with the earth, embodying a spirit of place and its energy. I create works as visual poems that read through paint and earth and metal of the sacredness I feel in places and the valuable learnings I have gained directly from the land. The work speaks of connection to and concern for the precious landscapes under threat from pressures of a changing climate.

The dramatic profile of Wollumbin (Mt Warning) and the landscape of the Tweed Caldera in northern New South Wales has a strong influence on my work. My morning walks with our dog, Lulu near our home are a constant in my day and have become a part of my practice — being in and observing nature and my own emotional / spiritual state.

Abstracting from the landscape has taught me what I want my artwork to be—strong yet intriguing, fields of colour against delicate textures and marks, and possessing a compelling, invigorating energy. I find this pursuit of expressing the importance of nature and our connection to the land infinitely rewarding and am challenged and energized by my studio practice.

- Michelle Walker?

