



NICOLA MOSS  
*Choose Love*



Photograph by Ellamay Fitzgerald

# NICOLA MOSS

## *Choose Love*

6 – 22 July 2023

Opening Celebration, Thursday 6 July, 5 – 7 pm

*The choice that frees or imprisons us is the choice of love or fear. Love liberates. Fear imprisons.*

Gary Zukav, *The Seat of the Soul*.

A silent meditation on the healing power of nature when approached with love, Nicola Moss' new series, 'Choose Love', continues her exploration of green spaces in the urban environment. Inspired by the philosophical writings of American spiritual teacher Zukav, Moss' exhibition seeks to uplift and revive, providing solace for the soul in a time of uncertainty and conflict in Europe.

Nicola Moss has been practising as an artist for over 20 years, working from her studio in the leafy, rural suburb of Pimpama on the Gold Coast. As a recognised Australian artist with a growing reputation in public art, residencies and commissions, the execution of Moss' current body of work displays both stylistic and technical adeptness, as well as conceptual maturity.

Her aesthetic practice reflects an ongoing interest in the environment and sustainability, and has evolved from traditional printmaking and papercutting, through a process of creative experimentation, to combine painted canvas, printing and collaged paper. Biomorphic and botanical, these large-scale works breathe the nurturing surrounds of the outdoors into the interior spaces of the gallery.

These artworks were created by Moss in response to a trip to London last year, the first international travel by the artist since Australian borders closed in 2020. With a resumption of overseas travel and a return to normalcy, comes heightened emotion, optimism and joy.

Through fresh eyes, Moss' paintings capture the exuberance of experiencing London gardens in the post-pandemic English summer. That sensation is echoed in the works' titles, such as *When Love Calls Your Name*, *Summer Love* and *Love Is* – a positive affirmation and quiet incantation between the artist and her love.

While in London, Moss visited many of the city's famous parks and gardens. Once part of royal estates and private hunting grounds, these public spaces are now the 'lungs' of the metropolitan capital – a welcome escape for tourists and residents from the bustle and noise of the city.

Her visits included the Kew Royal Botanic Gardens, the expansive Hyde and Regents Parks, and the medicinal Chelsea Physic Garden, one of the oldest botanical gardens in Britain. The verdant colours of the English landscape come through in the deeper greens, blues, russets, yellows, pinks and inky blacks.

Indirectly, the artist references the history of parks, from the early, vast tracts of private, aristocratically-owned land, incorporating both wild areas and artificially designed gardens, to the public, recreational green spaces of today. As cities grew in the Victorian era, the parklands and playgrounds of the rich were gifted or opened to the populace, becoming democratically available to the urban masses for their education and enjoyment. They provide a restorative space and refuge in the cityscape, for people and animals, alike – a salve for the mind, body and soul.

Drawing on Western and Eastern art traditions, with no fixed perspective or vanishing point, and the limited presence of man in the landscape, Nicola Moss' canvases envelop us, to make us one with the plant kingdom and its environs. The viewer becomes immersed in the colour and composition, moving with the rhythm of her patterns and lines. The artist's 'whispers of love', her painted ode to English gardens, is equally restorative as she invites us to choose love, choose nature.

Stephanie Lindquist  
Independent Curator

Moss has exhibited throughout Australia, Japan, Sweden and the USA, was awarded the Moreton Bay Region Art Award (2012) and in 2019 was selected to participate in the artist in residence program at the Scuola Internazionale di Grafica, Venice. She has been a finalist in numerous awards including the Len Fox Painting Prize (2022), John Leslie Art Prize (2020), Fisher's Ghost Art Award (2019), STILL: National Still Life Award (2019) and Sunshine Coast Art Prize (2018, 2017, 2014). Her work is held in many important collections including the Bathurst Regional Art Gallery, Moreton Bay Region Art Collection, HOTA (Home of the Arts) and the Social Securities Appeals Tribunal, Brisbane.



Photograph by Carl Warner

*Summer Love*

acrylic and paper on linen

155 x 227 cm (framed)

\$26,000



*Hold Your Stones (The Glasshouse)*

acrylic and paper on linen

143 x 283 cm (framed)

\$30,000



*Love Is*  
acrylic and paper on linen  
115 x 307 cm (framed)  
\$26,000





*Deep Pools of Love*  
acrylic and paper on linen  
143 x 183 cm (framed)  
\$16,500



*Legacy of Love*

acrylic and paper on linen

143 x 183 cm (framed)

\$16,500



*On the Shelf (Love Collects)*

acrylic and paper on linen

143 x 183 cm (framed)

\$16,500



*The Rockery (Love Gathers)*

acrylic and paper on linen

143 x 183 cm (framed)

\$16,500



*Safe/Contained* (2020)  
acrylic and paper on linen  
143 x 183 cm (framed)  
\$16,500



*Green Love*

acrylic and paper on linen

113 x 203 cm (framed)

\$14,500



*Contained (Sunlovers)*  
acrylic and paper on linen  
171 x 171 cm (framed)  
\$18,000



*The Glow Within*

acrylic and paper on linen

95 x 145 cm (framed)

\$9,000





*When Flowers Sing I*  
acrylic and paper on linen  
115 x 125 cm (framed)  
\$9,000



*When Flowers Sing II*  
acrylic and paper on linen  
115 x 125 cm (framed)  
\$9,000



*Lakeside Rendezvous*  
acrylic and paper on linen  
95 x 125 cm (framed)  
\$8,000



*Queen Victoria Park Naarm*

acrylic and paper on linen

125 x 115 cm (framed)

\$9,000



*When Love Calls Your Name I*

acrylic and paper on linen

125 x 115 cm (framed)

\$9,000



*When Love Calls Your Name II*

acrylic and paper on linen

125 x 115 cm (framed)

\$9,000



*Orchid Notes*

acrylic and paper on linen

95 x 95 cm (framed)

\$6,500



*The Green Room*  
acrylic and paper on linen  
95 x 95 cm (framed)  
\$6,500





*The Gift*  
acrylic and paper on linen  
64 x 64 cm (framed)  
\$4,990



*The Gifts II*  
acrylic and paper on linen  
64 x 64 cm (framed)  
\$4,990





# NICOLA MOSS

*Born 1968, Melbourne, Australia*

## EDUCATION

- 2001 Printmaking and Drawing Diploma Studies, Brisbane Institute of Art, QLD
- 2000 Certificate IV Fine Arts, Brisbane Institute of Art, QLD

## AWARDS, GRANTS & RESIDENCIES

- 2023 The Vincent Prize, NSW, Finalist
- 2022 Redland Art Awards, QLD, Finalist  
Len Fox Painting Award, Castlemaine Art Museum, VIC, Finalist
- 2020 HOTA (Home of the Arts) Gallery Commission, Gold Coast, QLD  
John Leslie Art Prize, Gippsland Art Gallery, VIC, Finalist  
Libris Awards, the Australian Artists' Book Prize, QLD, Finalist
- 2019 Artist Residency, Scuola Internazionale di Grafica, Venice, Italy  
Fisher's Ghost Art Award, Campbelltown Art Centre, NSW, Finalist  
STILL: National Still Life Award, Coffs Harbour Regional Gallery, NSW, Finalist
- 2018 Artist Residency, Youkobo Art Space, Tokyo  
Sunshine Coast Art Prize, QLD, Finalist
- 2017 Regional Arts Development Fund, Germinate Program Grant, Gold Coast, QLD  
Artist Residency, ARNA, Harlosa, Sweden  
Artist Residency, Youkobo Art Space, Tokyo  
Elaine Bermingham National Watercolour Prize in Landscape Painting, QLD, Finalist  
Sunshine Coast Art Prize, QLD, Finalist
- 2017 Artist Mentor for Coochie Art Group Inc., Redlands, QLD
- 2016 Noosa Art Award, QLD, Finalist  
Redland Art Awards, QLD, Finalist
- 2014 The Waterhouse Natural Science Art Prize, SA, Highly Commended  
Noosa Art Award, QLD, Highly Commended  
Calleen Art Award, Cowra Regional Art Gallery, NSW, Finalist  
Artist Residency, Grafton Regional Gallery, NSW  
Sunshine Coast Art Prize, QLD, Commended

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- 2013 Gold Coast Art Prize, QLD, Finalist
- 2012 Moreton Bay Region Art Award, QLD, Winner  
Artist Residency, Haefligers Cottage, Hill End, NSW  
The Waterhouse Natural Science Art Prize, SA, Finalist  
Artist Residency, BigCi, Bilpin, NSW  
Geelong Contemporary Art Prize, VIC, Finalist
- 2011 Artist Residency, Montsalvat, Eltham, VIC  
City of Albany Art Prize, WA, Finalist
- 2010 Artist Residency, Redlands Bushcare Groups (Indigiscapes), Capalaba, QLD  
Clayton Utz Art Award, QLD, Finalist
- 2009 Janet Holmes à Court Artists' Grant  
Artist Residency, Brisbane Botanic Gardens, Mt.Coot-Tha, QLD
- 2000 Warwick Art Prize, QLD, First Place (Rose Painting Section)
- 1999 Maroochy Arts Festival, QLD, First Place (Miniatures)  
Maroochy Arts Festival, QLD, Second Place (Printmaking)
- 1997 Maleny Art Award, Commended (Mixed Media)
- 1993 Moreton Shire Art Competition, QLD, Highly Commended
- 1991 Ryde Art Award, NSW, Commended
- 1990 Ryde Art Award, NSW, Highly Commended

## SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2022 'Green Makes Me Happy', Arthouse Gallery, Sydney, NSW
- 2021 'Plants Give Me Hope', Arthouse Gallery, Sydney, NSW
- 2019 'The Tide Spoke', Onespace Gallery, Brisbane, QLD  
'Greenspace', Onespace Gallery, Brisbane, QLD
- 2018 'Breathing in Trees', HOTA, Gold Coast, QLD  
'Tokyo Wild', Youkobo Art Space, Tokyo, Japan
- 2017 'Life on the Edge', Noosa Regional Gallery, QLD
- 2016 'City and Nature', BCM Crucible Gallery, Brisbane, QLD
- 2015 'Synergy', SGAR: Spiro Grace Art Rooms, Spring Hill, Brisbane, QLD  
'City and Nature', Gallerysmith Projectspace, Melbourne, VIC

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- 2014 'Culture ecology', Bathurst Regional Art Gallery, NSW
- 2013 'With or Without', Redland Art Gallery, Cleveland, QLD
  - 'Nature Waits for No-One', Salt Contemporary Art, Queenscliff, VIC
  - 'Culture Ecology', SGAR: Spiro Grace Art Rooms, Spring Hill, Brisbane, QLD
- 2012 'Breathing in Mountains', Salt Contemporary Art, Queenscliff, VIC
- 2011 'Site Lines', SGAR: Spiro Grace Art Rooms, Spring Hill, Brisbane, QLD
  - 'Diamonds in My Eyes', Salt Contemporary Art Gallery, Queenscliff, VIC
- 2010 'Plant-Life', Redland Art Gallery, Cleveland, QLD
- 2009 'Family Tree', Brisbane Botanic Gardens, Mt.Coot-Tha, QLD
  - 'Greenbelt', Doggett Street Studio, Newstead, Brisbane. QLD
- 2008 'Inhabitat', Doggett Street Studio, Newstead, Brisbane, QLD
- 2007 'Microcosm - Layers of Life', Doggett Street Studio, Newstead, Brisbane, QLD
- 2006 'Microcosm - the World in My Garden', Artworks Contemporary Gallery, Southport, QLD

## SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2023 'Paper & Clay', Arthouse Gallery, Sydney, NSW
  - 'Precision: The art of cutting', Metro Arts, Brisbane, QLD
  - 'Summer', Arthouse Gallery, Sydney, NSW
- 2022 Arthouse Gallery Group Show at Sydney Contemporary Art Fair, Sydney, NSW
  - 'Out of the Blue', Arthouse Gallery, Sydney, NSW
  - 'Flood Relief – Spread the Love', Arthouse Gallery, Sydney, NSW
  - 'Summer', Arthouse Gallery, Sydney, NSW
- 2021 'Coming Home', Arthouse Gallery, Sydney, NSW
  - 'Speaking to Trees', Arthouse Gallery, Sydney, NSW
  - 'Solid Gold', HOTA, Gold Coast, QLD
  - 'Summer Salon', Arthouse Gallery, Sydney, NSW
- 2020 'Arthouse Presents 2020', Arthouse Gallery, Sydney, NSW
  - 'Renewal', Arthouse Gallery, Sydney, NSW
  - 'Adaption', Redland Art Gallery, Cleveland, QLD
  - 'Summer', Arthouse Gallery, Sydney, NSW
- 2019 'Trace', West End, Brisbane, QLD

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- 2019 'PIVOT', Onespace Gallery, Brisbane, QLD  
'Overwintering Artists Book', Gladstone Regional Art Gallery and Museum, QLD
- 2018 'Tightrope', Pine Rivers Art Gallery, Strathpine, QLD
- 2017 'Scenes of our City', Museum of Brisbane, QLD  
'City and Nature', Youkobo Art Space Open Studio, Tokyo  
'On a Walk', Grafton Regional Gallery, NSW
- 2015 'Exploring: BigCi', Hawkesbury Regional Gallery, NSW  
'Disassemble / Reassemble', Caboolture Regional Art Gallery, QLD  
'Paper Works III', Brenda May Gallery, Sydney, NSW
- 2013 'Collection and Place: A Decade On', Redland Art Gallery, Cleveland and Capalaba, QLD  
'Drawing a Line', Caboolture Regional Art Gallery, QLD
- 2012 'Weathered', Tweed Regional Gallery & Margaret Olley Art Centre, Murwillumbah, NSW  
'Before the Storm', Anita Traverso Gallery, Melbourne, VIC
- 2011 'Much Loved; Works from the Redland Art Gallery Collection', Cleveland, QLD  
'Nice Day!' Logan Art Gallery, QLD  
'Paper Chase', Anita Traverso Gallery, Melbourne, VIC
- 2010 'Japanese Story', Goulburn Regional Art Gallery, NSW  
'Paperworks', Brenda May Gallery, Sydney, NSW

## SELECTED PROJECTS & PUBLIC ART COMMISSIONS

- 2022 Nepean Hospital, internal walls artwork commission with Creative Road, Sydney, NSW
- 2015 'Community Life', Mater Private Hospital commission with iAM Projects, Brisbane, QLD
- 2015 'To Resolve to be Good Today, but Better Tomorrow', Salmon Building, Mater Children's Hospital commemorative project, with iAM Projects, Brisbane, QLD
- 2013 'Coast Life', atrium lift shaft, Gold Coast University Hospital with UAP and designer Stacie Gibson
- 2010 'Flourish', Woolloongabba Urban Centre project, with Urban Design Team, Brisbane City Council, QLD
- 2010 'That's My Clothesline Tan', video collaboration with Susan Buret, the Darkroom, Gold Coast City Art Gallery, QLD
- 2009 'Calls From the Canopy', Children's Trail mosaic, Brisbane Botanic Gardens Mt.Coot-tha, with mosaicist Emma Boys, Brisbane City Council, QLD
- 2007 Foliage Collection, Greenslopes Private Hospital, Phillips Smith Conwell Architects
- 2001 Holy Spirit Northside, Northside Hospital project with Wall Street Exchange, Brisbane, QLD

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## SELECTED COLLECTIONS

Bathurst Regional Art Gallery, NSW  
BDO, Brisbane, QLD  
Brisbane Botanic Gardens, Mt.Coot-tha, QLD  
Gadens Lawyers, Brisbane, QLD  
Gold Coast University Hospital, QLD  
Greenslopes Private Hospital, Brisbane, QLD  
Holy Spirit Northside & Robina Private Hospitals, Brisbane, QLD  
HOTA (Home of the Arts), Gold Coast, QLD  
Jupiter's Hotel and Casino, Gold Coast, QLD  
Mater Adults, Children's and Mothers' Hospitals, Brisbane, QLD  
Mater Private Hospital, Springfield, QLD  
Moreton Bay Region Art Collection, QLD  
Queensland Children's Hospital, QLD  
Redland Art Gallery, QLD  
Scuola Internazionale di Grafica, Venice, Italy  
Sealy of Australia  
Social Securities Appeals Tribunal, Brisbane, QLD  
State Library of Queensland  
State Library of Victoria

## SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Nicola Moss, 'Layers of Life', 2009

## SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Art W\*\*k Podcast interview with Fiona Verity and Julie Nicholson, Episode 84, 2021  
POPSArt Bec Mac, Interview for TRACE 2019  
Barnaby Smith, 'Nicola Moss: Greenspace', Art Guide Australia Preview Online, 5 Feb 2019  
Diana Warnes, 'The Wonder of Green Space', HOTA Stories, 4th Feb 2019  
Louise Martin-Chew, 'Breathing in Trees', Exhibition Catalogue Essay, HOTA, 2018  
Art Almanac Online, 'Nicola Moss: Breathing in Trees', 2018



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