



HOBIE PORTER
Mountain Shadow



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14 – 30 November 24

Opening Celebration Thursday 14 November, 6 – 8pm

Hobie Porter's virtuosic paintings weave together personal history with sensitive and sublime visions of the landscape. Rendered with microscopic clarity, they speak of an essential yet elusive harmony between nature and culture.

In Porter's new collection, 'Mountain Shadow', sweeping panoramic landscapes pay homage to the mountains and escarpments of the artist's lifelong home in the Tweed Valley. Working with drone technology, a new aerial perspective sifts these familiar landscapes through an unfamiliar lens as Porter engages with the Freudian theory of the uncanny – where heimlich courts the unheimlich and reality dances with dreams. The drone, as both trope and tool, allows the artist to wilfully remove himself from reality, elevating his paintings into a disorienting, ethereal space. Notable here is a divergence from the floating object paintings for which Porter is known; the drone itself becomes the floating object, summoning a new perspective spatially and conceptually.

Porter's paintings address the sublime through a cinematic visual language. The epic panoramas in 'Mountain Shadow' see alpine trees illuminated with crisp, graphic light, sharpening the edges of forms and creating a sense of high definition. Porter's meticulous trompe l'oeil conjures a kind of augmented reality beyond the painterly – veering into the hyperreal. Meanwhile, the perspectival shift into high drone territory creates, for the first time, a tacit tone of science fiction. It's a fascinating marriage of sublimity, scientism and hyperreality, destabilising the viewer as feelings of awe collide with cinematic sci-fi and the uncanniness of Porter's photorealism. A symbolic exchange, perhaps, pointing towards both environmental catharsis and anthropogenic notions of loss. We see this in works such as *Nocturne*, where a temporal multiplication creates an augmentation of reality. Here, different times of day are imaged simultaneously – stark sunlight contouring the mountain, morning mists engulfing the valley below and the Milky Way stretching out across the night sky. The landscape observed through a cosmic, scientific lens, summoning notions of ecology, geology, and deep time.

Shadows and mists are purveyors of mystery and disorientation in these works, with Porter recruiting elements of the Australian Gothic. There are moments where the shadows of the rainforest canopy converge into dense black cavities, while phantom fog engulfs the landscape like a revenant presence keeping watch over these ancient lands. “I enjoy painting mountains that are only partially visible” reflects the artist, “not only because of the optical challenges, but because they become charged with secrecy and unfamiliarity”. Even for Porter, who has spent a lifetime living amongst this landscape, the mountains are charged with Gothic mystique. Voids of painterly information are becoming increasingly important to his visual language, stirring an evocative sway of revelation and concealment.

In addition to Porter’s innovations in perspective and composition, some of his smaller works continue the floating object format endemic to his practice, however these objects are translucent, transient, fading into – rather than sitting on top of – the landscape. Endangered floral species overlay cultivated land as Porter considers the ramifications of habitat destruction. In *Ravine*, a dainty ravine orchid (which has nearly been poached into extinction) drifts amidst the mountains, a spectral presence from a soon-to-be past. There is a botanical tenor here, as if the artist is preserving in paint.

Porter regards these paintings as his most quiet to-date, yet paradoxically there is an eerie disquietude. “It has been a difficult process to let go of the way I have worked in the past,” he admits. “There has been a shift away from over-arching narratives. It feels like an emptying of content has taken place to allow for stillness and space.”

Elli Walsh
Principal Writer, Artist Profile

Hobie Porter has exhibited nationally since 2004 with major exhibitions at Bundaberg Regional Art Gallery, Lismore Regional Gallery, Tweed Regional Gallery & Margaret Olley Arts Centre and in 2017 was invited to participate in the 'North Head Project' at the Manly Art Gallery & Museum. His work is held in numerous public collections, including Warrnambool Art Gallery, Bundaberg Regional Art Gallery, Tweed Regional Gallery & Margaret Olley Arts Centre, Mosman Art Gallery and Manly Art Gallery & Museum.



Mountain Shadow
oil on polyester canvas
120 x 207 cm (framed)
\$34,000



Mountain Time
oil on polyester canvas
120 x 207 cm (framed)
\$34,000



Mountain Time (detail)
oil on polyester canvas
120 x 207 cm (framed)
\$34,000



Sentinel

oil on polyester canvas

120 x 207 cm (framed)

\$34,000



Nocturne

oil on polyester canvas

120 x 207 cm (framed)

\$34,000



Nocturne (detail)
oil on polyester canvas
120 x 207 cm (framed)
\$34,000



Solitude

oil on polyester canvas

120 x 207 cm (framed)

\$34,000



Entanglement

oil on polyester canvas

120 x 207 cm (framed)

\$34,000



Entanglement (detail)
oil on polyester canvas
120 x 207 cm (framed)
\$34,000



Breathing Space
oil on polyester canvas
77 x 137 cm (framed)
\$19,500



Long Shadow

oil on polyester canvas

77 x 137 cm (framed)

\$19,500



Long Shadow (detail)
oil on polyester canvas
77 x 137 cm (framed)
\$19,500



Precipice

oil on polyester canvas

77 x 137 cm (framed)

\$19,500





Precipice (detail)
oil on polyester canvas
77 x 137 cm (framed)
\$19,500



Retreat to the Mountains

oil on polyester canvas

87 x 67 cm (framed)

\$14,000



Encroachment
oil on polyester canvas
87 x 67 cm (framed)
\$14,000



Transience
oil on polyester canvas
36 x 55 cm (framed)
\$7,000



Ravine

oil on polyester canvas

36 x 55 cm (framed)

\$7,000



Envelopment

oil on polyester canvas

36 x 55 cm (framed)

\$7,000



Looking through the Angophoras (Berry Island)

oil on polyester canvas

86.5 x 166.5 cm (framed)

\$22,000



The Creek Bed (Dendrobium Kingianum)

oil on polyester canvas

43 x 52 cm (framed)

\$7,500



The Big Scrub (Stenocarpus sinuatus)

oil on polyester canvas

87 x 127 cm (framed)

\$19,500



Introduced Habitats for Native Flora: Doryanthes Palmeri I

pastel pencil on paper

86 x 66 cm (framed)

\$3,500



Introduced Habitats for Native Flora: Doryanthes Palmeri II

pastel pencil on paper

86 x 66 cm (framed)

\$3,500



Introduced Habitats for Native Flora: Doryanthes Palmeri III

pastel pencil on paper

86 x 66 cm (framed)

\$3,500



Introduced Habitats for Native Flora: Doryanthes Palmeri IV

pastel pencil on paper

86 x 66 cm (framed)

\$3,500





Road's End
oil on polyester canvas
47 x 57 cm (framed)
\$7,700



HOBIE PORTER

Born 1976, Sydney, Australia

EDUCATION

- 2002 Graduate Diploma of Education, Southern Cross University, Lismore, NSW
- 1999 Contemporary Arts (Honours), Southern Cross University, Lismore, NSW
- 1998 Bachelor of Arts (Visual Arts), Southern Cross University, Lismore and Pratt Institute, New York, USA

AWARDS, GRANTS & RESIDENCIES

- 2018 Artist Residency, Bundaberg Regional Art Gallery, Bundaberg, QLD
- 2011 Countryscapes Art Prize, Bathurst, NSW, Highly Commended
- 2006 Brett Whiteley Travelling Art Scholarship, Brett Whiteley Studio, Sydney, NSW, Finalist
Border Art Prize, Tweed Regional Gallery & Margaret Olley Art Centre, Murwillumbah, NSW, Second Place
Conrad Jupiters Art Award, Gold Coast City Arts Centre, Gold Coast, QLD
- 1997 Australia Day South Arm Citizen of the Year for Youth Award, Australia Council
- 1996 Community Printmakers Murwillumbah Student Encouragement Award, Murwillumbah, NSW
Southern Cross University Vice Chancellor's Travel Grant, Student Exchange to Pratt Institute, New York, USA
- 1994 Henry Lawson Tertiary Study Scholarship

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2024 'Mountain Shadow, Art Post Uki Gallery, Uki, NSW
- 2019 'Sydney: A Saltwater Perspective', Arthouse Gallery, Sydney, NSW
- 2018 'Hobie Porter, The Last Decade', Bundaberg Regional Art Gallery, Bundaberg, QLD
'Unnatural History: The Tower Hill Project', Lismore Regional Gallery, Lismore, NSW
- 2016 'Unnatural History: The Tower Hill Project', Warrnambool Art Gallery, VIC & Arthouse Gallery, Sydney, NSW
- 2014 'Nature's Redesign', Mossgreen Gallery, Melbourne, VIC
'Burnshine', Arthouse Gallery, Sydney, NSW
- 2012 'Continuum', Arthouse Gallery, Sydney, NSW 2011 'Full Circle', Arthouse Gallery, Sydney, NSW
'Pressing Currents', Tweed Regional Gallery & Margaret Olley Art Centre, Murwillumbah, NSW
- 2009 'Dry Rain', Tweed Regional Gallery & Margaret Olley Art Centre, NSW & Arthouse Gallery, Sydney, NSW
- 2008 'Suspension', Arthouse Gallery, Sydney, NSW
- 2007 'Exodus', Arthouse Gallery, Sydney, NSW

HOBIE PORTER

- 2006 'Hobie Porter - New Work', Arthouse Gallery, Sydney, NSW
2005 'Urgent Calm', Tweed Regional Gallery & Margaret Olley Art Centre, Murwillumbah, NSW

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2023 'Present Tense', Arthouse Gallery, Sydney, NSW
'Paper and Clay', Arthouse Gallery, Sydney, NSW
2022 'Wanderlust', Flinders Lane Gallery, Melbourne, VIC
2020 'Summer', Arthouse Gallery, Sydney, NSW
2019 'Love', Tweed Regional Gallery & Margaret Olley Art Centre, Murwillumbah, NSW
'Reflections of a Fading Sky', Arthouse Gallery, Sydney, NSW
2018 'Three Decades', Tweed Regional Gallery & Margaret Olley Art Centre, Murwillumbah, NSW
'Summer Salon', Arthouse Gallery, Sydney, NSW
2017 'The North Head Project', Manly Art Gallery & Museum, Sydney, NSW
'Works on Paper', Arthouse Gallery, Sydney, NSW
2015 'Assemble | Disassemble: Earth. Wind. Fire. Water. Heart.', Caboolture Regional Gallery, Sunshine Coast, QLD
'Unfolding Splendour', Arthouse Gallery, Sydney, NSW
2014 'Mossgreen Group Show', Melbourne Art Fair, Melbourne, VIC
2012 'Arthouse Gallery Group Show', Melbourne Art Fair, Melbourne, VIC
2011 'The New Arcadia', Lismore Regional Art Gallery, Lismore, NSW
2010 'Rivers of Life', Northern Rivers Community Gallery, Ballina, NSW
2009 'Exquisite: Small Landscapes', Gold Coast City Art Gallery, Surfers Paradise, QLD
2008 'Wish You Were Here', Tweed Regional Gallery & Margaret Olley Art Centre, Murwillumbah, NSW
2007 'Arthouse Gallery Group Show', Sydney Art Fair, Sydney, NSW
2006 'Relationships Australia', Lismore Regional Gallery, Lismore, NSW

SELECTED COLLECTIONS

- Manly Art Gallery & Museum, NSW
Bundaberg Regional Art Gallery, QLD
Warrnambool Art Gallery, VIC
Mosman Art Gallery, Sydney, NSW
Tweed Regional Gallery & Margaret Olley Art Centre, NSW

HOBIE PORTER

Park Road Group, Brisbane, QLD

Tweed Shire Council, NSW

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

E.Walsh, 'Sydney: A Saltwater Perspective', Catalogue Essay, 2019

E.Beck, 'In The Studio: Hobie Porter', Byron Art Magazine, Issue 9, 2018

S.Engledow, 'Three Decades: Celebrating the Tweed Regional Gallery Collection', Catalogue Essay, 2018

R.Pullin, 'Unnatural History : The Tower Hill Project', Catalogue Essay, 2015

S.Huda, 'Nature's Redesign', Catalogue Essay, 2014

'Hobie Porter Process', Artist Profile, Issue 28, 2014

S.Grishin, 'Horizon: A Contemporary Perspective on the Australian Landscape & Environment', Catalogue Essay, 2014

R.Brewster, 'Australian Artist, a True Nature Lover', Australian Auction Review, 2014

www.australianauctionreview.com.au/australian-artist-true-nature-love

P.Gibson, 'Continuum', Catalogue Essay, 2012

S.Muddiman, 'Dry Rain' Catalogue Essay, 2009

E.Wheeler, 'Hobie Porter', Tweed Artifacts Newsletter, Vol.9 No.2, Jun 2008

R.Kennedy, 'Hobie Porter Exhibition, Exodus', Art Interview, 2007

www.artinterview.com.au/event-articles/exodus-robbie-porter/ 'Painting Australia', Episode 4, ABC TV, 2006

J.Anderson, 'A Breath of Fresh Art', Gold Coast Bulletin, 2006

L.Abernethy, 'Deconstructing Rapture' Catalogue Essay, 2005

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