

MEDIA RELEASE

SUSANNA IZARD | A SERIES OF MISTAKES

At the McAtamney Gallery Opening - April 27 2pm, runs till 25 May.

Susanna's exhibition title springs not only from the fact that it includes a series of paintings of Lake Tekapo's Mistake Peak - but also from the fact the Artist cheerfully describes her work generally as a series of "happy mistakes"

This exhibition of luminous paintings captures the intensity of colour and light typical of the Mackenzie Country - while at the same time celebrating the flowing forms of the landscapes.

Mistake Peak itself, on the north-western side of Lake Tekapo is a sheer face which plummets directly into the water below, and was named in response to the proud new landowner's reaction to his purchase when he visited for the first time. The property had no flat land to accommodate a homestead and has always been farmed with the Godley Peaks run as a result.

It's a peak which she has explored from most angles.

Susanna's mediums of watercolour and gouache (for their portability) and her preference for plein air painting, (packing the car and following her nose into the landscapes to paint outside) - have given rise to a series that is vibrant, colourful and evocative.

For Susanna being outside in the landscape is critical to the process of creating her works ~ sometimes it's light and the sky which inspires her, sometimes the water is the focus of her attention. But always the experience of sitting, observing and absorbing the movement of the day is what gives her paintings their life.

As the light and atmosphere changes, the ridges, crevices and shadows of the peaks shift like sands. That movement, over, down and through the peaks typifies these works.

Susanna stresses that usually when she's outside in the wide open spaces of the Mackenzie, she's the only thing sitting still. She says she experiences landscapes teeming with activity; changing light, deepening colour, hunting hawks, howling winds and the odd exploring tourist.

These works beautifully showcase the balance of solidity and fluidity in nature with a touch both light and expressive.

"A Series of Mistakes" opens Sunday April 27, 2pm at the McAtamney Gallery, Talbot Street Geraldine

For more information please contact
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