

**SUSANNA IZARD**

**EXHIBITION WORDS**

The title of this exhibition came from how I view nature's role in this strange situation were in.

Regardless of covid and lockdowns, the seasons keep coming, erosion continues, glaciers advance and recede, animals live and die, the weather is the weather and the landscape is solid.

I was thinking about how I work when, randomly, I ended up at a discussion on crime writing at the Writers festival in Queenstown.

Author Liam MacIvanny mentioned the difficulty of when material ends up in charge of him until he decides he is in charge of it, then his writing flows.

It struck me that have the same battle in the landscape!

The material in front of me can boss me round until I take charge and make it mine.....so this exhibition is my interpretation of our bold landscapes.

Last week had the opportunity to ride through one these bold landscapes.

I've been painting the peaks and river beds on Lilybank Station at the confluence of the Godley and MacAuley rivers, from a distance, for years.

Johnny Wheeler took 8 of us on horses to 1900m under the sweeping top scree slopes of Observation Hill.

It was remarkable to ride through and round one of my paintings on my wonderful Clydesdale, Billy and see the gullies, cracks, layers and shapes closely.

Accepting "a bit of taking charge" I wasn't far wrong with my artwork.

As I finished this exhibition work, my father suggested putting in some drawings. I resisted even the smallest bit of paint so this is why they're a bit different to the rest.

Thank you for your encouragement :  
Richie, Luc and Cate

Carolyn MacAtamney for you faith that we should get on with it and "of course we will have an exhibition!"