

anna fitzpatrick — *sydney to hobart*



The Sydney Hobart Yacht Race has become an icon of Australia's summer sport. A thrilling and daring blue ocean classic starting in Sydney Harbour on Boxing Day then heading south for 630 nautical miles through the Tasman Sea past Bass Strait, into Storm Bay and up the River Derwent, to cross the finish line in Hobart. It's a race that is embedded in the Australian psyche.

There's a palpable sense of excitement and celebration in Sydney Harbour on Boxing Day, people coming out in their droves to send these brave sailors off on one of the great odysseys of our time. Sydney Harbour is a spectacular sight. Full of these iconic Australian landmarks: the Sydney Opera House, The Harbour Bridge, The Botanical Gardens and the Domain. Add to that the sparkling waters, the bobbing yachts and the birds wheeling in the sky and it makes for a pretty breathtaking scene.

Tasmania is equally heart stirring. A place of rugged and untouched natural beauty. The myriad islands of the archipelago. The towering dolerite cliffs of the capes. The perilous wild oceans of the south coast. All of these elements combine to create a scene of spectacular proportions.

There's a certain fearlessness required to voyage into open ocean. Pitting yourself and your vessel against the elements. These sailors are lion hearts. To complete the race you need a soul that is greater than the ocean. And a spirit stronger than the storm's assault.

Like many Australians, I have lived near the coast for most of my life which is a real privilege. But it also gives you an acute awareness of the power of the ocean. I know how dramatic and changeable the weather can be.

Sydney to Hobart is my homage to the heroic Australian spirit and one of the legendary stories that make up our folklore. But it is also an unabashed declaration of personal pleasure and sheer revelry in our Australian landscape.

new paintings

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