

susan simonini —

places i belong



My practice is grounded in abstraction as a way of exploring place, memory and perception. This new body of work moves between abstraction and the representation of particular places, exploring how landscapes are absorbed, interpreted, and reconfigured through experience.

The Tasmanian landscape is a central influence within my practice. After almost a decade of living in the rural north-west, my relationship with the landscape has become deeply familiar and embodied. I have always been drawn to the sub-alpine environments around me – particularly Cradle Mountain and the Central Plateau Conservation Area - and their shapes, textures, rhythms, and expanses. Through repeated encounters, these qualities have become internalised, contributing to a sense of belonging and a feeling of peace within the landscape.

I work from memory, photographs, and increasingly through painting en plein air. These different ways of encountering the landscape allow me to move between direct observation and recollection. Some paintings respond to specific locations, while others emerge more intuitively from remembered impressions. In both, the landscape is transformed through abstraction and the physical process of painting.

Process plays a critical role in articulating these ideas. Through layering, mark-making, erasure, and abrasion, I construct surfaces that mirror the instability of memory itself. Paint is built up, sanded back, and reworked repeatedly, allowing traces of earlier gestures to remain visible beneath subsequent layers.

Places I Belong brings together my ongoing relationship with the Tasmanian landscape and my enduring love of shape and colour in a new way. The paintings are looser and more spontaneous, reflecting a growing familiarity with the forms and rhythms of the local environment. Over time, I feel I have developed a visual language that allows me to respond more intuitively to this landscape that I love.

Susan Simonini

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