Idris Murphy I – Thou 2009



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The Ochre House

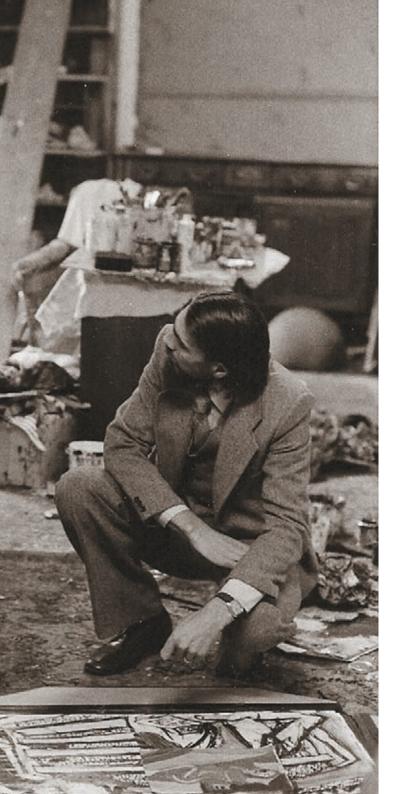
King Street Gallery on William

10am – 6pm Tuesday – Saturday 177 William St Darlinghurst NSW 2010 Australia T: 61 2 9360 9727 F: 61 2 9331 4458 E: kingst@bigpond.com W: www.kingstreetgallery.com.au



Idris Murphy is a Sydney based painter and printmaker. Since returning from Europe in the early eighties he has produced a body of work of which the last two solo exhibitions, in both Syndey and Melbourne, have set out to reinterpret Australian landscape.

In particular the last fifteen years have concentrated on works which are based in the Australian arid zone. His paintings have received a wide exposure both in this country and overseas as one of five featured artists in the SBS documentary *Two Thirds Sky – Artists in Desert Country* in 2002. He is the founder of ILIR 'Imaging the Land International Research Institue' which provides access to desert studios in Australia for artists from both here and abroad.



Idris Murphy with Andrew Carnegie and curator London 1977 Photography: Sylvester Jacobs



Idris Murphy teaching En Plein Air Harbour Wollongong 1963

### I – Thou

When looking back and considering the 'influences' on my work, several artists and writers come to mind; these may be more or less influential at any given time.

There are though, certain connections that hold and seem to be continuing.

Martin Buber has been one of these connections; often encountered in quotes by other writers. Burber's articulation of how we respond to the world has been seminal to my way of seeing and therefore how I 'see' my paintings.

The Martin Buber connection (exemplified by McMahon's painting *I-Thou*) added to my interest in the work of Colin McMahon; in particular the way in which he depicted land.

In quoting here at length from Bubers book *I and Thou*, it is hoped it will elucidate not only his approach, but also how this may be useful when considering encounters of the land and of paintings. As the difference



Idris Murphy in residence County Hanahan Ireland Tyron Guthery Centre 1994

between the truth of a painting and the truth about a painting are significant.

Buber's writings have for me been a way of continuing my assessment of western paradigms in painting and have added to my encounter with indigenous art.

Idris Murphy 2009

I consider a tree.

I can look on it as a picture; stiff column in shock of light, or splash of green shot with the delicate blue and silver of the background.

I can perceive it as movement; flowing veins on clinging, pressing pith, suck of roots, breathing of the leaves, ceaseless commerce with earth and air-and the obscure growth itself.

I can classify it in a species and study it as a type in its structure and mode of life.



Idris and children 1985

I can subdue its actual presence and form so sternly that I recognise it only as an expression of law – laws in accordance with which a constant opposition of forces is continually adjusted, or of those in accordance with which the component substances mingle and separate.

I can dissipate it and perpetuate it in number, in pure numerical relation.

In all this the tree remains my object, occupies space and time, and has its nature and constitution.

It can, however, also come about, if I have both will and grace, that in considering a tree I become bound up in relation to it. The tree is now no longer 'it.' I have been seized by the power of exclusiveness.

To affect this it is not necessary for me to give up any of the ways in which I consider the tree. There is nothing from which I would have to turn my eyes away in order to see, and no knowledge that I would have to forget. Rather is everything, picture and movement. species and type, law and number, indivisibly united in this event.

Everything belongs to the tree is in this; its form and structure, its colours and chemical composition, its intercourse with the elements and with the stars, are all present in a single whole.

The tree is no impression, no play of my imagination, no value depending on my mood; but is bodied over against me and has to do with me, as I wit it –only in a different way.

Martin Buber from I and Thou 1934

Snowy Mountains 1991 Graphite on paper

and.

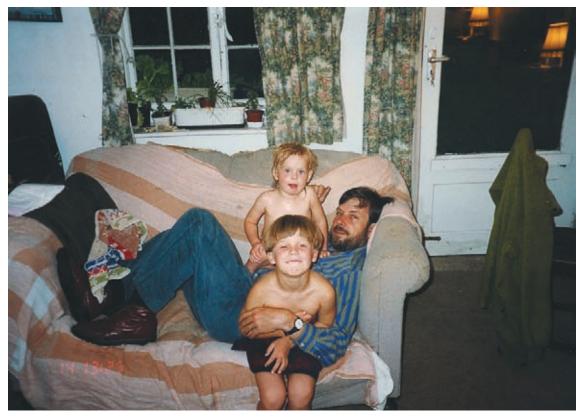
## Let no attempt be made to sap the strength from the meaning of the relation; relation is mutual

Martin Buber 1937

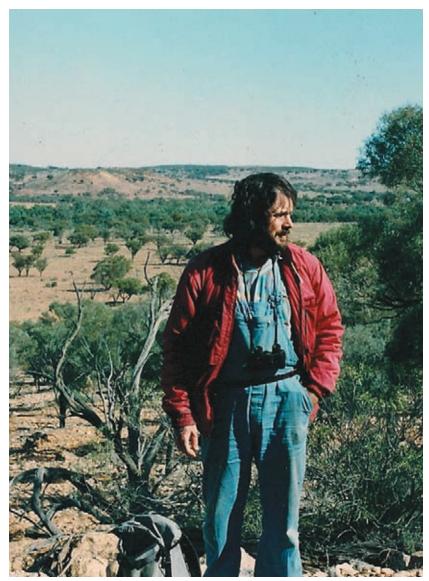




Night Drawings Menindee Lakes 1991 Graphite on paper



Faringdon Oxfordshire UK 1994



Mutawintji NSW 2006

The Paintings Day into Night



Cooee Bay 1 2009 Acrylic on board 30 x 30cm



Cooee Bay 2 2009 Acrylic on board 30 x 30cm



Cooee Bay 3 2009 Acrylic on board 30 x 30cm



Morning Mist 2009 Acrylic and collage on board 45 x 45cm



Clearing Mist 2009 Acrylic on board 45 x 45cm



Pink at Midday



2009 Acrylic on board 45 x 45cm



Pink Morning 2009 Acrylic on board 45 x 45cm



Red River Gums 2009 Acrylic on board 45 x 45cm



Dancing Trees 2009 Acrylic and collage on board 45 x 45cm



Silver Clouds 2009 Acrylic on board 45 x 45cm



Threes Shadows 2009 Acrylic on board 45 x 45cm



River Bed 2009 Acrylic and collage on board 45 x 45cm



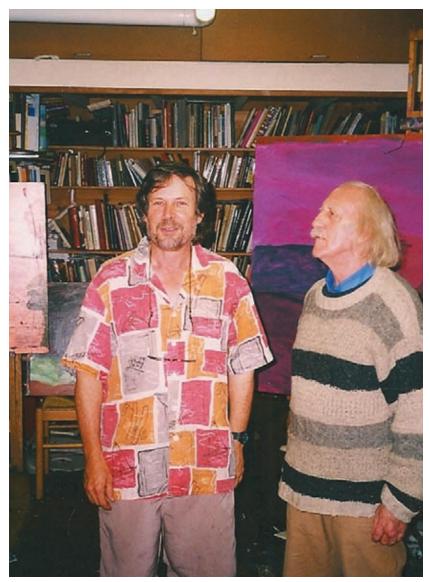
Tree Portraits 2009 Acrylic and collage on board 45 x 45cm



Fallen Branch 2009 Acrylic on board 45 x 45cm



Holding Water 2009 Acrylic on board 45 x 45cm



Idris Murphy and Ken Whisson Sydney 2005



Tree Crossings 2009 Acrylic on board 45 x 45cm



Waterhole 2009 Acrylic and collage on board 45 x 45cm



Strange Light 2009 Acrylic on board 45 x 45cm





Idris Murphy Sydney 1972

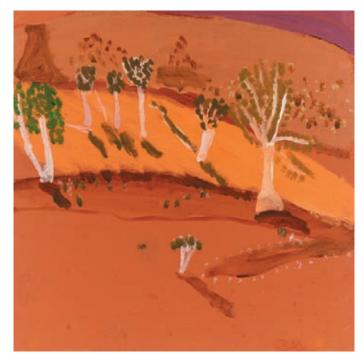




There and Back Again, Euriowie with Willy Willy Acrylic and collage on board 120 x 216 cm



The Clay Pans 2009 Acrylic on board 45 x 45cm



Running Shadows 2009 Acrylic on board 45 x 45cm



Strange Light Broken Hill 2009 Acrylic on board 80 x 90cm



Driving Past the Park Broken Hill 2009 Acrylic and collage on board 120 x 120cm



Water Reflections Lake Mungo 2009 Acrylic and collage on board 60 x 60cm



Gill's View from the Tent 2009 Acrylic on board 90 x 90cm



Pink Water Euriowie 2009 Acrylic and collage on board 120 x 130cm



Late Moon Rising 2009 Acrylic and collage on board 120 x 110cm



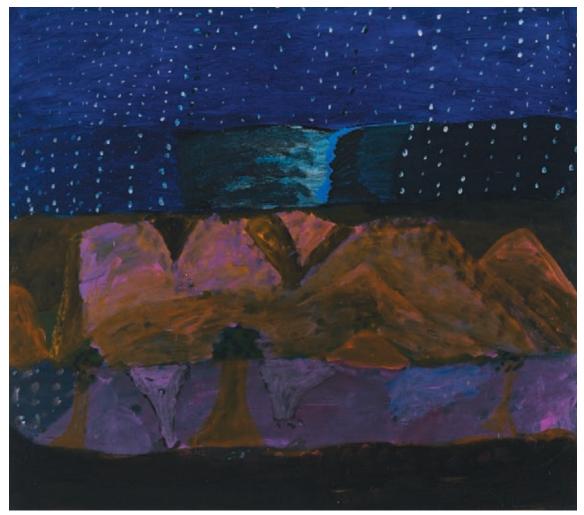
Afternoon to Evening Fowlers Gap 2009 Acrylic and collage on board 120 x 110cm



Walk Way Dam 2009 Acrylic and collage on board 60 x 60cm



Changing Shadows 2009 Acrylic and collage on board 120 x 120cm



Raining Stars 2009 Acrylic and collage on board 106 x 120cm

### Idris Murphy

#### Born

1949 Sydney, NSW, Australia

#### Studies & Work

- 1988-2007 Lecturer, College of Fine Art, University of New South Wales, Sydney
- 1997 Head of Drawing, National Art School, Sydney
- 1994 Doctorate of Creative Arts, University of Wollongong, NSW
- 1989 Graduate Diploma (Education), SCAE, Sydney
- 1987 Lecturer, TAFE School of Art and Design, Sydney
- 1984-86 Part time lecturer, Alexander Mackie College of Fine Art & City Art Institute (now COFA)
- 1982 Lecturer, University of Wollongong, NSW (instrumental in establishing printmaking department of newly founded School of Creative Arts)
- 1980-82 Part time lecturer, Wollongong TAFE
- 1976-77 Post Graduate (painting & printmaking), Winchester College of Art, UK
- 1966-71 Diploma (painting), National Art School, Sydney

#### Solo Exhibitions

2009 I - Thou, King Street Gallery on William, Sydney 1 & Thou, Survey Exhibition, Hazelhurst Regional Art Gallery, NSW 2007 new paintings, King Street Gallery on William 2005 equillibrium of contradictions, king street gallery on burton, sydney Axia Gallery, Melbourne 2004 desert paintings, king street gallery on burton contemporary australian prints: from the collection, Art Gallery of New South Wales John Gordon Gallery (in assoc. with king street gallery on burton), Coffs Harbour, NSW 2003 flags of convenience, king street gallery on burton 2002 Desert Country, Axia Modern Art, Melbourne 2001 petrichor, king street gallery on burton Recent Work, Bonython Meadmore Gallery, Adelaide 1999 works on paper, king street gallery landskips, king street gallery on burton Recent Work, Axia Modern Art 1997 real presence, king street gallery on burton 1995 constant revision, king street gallery on burton 1993 other roads, king street gallery on burton 1990 New Work, Editions Southbank Galleries, Melbourne Recent Work, Macquarie Galleries, Sydney 1989 New Work, Editions Southbank Galleries 1987 Selected Prints - Sydney Theatre Company, Wharf Theatre, Sydney Recent Work, Macquarie Galleries 1986 1984 Recent Work, Macquarie Galleries 1983 Recent Work, Macquarie Galleries Orange Festival, Orange, NSW Recent Work, Macquarie Galleries 1982 1978 Upstream Galleries, London 1974 Recent Work. Macquarie Galleries 1972 Recent Work, Macquarie Galleries

#### Selected Group Exhibitions

2008	Stations of the Cross 2008, St Ives Uniting Church, Sydney
0007	Plein Air Painting Prize, NSW Parliament House, Sydney
2007	<i>Five x Five</i> , Ivan Dougherty Gallery, COFA University of NSW, Sydney <i>Going Out There</i> , Alliance Francaise, Paris, France
2006	Kedumba Drawing Prize, Kedumba Gallery, Wentworth Falls, NSW
	king street gallery at doggett street studios (cummings, elliott, murphy, penrose hart, sages), Brisbane, Qld
	Painting 2006, John Gordon Gallery, Coffs Harbour, NSW
2005	Kedumba Drawing Prize, Kedumba Gallery, Wentworth Falls
2005	
	Kings School Art Prize, Parramatta, NSW
	(Going) Out There - Responses to the Remote lands around Fowlers Gap Arid Zone
0004	Research Station North of Broken Hill, Ivan Dougherty Gallery, Sydney
2004	Spectrum 2004, [FONAS], Parliament House, Sydney
0000	Fleurieu Prize for Landscape, South Australia
2003	64 years, king street gallery on burton
0000	An Approachable Landscape, Axia Modern Art
2002	Two Thirds Sky- artists in desert country, Hazelhurst Regional Gallery & Arts Centre, Sydney
	A Silver Lining & A New Beginning, Ivan Dougherty Gallery, COFA, UNSW
0001	common ground, Hazelhurst Regional Gallery & Arts Centre
2001	floating, king street gallery on burton Our Place: Images of Coffe Harbour & Pagion, Coffe Harbour Pagional Callen, NSW
	Our Place: Images of Coffs Harbour & Region, Coffs Harbour Regional Gallery, NSW
	Views, king street gallery, sydney
	Landscapes, Artists Ties Gallery, Canberra
2000	<i>last show of the year</i> , king street gallery on burton <i>Southern Sydney Artists</i> , Hazelhurst Regional Gallery & Arts Centre
2000	last show of the year, king street gallery on burton
	MelbourneArtFair2000, king street gallery, Royal Exhibition Building, Melbourne
1999	Schools & Universities Invitational Millennium Art Prize, Schools & Universities Club, Sydney
1999	last show of the year, king street gallery on burton
1998	Staff Exhibition, Ivan Dougherty Gallery
1000	last show of the year, king street gallery on burton
1996	In Process, Ivan Dougherty Gallery
1000	first night, king street gallery
	The Outback Art Prize, Broken Hill City Art Gallery, NSW
	gallery artists, king street gallery
1995	Ironsides, Powerhouse Museum, Sydney
1000	The French Embrace, Alliance Francaise, Sydney
1993-94	Common Ground, University of New South Wales; Broken Hill City Art Gallery, NSW
1994	gallery artists, king street gallery on burton
	Australian Contemporary Art Fair4, Royal Exhibition Building
1993	Editions, Southbank Galleries
	Virtu, Ivan Dougherty Gallery
1992	The Book and Print Show, University of Wollongong
	Manu et Mente, Ivan Dougherty Gallery
	Australian Exhibition- Contemporary Binding, National Library of Australia, Canberra
	Critic's Choice, Macquarie Galleries
	Blake Prize for Religious Art, Blaxland Gallery, Sydney & touring Australia
1991	The Artist- The Printmaker, Editions Southbank Galleries
	The Book and Print Show, University of Wollongong; Goulburn Regional Art Gallery, NSW;
	Penrith Regional Gallery & The Lewers Bequest, NSW

- 1990 *Editions* Southbank Galleries
- 1988 Art Collegium, University of Technology, Sydney
- Heretic, National Library of Australia, Canberra
- 1987 Bushweek, Queensland Arts Council, Brisbane and Queensland Regional Art Centre Tribute to Lloyd Rees, Macquarie Galleries
  - Rainforest Show, Macquarie Galleries
- 1986 Wynne Prize Exhibition, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
- 1984 Orange Festival, Queensland College of Art, Brisbane
- Wynne Prize Exhibition, Art Gallery of New South Wales
- 1983 Bushweek, Macquarie Galleries
- 1982 Wynne Prize Exhibition, Art Gallery of New South Wales
- 1981 Sulman Prize Exhibition, Art Gallery of New South Wales
- 1980 Sulman Prize Exhibition, Art Gallery of New South Wales
- 1978 Red Show, Thumb Gallery, London

#### **Residencies & Awards**

- Launch screening of *Two Thirds Sky- artists in desert country* Art Gallery of New South Wales (with Gloria Petyarre, Jenny Sages, Peter Sharpe, Judy Watson); additional screenings on SBS
  *Filming of Two Thirds Sky – artists in desert country*, produced by Sophie Jackson, directed by Sean O'Brien Irish Arts Council Studio, Tyron Guthrie Centre, Ireland
  *Firmach Courcement Studio*, Paris
- 1987 French Government Studio, Paris Moya Doring Memorial Residence, Paris
- 1983 Lithographer in Residence, Art Gallery of New South Wales French Government Studio
- 1978 Moya Doring Memorial Residence
- 1977-79 Dyason Bequests Fund for Australian Artist's Overseas
- 1976 Australian Arts Council Special travel scholarship: Europe and America Rockhampton Art Prize, Rockhampton Regional Art Gallery, Qld Studio residency, London Moya Doring Memorial Residence
- 1975 Keith and Elizabeth Murdoch Travel Fellowship
- 1974 Artist in Residence, Prahran College of Art, Melbourne
- 1972 Hunters Hill Art Award, Hunters Hill Municipal Council, Sydney

#### Commissions

- 1987 The Heretic limited edition book in collaboration with author Morris West
- 1983 Print Series, Art Gallery Society, Art Gallery of New South Wales

#### Collections

Allens Arthur Robinson	Art Gallery of New South Wales
Parliament House, Canberra	Artbank, Áustralia
Rockhampton Regional Art Gallery	Australian Graduate School of Management
State Library of New South Wales	Bendigo Regional Art Gallery, NSW
Telecom Collection, Melbourne	Bibliotheque National de Paris
Tyrone Guthrie Centre, Ireland	Brisbane Grammar School, Qld
University of New South Wales	Clot/Bramsen et Georges Studio, Paris
UBS Warburg, Sydney	Macquarie Bank, Australia
Westpac Collection, Australia	National Gallery of Australia, Canberra
University of Wollongong, NSW	Northern Rivers College of Advanced Education, NSW
National Library of Australia, Canberra	Kedumba Drawing Collection, NSW
Australian Library of Art, State Library of Queensland, Qld	

#### Selected Bibliography

2008	Barkley, Glenn: Idris Murphy, Artist Profile Magazine, Issue 3, p44-49
2007	Crisp, Lyndal: The art that artists collect, The Australian Financial Review, Dec 15
	Waterlow, Nick: Curator's Notes-Five x Five, Exhibition Catalogue, Apr 19-May 19, pp7, 18
2006	Ducos, Solenne: Idris Muprhy, COFA-UNSW, Summer Issue 15, p19
	Lander, Janis: A Public of Individuals - Interview with Idris Murphy, The College Voice,
	COFA online Arts Magazine, Nov p1-6
2005	McDonald, John: The Australian Landscape Revisited, Spectrum-Sydney Morning Herald, Sept 10-11, pp 28-29
	Johnston, Jay: the wild RED YONDER, COFA/UNSW, Spring, Issue 14, Dec-Feb, p2
	Li Jingzhe: Australian Contemporary Painting, Shanghai Peoples Fine Arts Publishing House pp 70 - 72
2003	McCulloch, Susan: Paths Across the Great Divide, Weekend Australian, Sept 27-28
2002	Two Thirds Sky- A Must See Documentary, COFA/UNSW, Winter, Issue 5, Aug-Nov, p6
2002	Masterpiece, Sydney Morning Herald, Sept 20, p7
	M.K.: Journey into the artists interior. The View-The Australian, Sept 19, p11
	Frost, Andrew: Two Thirds Sky: Artists in Desert Country, Australian Art Collector, July- Sept, Issue 21, p48
	Hallett, Bryce: The truth is out there, all right-in the Aboriginal landscape, Sydney Morning Herald, Sept 18, p3
	Anderson, Doug: Two Thirds Sky, Sydney Morning Herald, Sept. 20
	McDonald, John: Sand and Sun – Interpreting the desert on canvas, Australian Financial Review, June 13
2001	Grishin, Sasha: Little Gems within a Diverse Group, The Canberra Times, May 9
2000	Reid, Michael: Treasure on boardroom walls, The Australian, Sept 2-3
1999	James, Bruce: Thoroughly Modern Clarice, Spectrum - Sydney Morning Herald, May 1, p12s
	James, Bruce: Making an Exhibition of Themselves, Spectrum-Sydney Morning Herald, April 17, p10
1998	Drury, Nevill: Images 3 in Contemporary Australian Painting, Craftsman House Press, p 154
1997	McDonald, John: The Best Game in Town, Spectrum- Sydney Morning Herald, April 12
	Taylor, James (editor): Box kite – A Journal of Poetry & Poetics, pp157-166
1994	EREMOS Magazine, Eremos Institute, Volume No 46
1993	Mendelssohn, Joanna: Country Visions Need The City, The Bulletin, Jan 26-Feb 2, pp74-77
	Connor, Kevin: Common Ground, catalogue introduction, COFA, UNSW
	Watson, Bronwyn: No mere window dressing, Arts- Sydney Morning Herald, Sept 10, p17
	Delaruelle, Jacques: In the game, The Sydney Review, Sept
1992	Germaine, Max: The Encyclopaedia of Australian Art, Craftsman House Press
	Drury, Nevill: Images in Contemporary Australian Painting, Craftsman House Press
1990	Drury, Nevill: Contemporary Australian Painting, Craftsman House Press
1988	West, Morris: The Heretic, Isotome Press
	Drury, Nevill: New Art Two, Craftsman House Press
	Condon, Matt: West writing the wrongs, The Sun Herald, October 2
	Connor, Kevin: News in Town, The Good Weekend, October 1, p59
1982	Capon, Edmond & Meek, Jan: Portrait of a Gallery, Art Gallery of NSW, Chapel Court, p58
	Illustration- Exhibition Commentary, Art and Australia, Summer, Vol 20, No 2, p88
1978	Mendham, Dawn: The Refining Fire, Albatross Books, pp98-105
1971	Illustration- Exhibition Commentary, Art and Australia, Summer, Vol 9

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