

## 20 QUESTIONS

## Joanna Logue

Artist, epicurean, film lover, outdoorsy type.

**If you weren't an artist what would you be?**

A vigneron.

**Did you ever consider any other career?**

No, I knew from the age of 10 that I wanted to be a painter.

**What is it about paint as a medium that attracts you?**

Paint is immediate, sensual, direct and, for me, quite limiting as a medium and I enjoy this challenge.

**You were awarded a Hill End Residency at the late artist Jean Bellette's cottage last year and spent two months in a house frequented by artists for more than 50 years. How did that feel?**

I felt vivified and strangely liberated. The collective creative energy from the past washed over me constantly. I was overcome by emotion of a curious kind when I entered Haefliger's Cottage and I was making art frantically within 20 minutes of being there. I hadn't even unpacked the car.

**Who is your favourite artist?**

Sean Scully.

**What is it about landscapes that inspires you?**

The landscape touches me on a profoundly deep level. It turns me back in on myself. My response is personal and particular and hard to articulate. I suppose it inspires ideas about the nature of being. I am trying to talk to this through paint.

**Do you have any of your own work up at home?**

No, but I have given some precious pieces to my family. I don't trust myself to live around my work. I'm likely to get up in the middle of the night in a fit of insecurity and make unnecessary changes.

**even blurry. Does it ever make you go cross-eyed?**

No, but some people have suggested I get my eyes checked.

**You achieve the blurred effect by scraping back the paint. Have you ever over-scraped and ruined a painting or is there no such thing as "over-scraping"?**

Yes, I have often "over-scaped" but this isn't always detrimental to the work. It exposes the original spontaneous mark-making, which ultimately informs the work and makes a stronger painting.

**Your sister Simone Logue has a background in fine food, inspired by nanna Logue's cooking. Were you ever tempted by the gourmet path?**

Only on a personal level. I'm epicurean by nature.

**Do you cook?**

Well, I'm a better cook than Simone!

**Are you an outdoorsy type?**

I love to retreat from my studio into the garden. It's a contemplative and intimate space where ideas and philosophical concepts come to me quite readily.

**What were your drawings like as a child?**

When I was young, my drawings were tight and controlled. I was scripted to "not go out of the lines". I suppose my paintings now are about letting go of all that.

**Do you ever feel uninspired?**

When I'm creatively blocked, I bring order to the studio and then journey out into the landscape or go and look at what my contemporaries are doing and



before I know it I'm busting to get back to the paint.

**Have you ever not wanted to sell a painting?**

I don't feel the need to hold onto my work. Quite the contrary - I like the fact that my paintings bring pleasure to people and that they might gain insight into my way of seeing.

**You've said of your paintings that they "do away with extraneous detail". What details do you find most extraneous in life generally?**

The visual assault of billboards and ugly, offensive advertising scarring the landscape.

**What can people expect of your work for the Arkaba Station exhibition?**My *Arkaba Station* paintings are a direct response to the landscape around the Flinders Ranges but also evocative of the journey there. The paintings have a filmic quality.**Your painting style has been described as very confident. How do you feel when you paint?**

At sea. Miserable and full of self-doubt with intermittent moments of euphoria.

**What do you do to relax?**

I head straight to the cinema.

**How do you get the paint out from under your fingernails?**

Sometimes I don't!

Interview by Samantha Bowers

*Arkaba Station*, featuring works by Joanna Logue, Leo Robba and Wendy Sharpe, is at King Street Gallery on William in Darlinghurst until March 5.