



Ross Laurie

New paintings and works on paper

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9 October – 3 November 2018

King Street Gallery **KS**
on William **GW**

10am – 6pm Tuesday – Saturday
177 William St Darlinghurst NSW 2010 Australia
T: 61 2 9360 9727 E: art@kingstreetgallery.com
www.kingstreetgallery.com.au

Front Cover: *The visit* 2018 oil on canvas 140 x 170 cm (detail)
Opposite: Studio, Walcha, NSW





Last of the green pick 2018 oil on canvas 92 x 102 cm



Sun and the moon for the king of the Delta 2018 oil on canvas 92 x 102 cm

We see into the life

In his work, Ross Laurie takes you back again and again to his land in Walcha on the New England tablelands, urging that you engage as freshly as he does each time he paints it. He writes “The country here is home, in a spiritual sense”, and we feel it. These are depictions of moments in a place he has known and loved all his life, perhaps without even being aware himself how deeply. Laurie left Walcha in the 1980s for busy Europe to pursue the study of art, but we feel that on some level in that time away he returned to this place again and again, as William Wordsworth’s mind did to the banks of the River Wye:

*‘These beauteous forms,
Through a long absence, have not been to me
As is a landscape to a blind man’s eye:
But oft, in lonely rooms, and ‘mid the din
Of towns and cities, I have owed to them,
In hours of weariness, sensations sweet,
Felt in the blood, and felt along the heart ...’*

of things.

This landscape is a frame and a filter for all his moments. We feel that Walcha was always Ross Laurie’s true north, *‘felt along the heart’*: his fixed point in a spinning world. And that years of such feeling have taught him to see *‘into the life of things’* there.

In his paintings we see trees, possibly bushes, sweeps of ground, some horizons, shadows or rocks.

But then Laurie takes us on a journey into the life within these things. Painting wet on wet with bendy brushes, the gestures of his hand make shimmying marks that crackle with energy. His colours bounce off one another setting adjacent colours, and then the forms depicted by them, and then the whole landscape, into a rhythm that reveals to us its inner energy. Laurie is clearly in tune with *‘A motion and a spirit, that ...rolls through all things’*.

Sometimes his pictures arrive at a place more representational, and sometimes much less so, but he doesn’t, in his words, “let the facts of the world get in the way of the painting being what it wants to be”. Even after essentially six years of drought, Laurie’s landscapes are

creamy, not dry. Try as he may, a dry earth palette just doesn’t convey the intensity of feeling he has for his country. *Stripped down* is a nod in that direction, its forms are blood red, and like finger painting.

In *Landscape for lightning* rich sunset reds and warm grey blues arch and bend over themselves in what looks like the pleasure of stretching across grounds of off white and Naples Yellow. Laurie feels no duty to depict the land as others may expect of him.

We sense that each moment he spends painting this Walcha landscape provides Ross Laurie with creative *‘life and food, for future years’*, and that with him we will continue to see, *‘into the life of things’*.

Sonia Legge, September, 2018

All italicised quotes are from William Wordsworth: *‘Lines Composed a Few Miles above Tintern Abbey, On Revisiting the Banks of the Wye during a Tour’*.





To Coppermine 2018 oil on canvas 65 x 82 cm



Stripped down 2018 oil on canvas 155 x 185 cm



Painting with moonlight I 2018 oil on canvas 65 x 82 cm
Painting with moonlight II 2018 oil on canvas 66 x 92 cm
Painting with moonlight III 2018 oil on canvas 66 x 92 cm



Going home I 2018 oil on canvas 76 x 107 cm



Going home II 2018 oil on canvas 76 x 107 cm



Bone dry 2018 oil on canvas 140 x 170 cm



7 2018 charcoal on paper 29 x 38 cm



3 2018 charcoal on paper 29 x 38 cm



11 2018 charcoal on paper 29 x 38 cm



27 2018 charcoal on paper 29 x 38 cm



Airstrip for DAC 2018 oil on canvas 65 x 82 cm



From Jasper's to Sweeney's 2018 oil on canvas 65 x 82 cm





Django's return 2018 oil on canvas 76 x 107 cm



Jewel 2018 oil on canvas 115 x 140 cm



White day at Walcha I 2018 oil on canvas 140 x 185 cm



Painting for lightnin' 2018 oil on canvas 65 x 82 cm



Pastorale - trees and light III 2018 gouache on paper 51 x 76 cm



Pastorale - trees and light IV 2018 gouache on paper 51 x 76 cm



Pastorale - trees and light I 2018 gouache on paper 51 x 76 cm



Pastorale - trees and light II 2018 gouache on paper 51 x 76 cm



White day at Walcha II 2018 oil on canvas 140 x 185 cm

Ross Laurie

Born 1961 Walcha

Studies

1986 Painting: Victorian College Prahm, Melbourne
 1985 Newcastle Polytechnic, UK
 1984 Foundation Course, St Martins School of Arts, London
 1983 Mitchell College, Bathurst
 1982 Visual Art, Sydney College of the Arts

Solo exhibitions

2018 *New paintings and works on paper* King Street Gallery on William, Sydney
 2016 *New Paintings and Works on Paper* King Street Gallery on William
 2014 *New Paintings* King Street Gallery on William
 2011 *Paintings and Works on Paper* Scott Livesey Gallery, Melbourne
Paintings Damien Minton Gallery, Sydney
 2010 *Paintings and Works on Paper* Damien Minton Gallery
 2009 Damien Minton Gallery, Sydney
 Moree Plains Regional Gallery
 2008 Damien Minton Gallery
 2007 Damien Minton Gallery
 2006 Damien Minton Gallery
 2005 Damien Minton Gallery
Wrestles with Landscape New England Regional Art Museum, NSW
 2002 Damien Minton Gallery, Newcastle
 1999 Coventry Gallery, Sydney
 1998 Old School Gallery, Walcha
 1997 Coventry Gallery
 1996 Coventry Gallery
 1995 Coventry Gallery
 1994 Coventry Gallery
 1993 William Mora Galleries, Melbourne
 1992 New England Art Museum
 1991 Tamworth City Gallery, NSW
 William Mora Galleries, Melbourne
 Ben Grady Gallery, Canberra
 1990 Linden Gallery, Melbourne
 1988 Girgis and Klym Gallery, Melbourne
 1981 Tamworth City Gallery

Group exhibitions [selected]

2018 *Salient, Contemporary Artists at the Western Front* National travelling exhibition
Salon des Refusés S.H. Ervin Gallery, Sydney

2017 *Salon des Refusés* S.H. Ervin Gallery

2016 Finalist *Wynne Prize* Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
Salon des Refusés Mornington Peninsula Regional Art Gallery, Vic
Paint My Place Coffs Harbour Regional Gallery, NSW

2015 *Paddington Art Prize* [WINNER]
The Piano has been Drinking [Not Me] Maitland Regional Art Gallery, NSW
Salon des Refusés S.H. Ervin Gallery

2014 *The Dobell Drawing Biennale* Art Gallery of New South Wales

2013 *Walcha City of Art* Walcha Gallery of Art, NSW
Last but not Least King Street Gallery on William
Parliament Plein Air Painting Prize Parliament House, Sydney, NSW
Packsaddle New England Regional Art Museum, NSW
Salon des Refusés S.H. Ervin Gallery

2012-14 *In Two* Art S.H. Ervin Gallery and touring

2012 *Not the Way Home: 13 Artists Paint the Desert* S.H. Ervin Gallery, Sydney and touring nationally
Melbourne Art Fair Damien Minton Gallery and Artist Profile stands
Salon des Refusés S.H. Ervin Gallery
Big Picture Show King Street Gallery on William
Landscape Show Defiance Gallery, Sydney
Five Bells Damien Minton Gallery
Dobell Prize for Drawing Art Gallery of New South Wales
Salon des Refusés S.H. Ervin Gallery

2011 *Works on Paper Award* Hazelhurst Regional Gallery, Gympie, NSW

2010-11 *Ross Laurie + David McBride : recent works* Tamworth Regional Gallery and touring to Dubbo Regional Gallery and New England Regional Art Museum

2010 *Dobell Prize for Drawing* Art Gallery of New South Wales
Melbourne Art Fair

2009 *Works on Paper Award* Hazelhurst Regional Gallery
New England Views New England Regional Art Museum
Same Place, Many Views Defiance Gallery
Salon des Refusés S.H. Ervin Gallery

2008 Melbourne Art Fair, Damien Minton Gallery
Paddington Art Prize (winner of the COFA Print Award)

2008 *North South East West* Damien Minton Gallery

2007 *Salon des Refusés* S.H. Ervin Gallery

2006 *Salon des Refusés* S.H. Ervin Gallery
Regional Encounters Tamworth City Gallery
Walcha – City of Art, Gallery Karlovy Vary, Ostrov, Czech Republic
Same Place Different Views Defiance Gallery

2005 *The Year in Art* S.H. Ervin Gallery
(Going) Out There Ivan Dougherty Gallery, COFA, UNSW
Country Energy Art Prize Coffs Harbour Regional Gallery and NSW Parliament House

2004 *England Picture* New England Regional Art Museum
Hazelhurst Work on Paper Award Hazelhurst Regional Gallery

2003 *Surface Memories* Tamworth City Gallery
Country Energy Art Prize New England Regional Art Museum
Walcha – City of Art, New Contemporaries Gallery, Sydney
Melbourne Art Fair Bryan Hooper Gallery, Sydney

2000 *Coventry Diary* Coventry Gallery, Sydney

1999 *Coventry Diary* Coventry Gallery, Sydney

1998 *Salon des Refusés* S.H. Ervin Gallery

1995 *Salon des Refusés* S.H. Ervin Gallery

1991 Syme Dodson Gallery, Sydney

1989 *Drawings* William Mora Galleries, Melbourne
New Art Melbourne Ivan Dougherty, Sydney

1988 *Gallery Artists* Girgis and Klym Gallery, Melbourne
Moet and Chandon Touring Exhibition

1987 *Moet and Chandon* Touring Exhibition

1982 *New England Artists* Tamworth City Gallery





Looking west 2018 oil on canvas 115 x 140 cm



On the stock route 2018 oil on canvas 140 x 170 cm



From Bob's Reserve IV 2018 gouache on paper 31 x 44.5 cm



From Bob's Reserve I 2018 gouache on paper 31 x 44.5 cm



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