



NOT THE WAY HOME

Desert Paintings

What you see above is one of the long roads through the Barrier Ranges where in May this year ARTIST PROFILE, in partnership with renowned international paint company Winsor & Newton, took a group of 13 well known Australian artists. We bundled them into a mini-van and drove some 1,100km west of Sydney, past Broken Hill and onto the University of New South Wales' Arid Zone Research Station in Fowlers Gap.



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The brief for the touring artists was to explore the landscape and respond. What might seem, at first thought, a simple task, the vast landscape of Australia's arid desert was a new and unknown territory for many of the artists, presenting them with visual and conceptual challenges to navigate. ARTIST PROFILE embarked on this project to observe the artists' journey from leaving the comfort of their studios, out into the desert, and back again as they prepare for a full scale touring exhibition—beginning at the S.H. Ervin Gallery, Sydney in May 2012.

In conjunction with ABC Open, the project launched an interactive blog where the artists contributed on a daily basis, sharing their experiences, by way of video and sound bite interviews as well as presenting artworks as they were created.

We will be documenting these experiences in further depth here in the pages of ARTIST PROFILE Issue 18, available next February 2012, which will look closely at each artist's experience and their response to the tour, the landscape and their personal journeys back in their studios.

Artists include: Guy Warren, Alan Jones, Amanda Penrose-Hart, Jennifer Keeler-Milne, Ross Laurie, Merran Esson, Euan Macleod, Margaret Ackland, Peter Sharpe, Elisabeth Cummings, Steve Lopes, and Idris Murphy.

Writer and journalist James Compton accompanied the tour. His words will continue to be updated regularly on the project blog and it will be his story that will capture the essence of our outback adventure in future issues.

Not the Way Home: Desert Painting will tour regional galleries between 2012-2013.

www.notthewayhome.tumblr.com
www.artistprofile.com.au

01 Amanda Penrose-Hart
 02 Elisabeth Cummings

The only way to really get to know the subtleties of the landscape is to walk through it. Loose rocks and angry, thorny bushes force you to look closely at the compositional elements. Marks of erosion run ragged through this wilderness, over evolutionary millennia only the strongest, the toughest, the hardest plants survive. Following the stratified sediment down the sides of a dry watercourse near the main dam of the property, the layers of this land are revealed in the cutaway banks.

James Compton

