

# Land of wonder



**Elisabeth Cummings**  
*Mountains at Dusk*, 2012, oil on canvas  
Courtesy of King Street Gallery on William, Sydney



**Michael Leunig**  
*Nature Spirit*, 2013, acrylic on canvas  
"Australia Day may well be for the people yet celebrities and leaders crowd the stage as always. So where are the delightful eccentrics, the odd bright ones, the peculiar natural spirits of this land? They are there - somewhere - and thank goodness for that."  
● A hand-signed fine art limited-edition reproduction of this artwork can be purchased from [canberratimes.com.au/art](http://canberratimes.com.au/art)



**Pam Tippet**  
*Pumpkin with knife*, 2013, oil on linen on board  
Courtesy of Australian Galleries, Sydney and Melbourne  
● A hand-signed fine art limited-edition reproduction of this artwork can be purchased from [canberratimes.com.au/art](http://canberratimes.com.au/art)



**Jenny Bell**  
*Shedding Light No. 22*, 2011, oil on plantation hoop pine  
"It is also the day we remember how irrevocably we have altered this continent. Amid the triumphs, there are the scars."  
Courtesy of Australian Galleries, Sydney and Melbourne  
● A hand-signed fine art limited-edition reproduction of this artwork can be purchased from [canberratimes.com.au/art](http://canberratimes.com.au/art)



**Peter Hadjimichael**  
*After the Fires, Yellow Rock, Blue Mountains*, 2013, Ciglee print, edition of five  
"Burnt but not destroyed, the cicadas demonstrate nature's true resilience."  
**Chris O'Doherty (aka Reg Mombassa)**  
*Gumscape with Stars and Planets*, coloured pencil on paper  
"A stand of genetically modified ghost gums enjoy the songs of the night birds and the subtle aroma of the moon flowers while bathed in the icy blue light of the Milky Way."  
Courtesy of Watters Gallery, Sydney  
● A hand-signed fine art limited-edition reproduction of this artwork can be purchased from [canberratimes.com.au/art](http://canberratimes.com.au/art)



**John Peart**  
*Night Clouds II*, 2013, oil on board  
"If I see something inspiring, my first thought is can I do something like that ... my surroundings have a way of finding a way into my work."  
Courtesy of Watters Gallery, Sydney

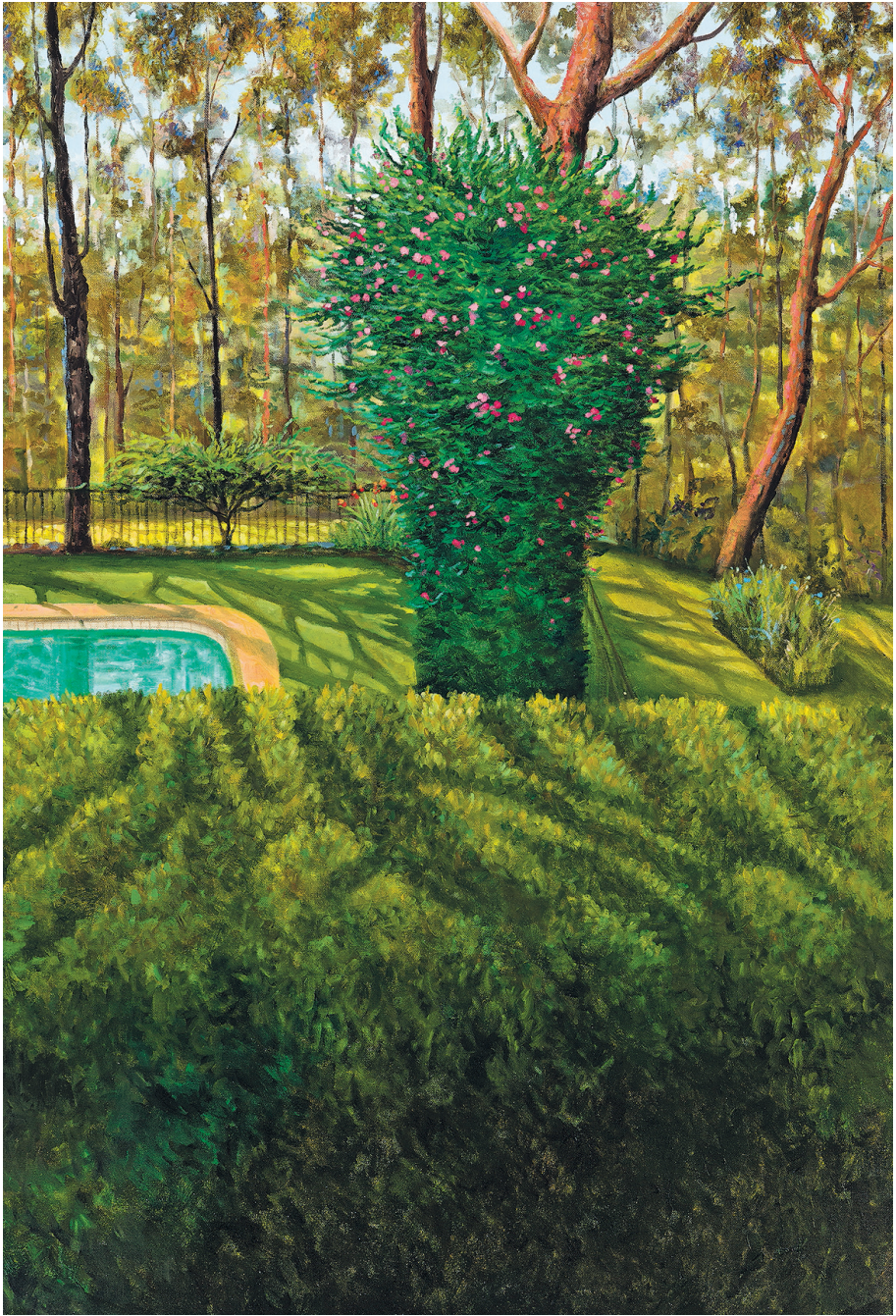


**Mandy Martin**  
*Cool burn at Paruku*, 2013, pigment and oil on linen  
"Australia Day for me should be about closing chapters of Australian history after due acknowledgement of those histories and moving onto new shared histories. *Cool burn at Paruku* records the healthy cleansing of this landscape in the Tanami Desert which was ceremonially handed back to the Walmajarri traditional owners by Commonwealth Act in recent times."  
Courtesy of Australian Galleries, Sydney and Melbourne



**G.W. Bot**  
*Glyphs - between worlds*, 2012, linocut on Korean Hanji paper ed 10  
"A good day to plant a glyph."  
Courtesy of Australian Galleries, Sydney and Melbourne

**Leo Robba**  
*Camellia Head, Blue Pool and Shadows*, 2013, oil on canvas,  
"A garden can say it all ... the European, the introduced, sitting up against the native flora. New arrivals, constantly being planted, shaped, then setting seed and gradually changing what we see."  
Courtesy of King Street Gallery on William, Sydney



## Shared horizons

From Bungendore to Bombala, from the Blue Mountains to the Kimberley, we can look through the eyes of the 11 artists represented on these pages and share what it means to be Australian. In choosing this year's theme, "Australian Wonder", we hoped to encapsulate the spirit of this nation as a place but also allow each artist the freedom to express their individual response to this country's astonishing diversity. Australian Wonder is a collection of our artists' very distinct visions and of how they understand and picture our national character.

The *Canberra Times* is proud to be able to feature Tim Storrier, regarded by many as one of this country's most renowned landscape artists. Since winning the Sulman Prize in 1968 at age 19, Storrier has gone on to forge a highly successful career by pursuing his unique vision of this country's landscape. Storrier's trademark big skies hovering above endless horizons set the stage to project the artist's preoccupation with the four elements - earth, air, fire and water. These are evident in the beautiful cover image especially commissioned and painted for this year's front page.

We also feature a work by artist John Peart, who earlier last year had kindly agreed to participate in the Australia Day project. Sadly, on October 10, 2013, John died at the age of 67. By way of honouring his passing and as a way of paying tribute to his life and art, I felt it fitting to reproduce a picture that John painted just before his death. He was a dear friend, a teacher and mentor to numerous artists and, in the opinion of many, one of Australia's finest and certainly most inventive abstract painters.

Again this year we feature one of our regular favourites, the irreverent, and some may even say iconic, Chris O'Doherty (aka Reg Mombassa), whose typically surreal vision, *Gumscape with Stars and Planets*, depicts a metamorphic night scene of gum trees with eyes. It is hard to know what colonial artist John Glover, often attributed with being the first European artist to "truly capture the gum" would make of Mombassa's art but I am sure I could be safe in saying that we have a different vision of this country from when Glover sailed into the mouth of the Tamar River in 1831.

We hope you enjoy this year's selection of artists' work.

Leo Robba, artist and curator

**CELEBRATORY EXHIBITION**  
An exhibition of these works and others by these artists will be on view at Australian Galleries

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