

# Amanda Penrose Hart

Un bel dì vedremo; One fine day we'll see

Giacomo Puccini, 1904

1 – 26 October 2019



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: Macquarie Lighthouse 2019 oil on canvas 90 x 240 cm (detail)

Opposite: Studio, Sofala, NSW Photography: Gary Grealy









## Place and Idea: On Amanda Penrose Hart's Landscapes

#### Dr. Andrew Frost

The American writer Samuel R. Delaney strove for what he termed a 'resonance between idea and landscape'. In Delaney's work character and place echoed one another, mere setting becoming integral to understanding not just motivation and action, but also meaning. What Delaney understood is that every landscape tells us a story. The rise of ground that lifts up to meet a line of trees, or the play of clouds across the rise and fall of hills, or the arc of a lonely road across a dusty expanse, every iteration of land and space tells a unique tale.

Amanda Penrose Hart's pictures capture that sense of strange familiarity we have with place – we sense it perhaps more than know it, yet its emotional resonance is acute. We are continually drawn back to a landscape that's taken from life.

Hart's canvases depict landscapes around New South Wales, some near to her studio in Sofala, others around the central west of the state, others in the Southern Highlands near Canberra and Lake George. Penrose Hart is an en plain air painter, driving around in search of a location, using her instinct rather than a GPS to guide her, always on the look out for a scene that's compelling enough to make her stop and set up her large-scale canvases.

What transpires then is a record, a capturing of the intimate stories of those landscapes, the surfaces worked and fashioned into something close to a finished state. The paintings are then put into the back of Hart's ute, and driven back to the studio where layers of dust, insects and other debris accumulated in the oil paint are carefully removed. Sometimes more work is done on the pictures, other times very little is changed, the works then framed, destined for the gallery.

What first captures us in these pictures is the familiarity of place – the hard tumble of rocks and eroded banks of creeks and rivers, the sparse ground under high altitude

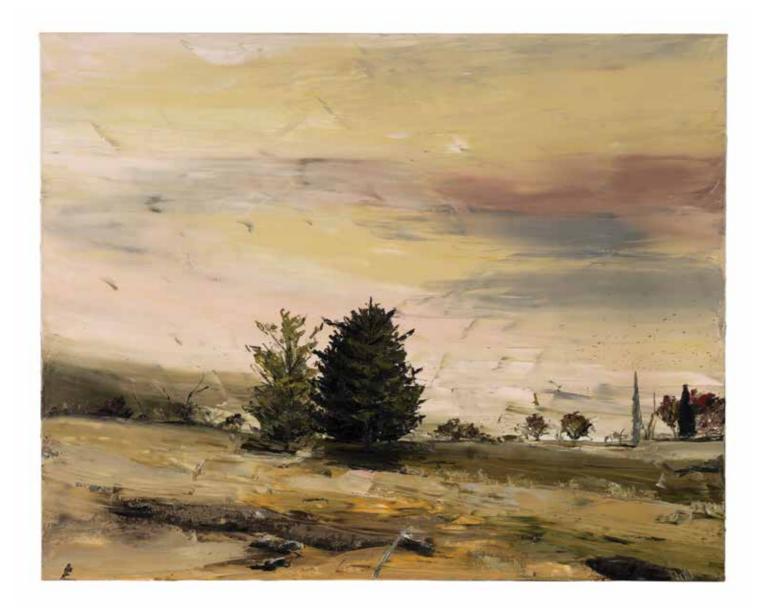
forests, or the vast stretch of sky over flat farm and grazing lands. But what keeps us in these pictures isn't so much knowing the landscape, but rather sensing that a story hidden within these works might be unraveled from their details.

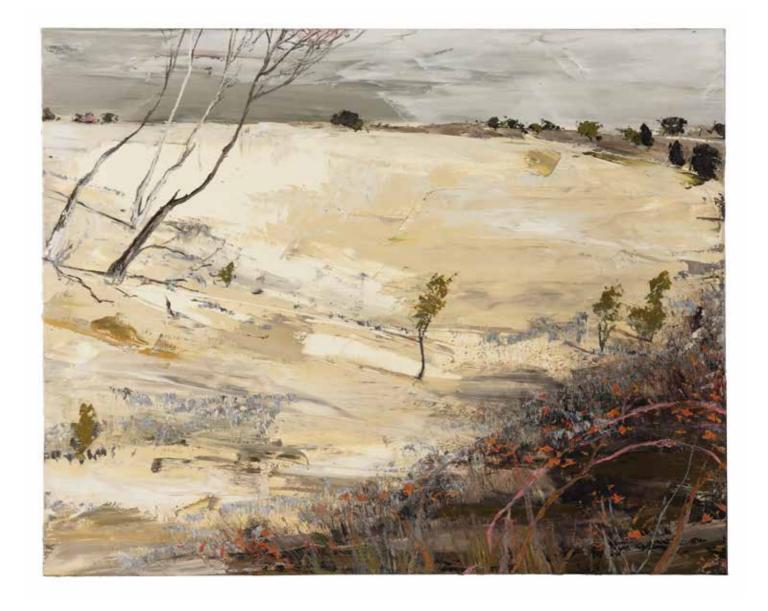
Returning to these places for her paintings for more than a decade, Penrose Hart has produced a body of work that records the matter-of-fact existence of these landscapes in their shifting season and climate, from summer to winter, from heat to cold, from abundance to drought. This is the story of the work: the play of light on the land, the life that is found there, and the choices made by the artist in her selection of subject and framing.

The surprise of Penrose Hart's painting is that it feels so homely, so knowable, and yet it remains seductive in its ease. But the idea here, the one that resonates with this viewer, is that a moment of contemplation is captured within the picture, and it's one that can be revisited every

time you look at the work. The consequence of these pictures is that we know these places, and that frisson of recognition is immensely pleasurable. It's a sense of knowing, but it's also one of truthfulness that's immensely affecting for the soul.

Dr. Andrew Frost is a writer, critic and documentary maker. Since 2004, he has been the editor of The Art Life, and the art critic for Guardian Australia since 2013. He is the writer and presenter of more than dozen documentaries on Australian contemporary art for ABC1, and he directed and co-produced the documentaries My Space Program: The Art of Peter Hennessey [2016] and The Grand Mistake: A Portrait of Mclean Edwards [2017].





Briarwood Lane 2019 oil on linen 120 x 153 cm









8 Lighthouse 2019 oil on board 30 x 40 cm Sapphire Beach 2019 oil on canvas 31 x 42 cm One fine day we'll see 2019 oil on canvas 40 x 40 cm





10 Summer II 2019 oil on linen 120 x 153 cm 1



Macquarie Lighthouse 2019 oil on canvas 90 x 240 cm





TOP **Dusk** 2019 oil on board 14 x 180 cm 15











18 Edge of the lake 2019 oil on canvas 42 x 31 cm Purple skies 2019 oil on canvas 38 x 51 cm Purple skies 2019 oil on canvas 38 x 51 cm







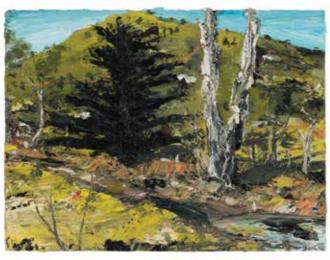


TOP LEFT *Capertee* 2017 oil on board 20 x 30 cm
TOP RIGHT *Newcastle* 2017 oil on board 40 x 40 cm
BELOW *The lighthouse Bruny* 2019 oil on board 14 x 92 cm



From the top, Palm Beach 2019 oil on canvas 90 x 240 cm







**Grampians II** 2019 oil on canvas 40 x 53 cm **Toogoolawa** 2019 oil on board 30 x 40 cm 2019 oil on canvas 90 x 120 cm





**Murray Darling** 2019 oil on canvas 90 x 120 cm 2



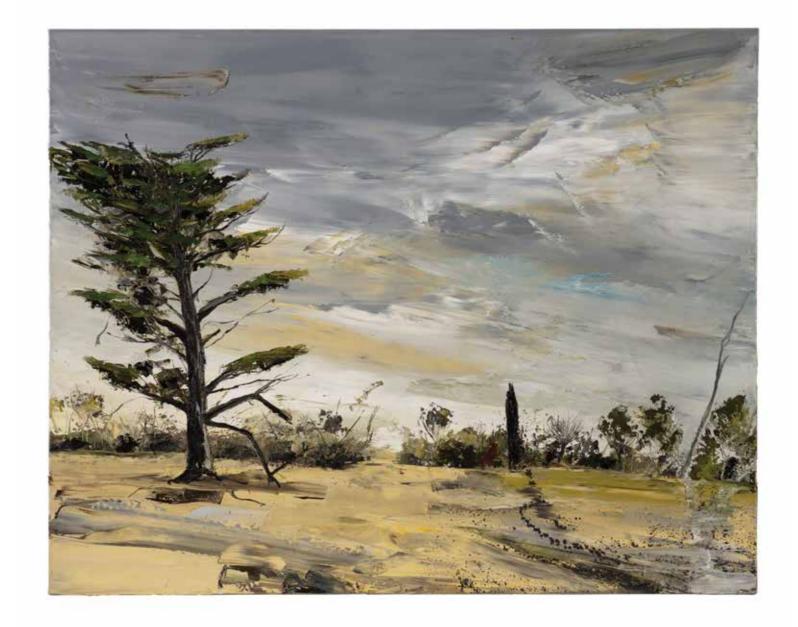


**Rain coming** 2019 oil on canvas 120 x 153 cm









**Summerlands** 2019 oil on canvas 100 x 180 cm 33





TOP Sheep Station Point 2019 oil on board 14 x 180 cm



# Amanda Penrose Hart

**Born** 1963 Brisbane, Qld, Australia

Studies

1981-83 Diploma Fine Art, Queensland College of Art, Brisbane 1989-91 Bachelor of Visual Art, Griffith University, Brisbane

### Solo exhibitions [selected]

Un bel dì vedremo King Street Gallery on William, Sydney 2019 2018 Beautiful one day perfect the next Mitchell Fine Art, Brisbane 2017 High Tide King Street Gallery on William New Paintings Redot Gallery, Singapore 2015 Coast King Street Gallery on William 2014 Acid Free works on paper show, King Street Gallery on William Manly: Somewhere on the Australian Coast Manly Art Gallery & Museum, Sydney 2013 Manly: Somewhere on the Australian Coast King Street Gallery on William 2011 New Paintings King Street Gallery on William 2009 Livin' Green King Street Gallery on William Green it up Kristian Pithie Gallery, Melbourne Caravans in the Mist Bathurst Regional Art Gallery, Bathurst, NSW New Paintings King Street Gallery on William 2007 New Paintings King Street Gallery on William 2005

#### Collections

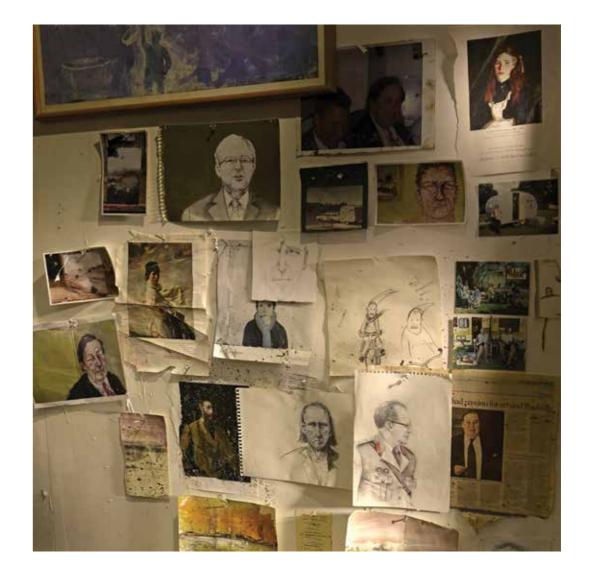
Allens Arthur Robinson Lawyers, Sydney Hawkesbury Regional Art Gallery, NSW AMP, Brisbane Macquarie Bank, Australia & UK Anglican Greater Schools Collection, Brisbane Maitland Regional Gallery Manly Art Gallery & Museum Artbank, Australia Australia Club, Sydney NSW Bar Association Australia Club, Melbourne Outback Art Inc., Qld Australian National Maritime Museum, Sydney Parliament House, Canberra Redcliffe Regional Gallery, QLD Australia National University, Drill Hall Gallery Bathurst Regional Art Gallery, NSW Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane Sydney University Art Collection Brisbane Polo Club Clayton UTZ Collection, Sydney Taronga Park Zoo Coffs Harbour Regional Gallery The Gallipoli Club Gold Coast City Art Gallery, Qld Thomas National Transport, Brisbane

### Full CV available at www.kingstreetgallery.com

www.amandapenrosehart.com.au
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Studio photos: Gary Grealy Artwork photos: Michael Bradfield, Roller Photography

