



Lucy Culliton  
Cambalong Creek



# Lucy Culliton

## Cambalong Creek

19 April – 14 May 2022

King Street Gallery   
on William

10am – 6pm Tuesday – Saturday  
177-185 William St Darlinghurst NSW 2010 Australia  
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[www.kingstreetgallery.com.au](http://www.kingstreetgallery.com.au)

Front cover: Lucy painting, Cambalong Creek, NSW  
Photography: Charlie Maslin





*Cambalong Creek Flowing into Gunningrah* 2021 oil on canvas 183 x 245 cm  
\$48,000 incl gst





*Second Pool in Moores, Winter* 2021 oil on canvas 183 x 183 cm  
\$42,000 incl gst



Cambalong Creek spills and gurgles for 16 kilometres through the paddocks of Gunningrah, the sheep and cattle property owned and run by the Maslin family for 110 years in the Monaro region of NSW.

Cambalong Creek is in the Snowy River catchment. Where it flows through Gunningrah, willows line the banks. Platypuses live among the reeds and swim in deep pools along its course.

Lucy Culliton has been painting the creek on Gunningrah for the last three years, setting up her easel in all weathers. She worked in roaring, dusty winds while the drought wore on. When it broke, she worked knee-high in fresh grass.

In this exhibition Lucy pays homage to Cambalong Creek in all its seasons and rugged beauty.

But the creek, which sparkles with good health in many of these paintings, was not always idyllic. Current owner Charlie Maslin remembers the 1980s when it was “pretty much a barren wasteland, and just continuing to erode”.

Cambalong Creek is now the healthiest part of Gunningrah, thanks to Charlie’s adoption of regenerative farming techniques including the “leaky weirs” he has constructed at various points along the creek.

The weirs decelerate the water’s flow. Precious rains no longer turn Cambalong Creek into a torrent of water, washing away the soil’s nutrients and damaging the banks.

Instead, the creek is a lot less hurried than it used to be. More tranquil, it has formed a series of deep ponds along its course where wildlife live and breed.

Sediment falls to the creek bed after rain, improving the soil on Gunningrah as well as the water quality downstream.

In 2007 when Lucy moved to Bibbenluke, 20 minutes’ drive from Gunningrah along dirt roads, it was a kind of coming home. Born and bred in Sydney, Lucy had fallen under the spell of the Monaro as a child when her family lived for a year on a friend’s farm in Ando.

Once she was based in Bibbenluke, it wasn’t long before Lucy met Charlie who is an art lover as well as a farmer. Lucy witnessed Charlie’s regenerative farming practice while riding through his paddocks, and a new series of paintings came to mind.

“That was really my ambition, to paint his good land management,” Lucy says.

All the paintings in the series are of Cambalong Creek where it runs through Gunningrah. Lucy began work on the series in 2019, when the region was deep in drought. The Bombala River that flows through her own property had dried up, leaving “manky” ponds with algal bloom. Cambalong Creek, however, was weathering the drought in much better shape.

“Even though the creek wasn’t flowing, the ponds still held great volumes of water,” Lucy says.

“Charlie had reeds and birds and lovely grasses down to the edges, because of the water content.”



While some farms in the district remained fully stocked with animals in poor condition during the drought, Charlie had sent his cattle for agistment elsewhere. He herded his sheep into one paddock where he hand-fed them, preventing them from trampling the scant grass on the rest of the property.

Lucy began her Cambalong Creek series in more hardship than just drought. Her beloved parents Stephanie and Tony Culliton died just days apart as 2019 turned into 2020.

At the same time, NSW was ablaze with bushfires.

"It was smoky here for months. It was extremely dry and dusty so we had dust in the air all the time," Lucy says.

The drought broke in the Monaro in the winter of 2020. Lucy and Charlie celebrated the rain with a beer as they stood beside Cambalong Creek and watched it starting to flow again.

"We went to Charlie's boundary to watch it come. We were jumping across it," Lucy says.

With the rain came a "lovely green velvet blush over everything". Next came colourful thistles and weeds before the grasses took control and started growing. At time of writing, Gunningrah is lush and plentiful.

During the drought, Charlie saw his property in a different light as he stood beside Lucy's easel overlooking the creek. (Lucy paints studies en plein air, but makes her larger works in the studio.)

"As a farmer, droughts are horrible. But [watching Lucy paint] opened my eyes as to what beauty there was," Charlie says.

A keen drone photographer, Charlie took aerial pictures of Lucy while she worked. He also captured her from the ground as she painted on the banks of Cambalong Creek, surrounded by her pack of happy dogs.

"I just love the way Lucy paints the rocks, the grass, the water. She gets the skies. She really does this landscape unbelievable justice," Charlie says.

"It's a beautiful thing to see. I regard it as a great privilege that she wants to come and paint here, and it's just lovely to share time with her. It's great fun."

Elizabeth Fortescue 2022



*Windmill Hole, Looking East, Late Autumn, Front Paddock* 2020  
oil on board 55 x 70 cm  
\$7,500 incl gst





*Top End, Platypus Hole, in Flood Looking East, Moores* 2021  
oil on board 40 x 40 cm  
\$5,500 incl gst



*Bottom End, Platypus Hole, in Flood Looking West* 2021  
oil on board 40 x 40 cm  
\$5,500 incl gst





*Top End, Platypus Hole, in Flood Looking East* 2021 oil on canvas 137 x 137 cm  
\$28,000 incl gst





*The Boundary Hole at Whelans* 2022 oil on canvas 137 x 137 cm  
\$28,000 incl gst





*Windmill Hole in South Paddock, Looking South West* 2021 oil on board 80 x 80 cm  
\$10,000 incl gst





*Flatypus Pool* 2021 oil on canvas 183 x 183 cm (detail)  
\$42,000 incl gst

Photography: Roller Photography





*Bottom End, Platypus Hole in Flood, Looking West* 2021 oil on canvas 137 x 137 cm  
\$28,000 incl gst





*Dry Times in the Bullock Paddock, Beside Machinery Hole, Looking South* 2019 oil on board 55 x 70 cm  
\$7,500 incl gst





*Lower Front Paddock in the Dry* 2022 oil on canvas 137 x 137 cm  
\$28,000 incl gst





*Below the Cliff at Bottom Bullock* 2022 oil on canvas 137 x 137 cm  
\$28,000 incl gst





Lucy painting near Cambalong Creek, NSW  
Photography: Charlie Maslin





*Platypus Hole, Stormy Weather, Looking North West* 2021 oil on canvas 137 x 137 cm  
\$28,000 incl gst





Lucy & dogs in the studio, Bibbenluke, NSW

Photography: Riste Andrievski





*Windmill Hole in Front Paddock* 2019 oil on board 60 x 60 cm  
\$7,200 incl gst



*Bottom Bullock, Looking North During the Fires* 2020  
oil on board 60 x 60 cm  
\$7,200 incl gst





*Windmill Hole in Front Paddock, Looking South West* 2021  
oil on canvas 183 x 183 cm (detail)  
\$42,000 incl gst

Photography: Roller Photography





*Cambalong Creek Flowing into Gunningrah* 2021 oil on board 55 x 70 cm  
\$7,500 incl gst





*Whelans, Looking East* 2020 oil on board 70 x 55 cm  
\$7,500 incl gst





*North Moores, Looking West Towards the Big Bend* 2022 oil on canvas 137 x 137 cm  
\$28,000 incl gst





*Moore's Platypus Hole, Looking North* 2021 oil on board 55 x 70 cm  
\$7,500 incl gst



*North Moores, Looking West Towards the Big Bend 2* 2021 oil on board 60 x 75cm  
\$8,500 incl gst





*Below the Cliff in Bottom Bullock* 2021 oil on board 80 x 80 cm  
\$10,000 incl gst





*Second Pool in Moores, Lone Gum in the Basalt Plains, Looking West Towards Wombat Village, Summer* 2019  
oil on board 80 x 80 cm  
\$10,000 incl gst





*Second Pool in Moores, Looking West Towards Wombat Village* 2021 oil on board 80 x 80 cm  
\$10,000 incl gst





*Windmill Hole, Late Afternoon, Looking East, Front Paddock* 2020 oil on canvas 137 x 137 cm  
\$28,000 incl gst





Lucy painting, Cambalong Creek, NSW  
Photography: Charlie Maslin





*Att Waters, Looking West Towards Bottom Bullock* 2020  
oil on board 55 x 70 cm  
\$7,500 incl gst



*Cherry Trees at Moores, Below Old Shepherds Hut* 2021  
oil on board 55 x 70 cm  
\$7,500 incl gst



*Windmill Hole in Front Paddock, Looking due North* 2019  
oil on board 55 x 70 cm  
\$7,500 incl gst



*The Boundary Hole at Whelans 2* 2022  
oil on board 55 x 70 cm  
\$7,500 incl gst





Lucy's studio, Bibbenluke, NSW

Photography: Riste Andrievski



# Lucy Culliton

## Born

1966 Sydney, NSW, Australia

## Solo Exhibitions [selected]

- 2022 *Cambalong Creek* King Street Gallery on William, Sydney  
2020 *Bibbenluke Spring* Beaver Galleries, Canberra, ACT  
Jan Murphy Gallery, Brisbane  
2019 *Bibbenluke botanicals* King Street Gallery on William, Sydney  
2018 *Caution wet paint* NERAM, Armidale, NSW  
2017 *Bibbenluke Menagerie* Jan Murphy Gallery, Brisbane  
*Residents of Bibbenluke Lodge* King Street Gallery on William, Sydney  
*Our Animals Lucy and Anna Culliton* Tamworth Regional Art Gallery, NSW  
2016 *Our Animals* Beaver Galleries, Canberra  
2014 *Weeds of the Monaro & Others* Ray Hughes Gallery, Sydney  
*Eye of the Beholder: The Art of Lucy Culliton* Mosman Art Gallery, Sydney  
2012 *Bibbenluke Flowers* Ray Hughes Gallery, Sydney  
2011 *Home* Ray Hughes Gallery, Sydney  
2009 *Bibbenluke* Ray Hughes Gallery, Sydney  
2008 *Stuff* Ray Hughes Gallery, Sydney  
2007 *The Show (domestic science)* Ray Hughes Gallery, Sydney

## Group Exhibitions [selected]

- 2021 *The Big Picture Show* King Street Gallery on William, Sydney  
*Archibald Prize* Art Gallery of New South Wales (AGNSW), Sydney  
*Sulman Prize* AGNSW  
2020 *Archibald Prize* AGNSW  
*Wynne Prize* AGNSW  
2019 *Inside/outside* King Street Gallery on William  
2018 *National Art: Part One* National Art School, Sydney  
*The Art of Friendship* Gallery Lane Cove, Sydney, NSW  
*Mosman Art Prize* Mosman Art Gallery, Sydney  
*Shirley Hannan National Portrait Award* Bega Valley Regional Gallery, NSW  
2017-18 *Sydney Contemporary* Beaver Galleries, Sydney  
*Archibald Prize* AGNSW and travelling:  
Geelong Gallery, Vic; Murray Art Museum Albury, NSW;  
Grafton Regional Art Gallery, NSW; Bega Valley Regional Gallery, NSW;  
Hawkesbury Regional Art Gallery, NSW; Western Plains Cultural Centre, NSW  
*Wynne Prize* AGNSW  
2017 *Self Portraits* King Street Gallery on William  
*Artist Profile Australasian Painters* Orange Regional Gallery, NSW  
2016-17 *Archibald Prize* AGNSW and travelling: Art Gallery of Ballarat, Vic; Wagga Wagga Art Gallery, NSW;  
Cowra Regional Art Gallery, NSW; Bega Valley Regional Gallery, NSW;  
Hawkesbury Regional Art Gallery, NSW; Western Plains Cultural Centre, NSW  
2016 *Archibald Prize* AGNSW  
*Sulman Prize* AGNSW  
*Wynne Prize* AGNSW  
*The Popular Pet Show* National Portrait Gallery, Canberra



- 2014 *Efflorescent* Goulburn Regional Art Gallery, NSW  
*Lucy Land* Mosman Art Gallery, Sydney  
*So much more than a big sheep* Goulburn Regional Art Gallery, NSW
- 2013 *Three Australian Landscapes* The Hughes Gallery, Sydney  
*Life's a Beach* The Hughes Gallery, Sydney
- 2010 *Sulman Prize* AGNSW

### Collections

Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney  
 Australian Parliament House, Canberra  
 Gold Coast Arts Centre  
 Macquarie Bank, Australia  
 Mosman Art Gallery, Sydney  
 National Gallery of Australia, Canberra  
 New England Regional Art Museum  
 Queensland University Art Museum, Brisbane  
 Tamworth Regional Gallery, NSW  
 Waltzing Matilda Centre, Winton

Full CV & bibliography available on  
[kingstreetgallery.com.au](http://kingstreetgallery.com.au)



*Platypus Hole, Smoky Summer* 2020  
 oil on board 60 x 60 cm  
 \$7,200 incl gst



*Windmill Hole, Looking West Towards Stockyard* 2020  
 oil on board 55 x 70 cm  
 \$7,500 incl gst





*Lower Front Paddock in the Dry, Looking South* 2019  
oil on board 50 x 40 cm  
\$5,500 incl gst





Lucy painting, Cambalong Creek, NSW  
Photography: Charlie Maslin



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