

Epworth Geelong Exhibition:

Artist: **Karen Annett-Thomas**

exhibition title: ***Travelling South***

Dates: Commencement **Monday 17 October 2016**

End date **Friday 13th January 2017**

Artist Statement:

I am travelling south-west. It's been sixteen years since I moved away and I still say that I'm 'going home'. It's funny how home can be in both directions. In three hundred odd kilometres, I travel through three decades: back to playing in long damp grass with sisters, holidays in Portland and *those* mountains.

Now, I am a visitor. I experience south-west Victoria as a series of familiar spaces that open up and unfold as our car cuts through them. Big skies with heavy clouds, wind that is one hundred shades of white, shocks of canola, wattle and mountains that are blue.

While making these paintings in the vastly different conditions of my central Victorian studio, I think about the south. I draw on real places and real people, but only in the way that I remember them.

Karen Annett-Thomas

2016

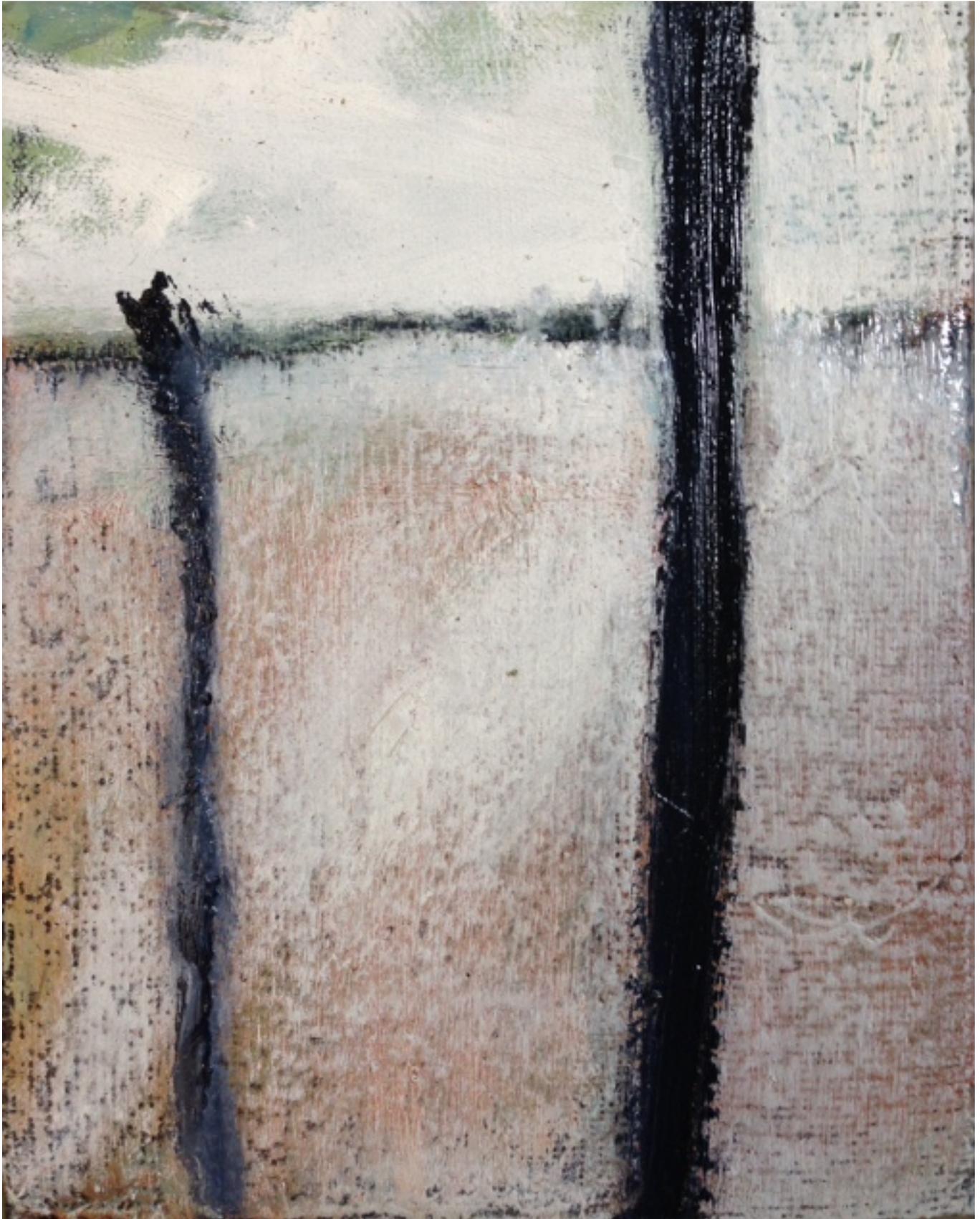
Artist Bio:

Karen Annett-Thomas is based in Bendigo, where she lives with her husband and four small boys. She grew up in Western Victoria and moved to Bendigo to study Painting and Drawing at La Trobe University in 2000. Since graduating, Karen has exhibited her work across Australia. In 2006, she was awarded the British Council's Mordant Visual Art award through which she undertook a studio-residency at Cell Studios in London.

In 2007 Karen completed her PhD in Visual Arts and continues her long-standing relationship with La Trobe as an Honorary Associate of the La Trobe Art Institute and at the La Trobe University Visual Arts Centre.

Karen was the recipient of the 2015 Bendigo Art Gallery 'Going Solo' Exhibition Award where she worked closely with curators to develop a new body of work presented in a solo exhibition at the prestigious Gallery. Epworth Healthcare has since acquired several works from this series for its collection.

In this exhibition Karen Annett-Thomas presents a series of expressive oil paintings that engage with her memories of growing up in south-west Victoria and her current dislocation from the region.



Winter Landscape Studies #3, 2016
Oil, Beeswax and Plaster on canvas