

Artist

LYNDALL BECK



Listening, etching, monoprint, drawing, 2018

Information from Lyndall Beck

The Hawkesbury River has so many moods: sunny childhood picnics at Apple Tree Bay; mozzies and sunsets vibrant pink orange; fishing for baby mullet in buckets; sailing with my father in his two-man boat, often capsizing among the mangroves. The sounds, briny smells, always watching the water patterns. Cutting my toes open on oyster shells, watching the blood seep into crab holes. Walking through damp ferns around the foreshore. Cockatoos wheeling through grey skies as heavy rain pelts into sage surfaces. So many memories.

Studying

- Lyndall Beck continues a long association between Australian Landscape painting and the Hawkesbury River. Artists such as Julian Ashton, Grace Cossington Smith, John Olsen and Elisabeth Cummings have interpreted the mood or atmosphere of this unique estuary environment over a long period of time. Compare the mood and atmosphere in Beck's artwork with a much earlier painting titled 'Sentry-box Reach, Hawkesbury River, New South Wales' 1886, by Julian Ashton.

<https://www.wikiart.org/en/julian-ashton/sentry-box-reach-hawkesbury-river-new-south-wales-1886>

Do the paintings convey a similar or different mood? What role is light playing to create a mood in each painting? In your opinion does the soft diffused light expressing a dark and disturbing mood or a more tranquil atmosphere?

- The history, ancestral connection and childhood memories of the Hawkesbury River are a rich source of inspiration for Beck's practice. The exploration of the river by early European settlers can be found in William Hall's photography.

<https://www.tracesmagazine.com.au/2013/11/a-countrys-lifeblood-tracing-the-historic-hawkesbury-river/>

Making

Think of your favourite outdoor place. Close your eyes and remember what it looks like as well as how it feels to there. What type of mood or atmosphere does it suggest: serene, calm, energetic, lively? Using ink and brush make a quick painted impression of your favourite place from memory that captures the mood.