

PRESS RELEASE and ARTIST'S STATEMENT

Sue MacLeod-Beere 11th April 2025

Upcoming Event:

Potts Point, Gathering Moss

Sue MacLeod-Beere and Mary Porter

8 - 24 May

Brenda Colahan Fine Art

<https://www.brendacolahanfineart.com/exhibitions/>

Artist Statement

Potts Point - Derrawunn, acknowledging the traditional owners and custodians, the Gadigal people. *I chose to paint Potts Point because it was the first place I called home upon arriving in Sydney, and I was immediately drawn to the area's distinctive Bohemian atmosphere. I lived on Orwell Street, and the striking Art Deco building at the top of the road —the Metro Minerva Theatre—became a significant part of my experience, offering a unique sense of place.*

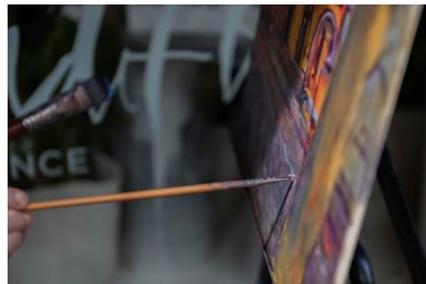
With this series whenever possible, I painted "en plein air", aiming to capture the vibrant sights of Potts Point and a few scenes from nearby Kings Cross. The challenge was to convey the pulse of life in this dynamic area in my work. My interactions with locals—listening to their stories and learning about the neighbourhood—added another layer to my creative journey. I uncovered fascinating histories, from Ginger Rogers dancing at the Metro-Minerva Theatre to the intrigue of Russian espionage - the Petrov Affair.

The Yellow House was the first painting I embarked on, and I returned four times to complete it, setting up my easel across the road from the iconic building. I painted beside a beautifully curated antique shop, with a florist next door, which always displayed exotic flowers on a table outside, creating a Parisian-like atmosphere.

Each painting begins with a small sketch to establish the composition, followed by oil painting on canvas or board. I like the chaotic nature of my initial brushwork, enjoying the abstract elements that naturally emerge during the process. I aim to keep the vitality of these marks in the final version.

Peter Sheridan's book, *Sydney Art Deco and Modernist Walks: Potts Point and Elizabeth Bay*, provided invaluable insight into the area, and I was fortunate enough to meet the author while working on the Yellow House painting.

Sue MacLeod-Beere, April 2025



Sue Macleod-Beere b. 1956- New Zealand, Lives and works in Sydney, Australia

Represented by

Brenda Colahan Fine Art Sydney, Australia and
Edward Montgomery Fine Art, Carmel-by-the-Sea California
USA

BA(Hons) Ravensbourne College of Art and Design (UK) and winner of a John Olsen Scholarship.
Winner of the Hunters Hill 2020 Art Prize and the Nora Heysen Award twice (2016, 2012).
Finalist for Gallipoli Art Prize (2025, 2023, 2022, 2020), Ravenswood Women's Art Prize (2020), KAAF (2023)
and Mosman Art Prize (2014).

Three paintings are part of a memorial concert in Villers-Bretonneux, France commemorating Anzac Day 2025.

Her work has been used on the sets of three TV series including Wakefield (2021) and in international
collections including Dr Charles Edel the Australia Chair in Washington DC.

Sue MacLeod Beere's oil paintings begin with energetic, expressive brushwork, embracing the chaos and
abstract elements that naturally emerge in the early stages. Her challenge lies in preserving the vitality of that
first impression while exploring the subtleties of the subject to uncover the story within. Working directly from
life whenever possible, Sue places a strong emphasis on plein air painting, where immediacy and atmosphere
play a central role in her process.

She is drawn to scenes around Sydney, ranging from the emotionally charged buildings of Callan Park to
humble suburban streets that have some appealing quirk or light falling in a dynamic way. Through her work,
Sue aims to preserve the spontaneity of her initial marks, allowing them to inform and energise the final
composition.

Selected Finalist

2025 Gallipoli Art Prize, Sydney
2024 Hunters Hill Art Exhibition
2024 Lethbridge 20000 Small Scale Art Award
2023 KAAF Prize, Sydney
2023 Gallipoli Art Prize
2023 Lethbridge 20000 Small Scale Art Award
2023 Hunters Hill Art Exhibition
2022 Hornsby Art Show, Sydney NSW
2022 Lethbridge Small Scale Art Award online, QLD
2021 Gallipoli Art Prize Exhibition, Sydney NSW
2021 Lethbridge Small Scale Art Award online, QLD
2021 Camelback Gallery online exhibition USA
2021 Yosemite Sierra Artists online exhibition USA
2021 American Art Awards, Portrait USA
2020 Hunters Hill CommunitART Exhibition
2020 Ravenswood Women's Prize
2020 Gallipoli Art Prize
2019 Hunters Hill Art Show
2018 Little Things Art Prize, Saint Cloche Gallery
2017 Hunters Hill Art Show
2017 Eutick Memorial Still Life Award, Wollongong



2016 Hunters Hill Art Show
2015 Eutick Memorial Still Life Award, Coffs Harbour
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2014 Mosman Art Show
2014 Hunters Hill Art Show
2013 Hunters Hill Art Show
2012 Hunters Hill Art Show
2011 Hunters Hill Art Show
2010 Hunters Hill Art Show

Prize Winner

2024 Minted Brushwork Challenge USA
2022 American Art Awards, USA
2021 Camelback Gallery online exhibition Bronze Award USA
2021 Yosemite Sierra Artists online exhibition Honorary Award USA
2021 American Art Awards, Joint 5th Self Portrait Section USA
2020 Winner Hunters Hill CommunitART Exhibition
2016 Nora Heysen Award, Hunters Hill Art Show
2012 Nora Heysen Award, Hunters Hill Art Show
2012 Philip Muskett Landscape Prize

Exhibitions

2025 Potts Point, Gathering Moss, Brenda Colahan Fine Art, Sydney
2024 MEerylands RSL, War, Peace and Remembrance
2024 One+2 Gallery, Group Show, Sydney
2024 One+2 Gallery, Life Drawing Exhibition, Sydney
2023 Brenda Colahan Fine Art, Christmas Exhibition, Sydney
2023 Glebe Art Show, Sydney
2023 Affordable Art Fair Sydney. Brenda Colahan Fine Art
2022 Affordable Art Fair Sydney. Brenda Colahan Fine Art
2021 Solo-Stranger at the Door, Brenda Colahan Fine Art, Sydney
2021 No Vacancy Gallery, Garden Of Loss and Triumph, Melbourne VIC
2019 Callan Park Impressions, One +2 Gallery
2018 Solo show, Sydney-centric, One +2 Gallery
2018 Celebrate Painters, One+2 Gallery
2017 Medley II, Gaffa Gallery
2017 Angels, Woodpapersilk
2016 Medley Group Exhibition, Dank Street Gallery
2016 Shades of Reality group show IV, Dank Street Gallery
2016 Ornament, Woodpapersilk
2016 Familiars, One+2 Gallery
2015 YSC Every Boardroom needs an artist portrait project, portrait of CEO
2015 Rock, Paper, Plant, One+2 Gallery
2015 Shades of Reality group show III, Dank Street Gallery
2014 Shades of Reality group show II, Mary Place
2014 Heysenettes, Hunters Hill Art Gallery
2014 The Twelve, The Shop Gallery, Glebe
2013 Shades of Reality group show I, Mary Place



Other

2017 Sketchbook project, Brooklyn Art Library
2016 Ryde Council, Hungry for Art Event, Plein air event co-ordinator
Brenda Colahan Fine Art Gallery also selling cards
Hunters Hill Post Office selling cards and prints

Professional Outline

BA (Hons): Ravensbourne College of Art and Design UK
Foundation Course: Epsom School of Art and Design UK
John Olsen Scholarship: Julian Ashton Art School AUS
Diploma of Fine Art: Julian Ashton Art School AUS

Press

2023 Spotlight Magazine, Spring Issue
2021 Live Facebook Event, Interview, Solo Exhibition, Opening Night, Brenda Colahan Fine Art, Sydney
2021 Art Edit, Spring Issue Feature;
2021 The Village Observer, article;
2020 Gallipoli Art Prize: Australian Arts Review Private James Martin, 14 years old was chosen to illustrate the review with the comment "...powerful portrait..."; Art Almanac this painting commented on as "...a compelling portrait..."; The Australian commented on this painting 2nd to the winning work.
2021 ABC TV Drama A print of a work was used in the opening indoor scene of Wakefield.

