



'Escapism' Exhibition Karren Stoneham

'Dreamlike realism of the Coast'

Theres something undeniably delightful about capturing the playful spirit of the sea's velvety Coastline and big Australian skies along with their ever- changing moods.

Her round circular artwork is unique and has become quite fundamental to her art, adding an interesting dynamic to the paintings, symbolising portals or portholes looking out into a dreamlike realism of the Surf Coast. Being round creates a feature on any wall and commands the room and the viewers' attention.

Wandering through the seaside landscapes interspersed with soaring cliffs, dramatic skies and breathtaking ocean views are the motivation for her work. Colours harmonise, contrast and change constantly from time of day to the time of year. Magical sunset colours, moody storms and weather changes fill the sky creating stunning views. Photography, memory, and imagination all become the reference points that contribute to the creation of her paintings.

Her paintings are largely about reverie; a sense of place, a desire to be there.

She likes getting her hands dirty and she mostly paints with her hands. Getting lost in her paintings and flowing with her creativity is what Karren loves most about being an artist. She loves creating something completely unique that hasn't been done before. No two paintings are ever the same. Forever in awe of the world around her, there is a touch of magic in each one of Karren's portholes.

She is a Visual and Performing Arts Teacher at local Schools on the Surf Coast who has also worked in Event Management. She founded and was the Director of the Anglesea Music Festival. Karren has had a creative streak for as long as she can remember. From a young girl she was into Performing Arts as a Singer. Then Covid was her silver lining and her Performing Arts transformed into Visual Arts that now fuels her soul.

*With painting she immerses into a carefree world, returning to the days when one would find a patch of **grass**, **lie** back and watch **clouds** go by, using imagination to see images and losing track of all time. She loves where she lives and painting and creating is her happy place. Things should be fun and that's how she lives her life really. She feels like if things are fun, life's good and it spills into everything else.*

Karren does not see herself as an online gallery artist, it's a wonderful platform for some but she is a bit old school. She is a people person and loves being part of an Art Gallery, talking to art lovers and those that show an interest in her art.

