

Inner Scapes by Svetlana Trefilova

I am a painter and a drawer using my own Watery Painting Technique in my creative process. The technique is a part of my practice-led research which is focused on painting process as a human investigation of materiality. I aim to affirm that there is a strong relation between the materiality of painting process and human values of mentality as a way of thinking, of consciousness as a way of being, and of spirituality as a process of personal transformation into the physical process of painting.

I am exploring the dualities of the world around us, which is both visible and invisible. The abstract shapes in my paintings represent natural objects, but also physical and biological structures and processes that are constantly running inside and outside of each organism. My works attempt to engage viewers with a conflict of shapes that demonstrate natural objects such as rocks, roots, trees or plants and, at the same time, the rhizomatic patterns of their inside structures, including tiny cells and microorganisms not visible to human eye. Revealing and concealing have become the means of exploring these interior and exterior structures. The resulting abstract phenomenon allows viewers to see and perceive another world which is surrounding us but not visible.

The ink on paper collection I am presenting here depicts my impressions of Moreton Island, Girraween, Coolangatta and other Queensland locations I visited this year. While the wonderful landscapes gave me inspiration for the works and their elements are quite recognisable in some of the paintings, it was my perception of every natural object as a living microcosm that I endeavoured to convey to the viewers.

Svetlana Trefilova is a Brisbane-based artist of Russian origin. For more than a decade she experimented with a broad variety of media and techniques, and most of her recent works are based on running acrylic media, forming her own distinct Watery Painting technique. She regularly participates in art events in South-East Queensland and overseas, and has earned multiple awards. Svetlana completed her Master of Arts with Honours at Griffith in 2014 and has started her doctoral candidature. More information at:

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