



STEPHEN NOTHLING
A VASTER VISTA

cover image:

Looking North along West Street 2022, Oil on canvas, 110 × 160 cm

A Vaster Vista

June 2022, Brisbane displayed a particularly good run of pink skies. I am intrigued by pink skies. They possess a kind of otherworldliness that is unwarranted because they happen quite regularly. When using them in a picture I tend to move them earlier in the day because when they actually occur in the late afternoon the landscape is mostly in silhouette while I'm more inclined to a brighter, coloured image. Doing this interferes with establishing the time the image is meant to exist in. Time becomes indeterminate, slightly confused which appeals to my sensibilities.

For this "*A Vaster Vista*" I decided it might be a good idea to step back and contemplate my surroundings at more of a distance. Looking across the streets from further away I could certainly see a lot more and because I don't favour landmark or remarkable views there really wasn't much to see at all. Everything and nothing much at the same time. Streets are transitory spaces and these paintings have become a metaphor for my journey at a given time. The evolving composition balances between the daily experience of simply living, what to include or exclude and how much the image should resemble what is before me.

Then there was the exception of "*Torbreck*", a modernist highrise atop Highgate Hill that I've painted a number of times before. It started popping up in the background of just about everywhere that caught my interest. "*Torbreck*" became an unexpected anchor for this show.

In the larger more panoramic paintings without the benefit of an iconic structure, it became obvious there was something extra needed to focus my attention. Thus a big rose in the sky in “Looking North across West Street” and a galah on a road in “Halfway Up the (Highgate) Hill” or a “Vegas” style parking sign in “Ruth Street (Be Wary Where You Park)”.

There is a gardener in Louisa Street that grows pretty good roses on the nature strip so it wasn't much of a stretch to shift a flower from the footpath to the sky. I have a backstory of floating flowers so this kind of thing makes sense to me and may or may not be surrealism. I find that if I look at or think about anything for long enough it all becomes a bit not quite real. Personally my aesthetic leans toward Pop and its deadpan observation of the everyday. Here I find humour.

So in this civilised world as I witness through the media, brutal war, rabid fundamentalism and ridiculous conspiracies I feel that painting some roses up in the sky from time to time is a fairly benign, yet slightly satisfying reaction.

For most of the time I find painting difficult although I've never had any problems with finding subject matter to entertain my interest. Here I decided to try and make sense of the expanded views of my neighbourhood because I didn't know how I would be able to do it and it was hard. I arrived with this exhibition “A Vaster Vista” trying to figure it out.

Stephen Nothing 2022



The Long Run 2022, Oil on canvas, 105 × 151 cm



Annerley Road Trip 2022, Oil on canvas, 110 × 160 cm



Halfway Up the (Highgate) Hill 2022, Oil on canvas, 130 × 191 cm



The Ark 2022, Oil on board, 90 × 60 cm



4th October, Brighton Road 2022, Oil on board, 90 × 60 cm



A More Modern View 2021
Oil on canvas, 77.5 × 57.5 cm



Shared Zone, Cnr West & Gertrude Street 2021
Oil on canvas, 66 × 76 cm



The Bright Side of the Road, Brighton Road 2021, Oil on canvas, 66 × 100 cm



Holiday House, Caloundra 2022, Oil on canvas, 37.5 × 76 cm



*Late Afternoon on Mabel 2022
Oil on board, 60 × 45 cm*



*Here Today Gone Tomorrow, Blakeney Street 2021
Oil on canvas, 75.5 × 48 cm*



*The White House (before it changed), Linden Street 2021
Oil on canvas, 50.5 × 66 cm*



*Not Going Anywhere Soon, Blakenay Street 2021
Oil on canvas, 76 × 48 cm*



Lookout! 2022, Oil on canvas, 36 × 90.5 cm



Northwest along Gloucester Street 2022, Oil on canvas, 40.5 × 73.5 cm



Flats on Flats 2022, Oil on board, 60 × 45 cm



Uplifted on Lindon Street 2022, Oil on board, 60 × 45 cm



The Brady Bunch House (11222 Dilling Street, Studio City, CA 91602) 2022, Oil on canvas, 30 × 45 cm



Ruth Street (Be Wary Where You Park) 2022, Oil on canvas, 135 × 65 cm



Colour on the Corso 2022, Oil on board, 45 × 60 cm



Red Rose Truck on Melbourne Street 2022, Oil on canvas, 30 × 55 cm



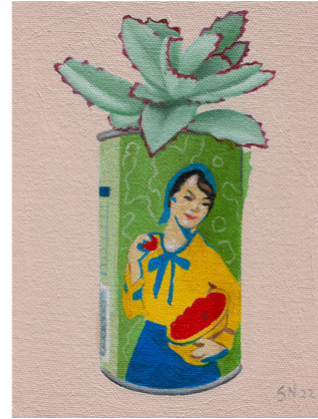
Birdless Tree on Hampstead Road 2022, Oil on canvas, 64 × 110 cm



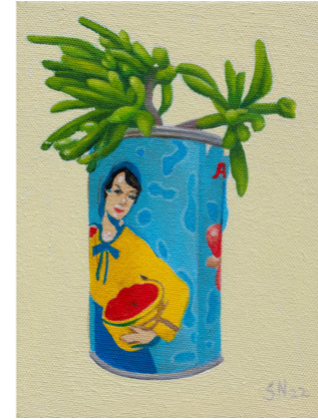
Number 96 (83 Moncur Street, Woollahra) 2022
Oil on canvas, 45 × 30 cm



High Rise Rose 2022
Oil on canvas, 45 × 30 cm



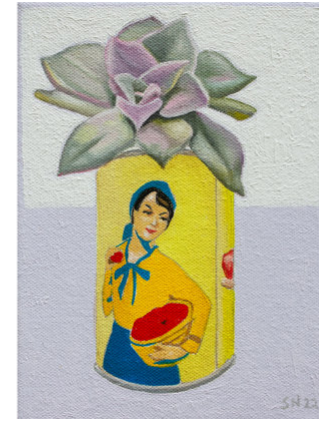
Succulent in a Tin (Green) 2022
Oil on canvas, 20 × 15 cm



Succulent in a Tin (Blue) 2022
Oil on canvas, 20 × 15 cm



Succulent in a Tin (Pink) 2022
Oil on canvas, 20 × 15 cm



Succulent in a Tin (Yellow) 2022
Oil on canvas, 20 × 15 cm



Succulent in a Tin (Red) 2022
Oil on canvas, 20 × 15 cm



Self Portrait in my Mondrian Socks 2022, Oil on board, 34 × 60 cm

Exhibition dates
November 5 - December 2 2022

Woolloongabba Art Gallery

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