

PENELOPE OATES

CREATIVE BACKGROUND

Penelope has had an extensive and varied career in the arts spanning a period of some 20 years. She completed a degree in Fine Arts in Sydney at COFA at a young age which was followed shortly by a degree in Stage and Costume design which she completed at the highly prestigious acting school, NIDA. She worked for several years through to her thirties in Sydney as a designer, concept illustrator and model maker before finally completing a Diploma of Teaching in Visual Arts which has allowed her to finance her foray into her own art practice.

Today Penelope works from her studio in rural Grose Vale NSW, where she lives with her furniture designer/maker husband Darren Oates and two rescue dogs.

MATERIAL AND CONCEPTUAL PRACTICE

Penelope's technical approach to her practice is highly layered with its mix of coloured inks, acrylic paint and a trusty soldering iron which allows her to lightly etch into timber panels resulting in a distinctive, tapestry-like patina of overlapping lines. This introduction of a soldering iron into her artmaking practice has allowed her to introduce more of a drawing element back into her work and she sees herself as more of a 'mark-maker' than a painter.

Inspiration is drawn from Penelope's own experiences and memories of the landscape with its shifting colours, merging textures and evocations of place and time. She feels a strong connection to the works of 19th Century metaphysical poet John Keats whose poetry expresses the notion of being able to transcend our negative experiences of the world by contemplating upon 'a thing of beauty' In this sense her work provides her with an escape from the strains of an otherwise contemporary urban existence and allows her to indulge in the practice of making, often a very solitary experience but one which suits her perfectly. Art does, however, need an audience to give it meaning and context and it is every artist's joy when that connection is made between the viewer and their work of art.

EDUCATION & TRAINING

- 1989 B A of Fine Arts COFA
- 1994 B A of Dramatic Art in Design NIDA
- 2001 Diploma of Education in Visual Arts

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2024 *Etched Through Time*, Frances Keevil at Studio W, Woolloomooloo. NSW
- 2024 *Out Yonder*, KAB Gallery, NSW
- 2023 *Figments*, Frances Keevil at Studio W, Woolloomooloo. NSW
- 2021 *Steadfast Moon*, The Milk Factory Gallery, Bowral, NSW
- 2020 *Landscape Narrative*, The Milk Factory Gallery, Bowral, NSW
- 2019 *Alternate Views*, Hawkesbury Regional Gallery, Windsor, NSW
- Moods and Moments*, Yuga Gallery, Balmain, NSW

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2025 *Sculpture & Canvas Walk into a Gallery*, Frances Keevil at Studio W, Woolloomooloo, Sydney
- 2024 *Linked*, Frances Keevil at Studio W, Woolloomooloo, Sydney
- 2023 *Summer in the City*, Frances Keevil at Studio W, Woolloomooloo, Sydney
- 2023 *Fifty50*, Neram Museum, Armidale NSW
- Summer Exhibition*, The Milk Factory Gallery, Bowral NSW
- 2022 *Festival of Natives*, Gang Gang Gallery, Lithgow, NSW
- Lumine*, trio show, Gang Gang Gallery, Lithgow, NSW
- Ephemeral*, trio show, Gang Gang Gallery, Lithgow, NSW
- Interconnected*, Neram Museum, Armidale, NSW
- Love Where We Live*, Mist Gallery, Cabarita Beach NSW
- Place in the Sun*, Mist Gallery, Cabarita Beach NSW
- Hawkesbury Art Fair, Hawkesbury Regional Gallery, Windsor NSW
- 2021 *Summer Exhibition*, The Milk Factory Gallery, Bowral, NSW

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FRANCES KEEVIL

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- 2021 Hawkesbury Art Fair, Hawkesbury Regional Gallery, Windsor NSW
- 2020 *Jewels of the Earth*, Duo Show with Mellissa Read-Devine, Gallery ONE88, Katoomba, NSW
Summer Exhibition, The Milk Factory Gallery, Bowral, NSW
- 2019 *Into the Wild*, trio show at The Milk Factory Gallery, Bowral
Summer Exhibition, The Milk Factory Gallery, Bowral
Hawkesbury Art Fair, Hawkesbury Regional Gallery, Windsor NSW
Still Life's in the Landscape, The Milk Factory Gallery, Bowral
- 2018 *Shifting Perspectives*, Gallery 504 Balmain, NSW
Hawkesbury Art Fair, Hawkesbury Regional Gallery, Windsor NSW

ART AWARDS / FINALIST SELECTIONS

- 2025 Halloran Contemporary Art Prize, Finalist
- 2024 Calleen Art Award, Finalist and People's Choice Award
Redlands Art Award, Finalist and Ramp Member's Choice Award
Lethbridge 20000 Small Scale Art Award, Finalist
Lethbridge Landscape Prize, Finalist and Highly Commended Award
Gallipoli Art Prize, Finalist
Waterbrook Landscape Prize, Finalist
- 2023 Calleen Art Award, Finalist and People's Choice Award
Kennedy Art Prize, Finalist
Northern Beaches Environmental Art and Design Awards, Finalist and People's Choice Award
Gallipoli Art Prize, Finalist
Mount Eyre Art Prize, Finalist
Lethbridge Small Works Prize, Salon Selection
Wingecarabee Landscape Prize, People's Choice Award
- 2022 KAAF Art Prize, Korean Cultural Museum Sydney, Finalist
National Capital Art Prize, Canberra, Finalist
Gallipoli Art Prize, Circular Quay, Finalist
Northern Beaches Environmental Art and Design Prize, Manly Art Gallery, Finalist
Gosford Art Prize, Gosford Regional Art Gallery, Finalist
Hornsby Art Prize, Hornsby, Finalist
Hunters Hill Art Prize, Hunters Hill Council Chambers, Finalist
Blue Mountains Art Prize, Finalist and People's Choice Award
Bluethumb Art Prize, Melbourne, Finalist
- 2021 Wingecarabee Landscape Prize, Bowral Art Gallery, Winner
Lethbridge Landscape Prize, Semi-Finalist
Bluethumb Art Prize, Finalist
Hornsby Art Prize, Finalist
- 2020 Gosford Art Prize, Gosford Regional Gallery, Finalist
Waverley 9 x 5 Landscape Prize, Finalist
Hawkesbury Art Prize, Purple Noon Gallery, Freeman's Reach, Finalist
- 2019 Foundation Art Awards, Parramatta, Second Prize
Gosford Art Prize, Gosford Regional Gallery, People's Choice Award
Wingecarabee Landscape Prize, Bowral Art Gallery, Finalist
Wyndham Art Prize, Melbourne, Finalist
Hornsby Art Prize, Finalist

GALLERY REPRESENTATION

Frances Keevil
KAB Galleries