



R O B H O W E  
THIS MUST BE THE PLACE

EXHIBITION CATALOGUE  
2 - 19 MARCH 2022



# R O B H O W E

## THIS MUST BE THE PLACE

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When I ask Rob Howe what he has been looking at I expect painters but he instead recommends poets and musicians. He describes his own paintings as romantic (like a pop song might be), pointing to the Talking Heads track referred to in the show title, *This Must Be the Place*. The new collection of paintings does echo some unexpected shifts in circumstance and domestic responsibility. Viewed as a collection, there is a sense of an artist re-defining what home is through uncertainty and inquiry, having moved with family to around ten different places over the time the works were made. Rob Howe says,

"(These) are sacred places that have been stolen and occupied. I often think about that as I work and play in it ... *share the same place for a minute or two*. I don't know all of what has gone on here, and as a white fella I'm often not exactly sure of my place. I need to listen more to find out. So, this is a modest attempt at listening by looking."

A new colour language has emerged. From a base of phthalo and white there is a modulated, green-tinged blue that comprehends the brightness of the sky along the south coast. It also hits just right in the painted fibro of *Turquoise House* and is picked up in other works through clouds or the edge of a railing. This phthalo blue is most clearly employed in a glorious painting *Corrimal Iron Bark*, where it finds the high contrast of bursting foliage against a rough, contrasting trunk.

There are formal rhythms to find as well. The abstracted horizontal fade of roads and pathways brings poise to structures, offering a balance of clarity and evocation. Several works have a central element like a house, a significant tree or a figure, but they remain unstaged in presentation, with tertiary elements noted incidentally. In the case of paintings with figures, like *Front Balcony* or *Marion*, Rob Howe sees the opportunity of a particular light and will then deliver a family member into the frame. It is the potential of the place that makes the moment rather than an organised portrait sitting.

"*Home is where I want to be but I guess I'm already there...*" Talking Heads begin their song with a line that suggests a journey taken in order to make a return. Rob Howe's paintings document a fragmented journey that finds and then redefines a broader and now shifted sense of home and life.

- Melody Willis



*Late Swim*, 2022  
Oil on board, framed  
61 x 73.5 cm  
AUD 3,950



*Bulli Point, 2022*  
Oil on board, framed  
30 x 43.5 cm  
AUD 1,950





*Cemetery, 2021*  
Oil on board, framed  
30 x 39 cm  
AUD 1,900





*Bulli Brickworks*, 2021  
Oil on board  
61 x 72 cm  
AUD 3,650







*Corrimal Iron Bark*, 2022  
Oil on board, framed  
50 x 54 cm  
AUD 2,950







*Front Balcony (morning), 2020*

Oil on board

61.5 x 81.5 cm

AUD 4,150





*Guest Park, 2021*  
Oil on board, framed  
21.5 x 25.5 cm  
AUD 1,650





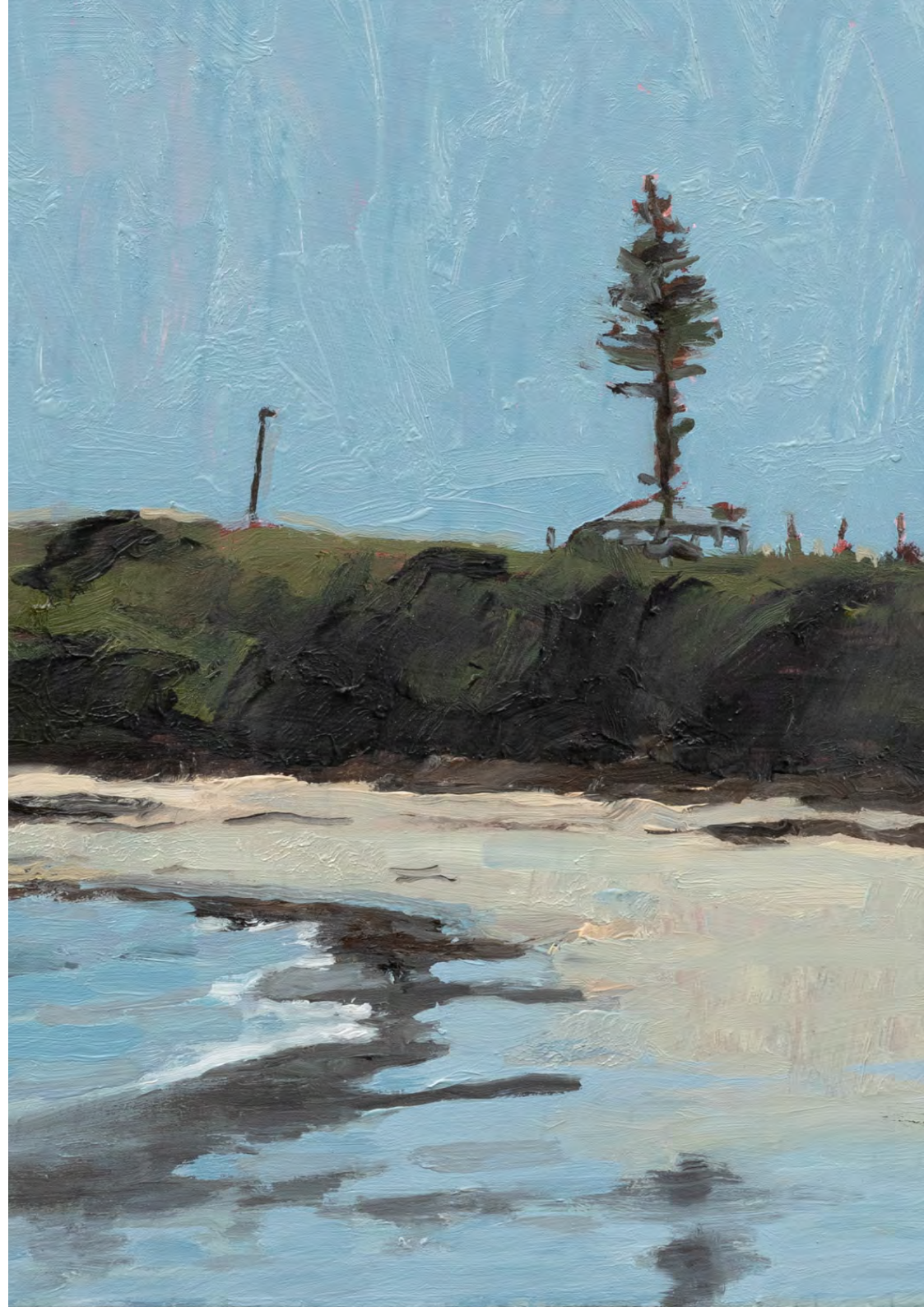


*Headland (Waniora Point), 2022*

Oil on board, framed

26.5 x 33.2 cm

AUD 1,750







*Lit*, 2022  
Oil on board, framed  
28 x 37.5 cm  
AUD 1,850





*Turquoise House, 2022*  
Oil on board, framed  
23 x 30 cm  
AUD 1,650





*Marion Gum, 2021*  
Oil on board, framed  
40.5 x 52 cm  
AUD 2,650









*Wall*, 2021  
Oil on board, framed  
41 x 52 cm  
AUD 2,650





*Traffic Signal Box, 2021*  
Oil on board, framed  
40.5 x 54 cm  
AUD 2,650







*Marion*, 2021  
Oil on board, framed  
52 x 80 cm  
AUD 4,100









*Point*, 2021  
Oil on board, framed  
28 x 39.5 cm  
AUD 1,900





*Payne Road*, 2021  
Oil on board, framed  
40.5 x 52 cm  
AUD 2,650



# ROB HOWE

## CV

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Born 1970 Sydney, NSW Australia

Based in Bulli, NSW Australia

### EDUCATION

2013 Master of Creative Arts (Research), UNIVERSITY OF WOLLONGONG, Wollongong NSW

2000 Bachelor of Creative Arts, UNIVERSITY OF WOLLONGONG, Wollongong NSW

### SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2019 Of Course I Still Love You, HUGO MICHELL GALLERY, Adelaide SA

One More Love Song, THE EGG & DART, Thirroul NSW

2018 Loveland, THE EGG & DART, Thirroul NSW

New Paintings, SOPHIE GANNON GALLERY, Melbourne VIC

2016 This Romance will be Different for Me, FOLONOMO GALLERY, Sydney NSW

2013 Moments of Truth, FCA GALLERY, Wollongong NSW

2006 Players, KNOT GALLERY, Sydney NSW

2004 Golf Series, KNOT GALLERY, Sydney NSW

Scrawls, Traces and Hints of Eternity, KNOT GALLERY, Sydney NSW

### GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2021 Salon des Refuses, S.H. Ervin Gallery, Sydney NSW

2020 Your Funny Moods, THE EGG AND DART, Thirroul NSW

Suburbia, SHOALHAVEN REGIONAL GALLERY, Nowra NSW

New Collectors, HUGO MICHELL GALLERY, Adelaide SA

Plan B, HUGO MICHELL GALLERY, Adelaide SA

2019 An Exhibition, THE EGG AND DART, Thirroul NSW

2018 The Castle, THE EGG AND DART, Thirroul NSW

2017 The Egg & Dart Family and Friends, THE EGG AND DART, Thirroul NSW

2016 Outback and Out Back, THE EGG AND DART, Thirroul NSW

2014 Interiors, THE EGG AND DART, Thirroul NSW

### AWARDS, RESIDENCIES, PUBLICATIONS AND CURATORIAL

2018 The Castle, ARTIST PROFILE, May 9, 2018, <http://www.artistprofile.com.au/the-castle/>

2017 Artist in Residence Award, AUSTRALIAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE IN ATHENS (AAIA)/UOW, Athens, Greece

Waverley Art Prize (highly commended), WAVERLEY COUNCIL, Sydney NSW

2013 Yang Shen-An Memorial Art Prize (winner), UNIVERSITY OF WOLLONGONG, Wollongong NSW

2009 Curator, The Non-Grand, WOLLONGONG CITY GALLERY, Wollongong NSW

Curator, Wollongong City Gallery 30th Anniversary Exhibition, WOLLONGONG CITY GALLERY, Wollongong NSW

2008 Mosman Art Prize (finalist), MOSMAN ART GALLERY, Sydney NSW

Redlands Westpac Art Prize (finalist), MOSMAN ART GALLERY, Sydney NSW

2007 Mosman Art Prize (finalist), MOSMAN ART GALLERY, Sydney NSW

2004 Residency aboard the MV LYUBOV ORLOVA, Antarctic Peninsula

Redlands Westpac Art Prize (finalist), MOSMAN ART GALLERY, Sydney NSW

2001 Residency aboard the KAPITAN KHLEBNIKOV, Ross Sea, Antarctica

2000 Guinness Contemporary Art Prize (finalist), ART GALLERY OF NSW, Sydney NSW

