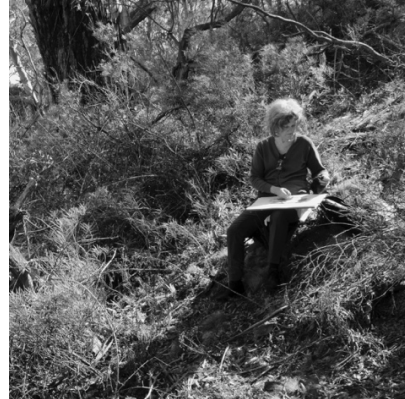


Stella Downer Fine Art

Dealer Consultant & Valuer

Member of the Australian Commercial Galleries Association
ABN 86 229 108 803



Romance and Realism
Drawings
2012 -2022

This selection of drawings, are examples of work produced in situ often forming the basis for a series of paintings. They help me to find an intrinsic connection with a subject. I often work on prepared paper utilising a mixed media approach to Plein-air work. This fits my painting practice more effectively.

Villa le Rêve, the house where Matisse lived in Vence, has studio space for artist's to stay and work. I had an opportunity to be able to work there for an extended period. The drawings attempt to capture a strong feeling I had of the spirit of Matisse still in the house, despite the huge flow of tourists and artists over the decades.

In the dining room of the house, there was a photograph of Matisse coming through the front gates of the garden with a walking stick, heavy coat and hat, smoking a small cigar. I've overlaid this image in drawings looking out from the doors and windows of the 2nd floor, where I had a studio space.

The palm trees growing in front of the house often feature in some of Matisse's drawings; now they have grown, looming through the windows and towering over the façade.

Over a 3 year period, I worked regularly in a small rented house in the coastal town of Red Rock, near Grafton NSW. I travelled there whenever I could get away, working for 2-3 weeks. The locals loved fishing in the estuary and I would see them on my walks and be able to stop and draw. People fishing are remarkably good at standing still, giving me plenty of time to work.

In the New England/Bathurst landscapes I'm playing with the romantic sensibility of travel through a landscape; the winding road pulling you through the space.

I would work by the side of the road gathering as much information as possible and then finish an idea in the studio.

A 'romantic landscape wouldn't be complete without the input of a compelling sky and horizon line

T: 0402 018 283

E: stellart@bigpond.com E: info@stelladownerfineart.com.au

W: www.stelladownerfineart.com.au

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Bush Track to Snake Bay is the fourth drawing in a series that was included in the Jada Drawing Prize 2016; inspiration coming from the south coast area of NSW. Here I have re-worked the idea to create a single and independent image. It was a very peaceful and still environment despite the proximity to Snake Bay.
The Larapinta/ Finke River work was completed on a two week working/camping trek with a group of artists from Sydney and Melbourne.

Judith White 2024

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