

## Saren Dobkins Artist Statement

I am originally from Zambia, Central Africa until migrating to Australia in 1976. My early years in Africa have influenced my approach to form, and a connection to Nature but the work explores contemporary and current issues. I incorporate my interest in ecology, philosophy and literature using bold colour, sculptural form, and narrative to create work that has multiple layers and meanings from a range of influences. As well as being inspired by works from the Renaissance, Modernism and Abstract Expressionism, my approach to colour can be attributed to, among others; Emily Kngwarreye, Rothko and Chagall and the Shona sculptures of Zimbabwe, in the sculptural form of the figures.

The paintings express a deep metaphorical and psychological intent. The subject matter may express personal insights, but allude to themes that are universal. I have, over the period of three decades, worked on an exacting and rigorous search for self, combined with a quest to create a world of dream and reflection. The work explores transience and transformation, with the riddle of identity explored.

The core of my work is about the desire to connect and meaningfully communicate with another. Whether that other is ones "inner self" or another "soul", maybe a child or a lover, the human dilemma for the search for identity and belonging seems to predominate in my work. The layering abilities of paint, the powerful and lyrical qualities of line and the joy of the unexpected can result in a visual poetry which continues to delight me.

To express the journey of transformation on a flat surface, I use tone and geometry to guide the process of looking, to create movement and depth. The images are crafted, as if sculptured through the application of paint. The development of the paintings are guided though emotion, imagination and ultimately allowing the work to emerge. Above all, the work stands on it's own, a unique and poignant testimony to the strength of Art to speak my truth.

## Collections

Saren Dobkins has been exhibiting since 1986 and has held over 32 exhibitions solo and group shows. Her work has been purchased by several collectors internationally and in Australia and can be found in the public collections of the South Australian Museum, Geelong Grammar School, Queensland University and the Bicentennial Authority of Australia. To view a full Exhibition CV visit [www.sarenart.com](http://www.sarenart.com).

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## Purchasing Artwork

To purchase please contact **Cambridge Studio**.

Collection of purchased artworks is the last day of the exhibition.

After this time collection can be made from Cambridge Studio during gallery hours.



## Cambridge Studio Gallery

52 Cambridge Street, Collingwood

12 noon – 5pm, Wed to Sun.

9486 0169

[info@cambridgestudiogallery.com.au](mailto:info@cambridgestudiogallery.com.au)

[www.cambridgestudiogallery.com.au](http://www.cambridgestudiogallery.com.au)

# Raising the Bar

presented by Cambridge Studio Gallery



Bruised Ego, 76 x 91cm, oil on canvas

## Saren Dobkins

The Essoign Club  
1/205 William St, Melbourne

*Tuesday 24th July, 2018*  
*5.30 - 7.30pm*

For more information contact Saren or Cambridge Studio Gallery  
[info@cambridgestudiogallery.com.au](mailto:info@cambridgestudiogallery.com.au) or phone: 9486 0169



*Breathing Through a Straw, 153 x 102cm, oil on canvas \$4500*

A figure lies within a space that contains her, either her mind or her body. She breathes through a straw, suggesting a concentration on breathing, which is often the focus of meditation. This conveys the state of being still inside oneself.



*Collecting Memories, 87 x 76cm, oil on linen \$4200*

Our past can appear like a vista, viewed from up high. A fertile land full of memories. Some are like precious fruit, and we pick them so we can carry them around with us, always there to be recalled.



*The Fisherman's Prize, 102 x 76cm, oil on canvas \$3800*

The Fisherman's Prize shows a journey. The small boat is a metaphor for the container that we call our existence and to share this with another is special. We show our care by offering sustenance, food and wine and when this can be added to the union there is peace and kindness. This work is about sharing and trusting.



*The Thirsty Dove, 89 x 89cm, oil on linen \$3800*

The Dove is used as a symbol of peace. By placing a soldier and an ordinary man/woman and a dove between them, I show them both offering the bird water as a way of uniting the commonality of us all. Our basic human needs of shelter, water and kindness.



*Stepping Out of the Shadows, 86 x 61cm, oil on linen \$1500*

Stepping out of the shadows shows the transformation from a place of restraint to a place of trust and self discovery. The umbrella is a symbol of the shadow self and by taking a small leap of faith, he emerges from the shadows into a place filled with light.



*Waiting for Seamail, 100 x 76cm, oil on canvas \$3800*

She waits by the shore looking out towards the future, her love at the mercy of the tides. A sailor whose heart is open and full of love, hands his message to a seabird. It is a painting about dreams of love and travel. How we long to be with those to whom we feel connected, and the tenderness of love.



*Listening to the Earth, 102 x 76cm, oil on canvas \$4200*

A figure lies connected to the earth, listening to the songlines. Watched over by the bird, which represents that our true Nature is always there for us, awake or asleep.



*Listening to the Dreaming, 100 x 76cm, oil on canvas \$4200*

This work is about the vital and important process that the exchange of knowledge can have on changing people's perceptions and understanding of others. I wanted to express the power of this energy from a person's way of seeing, into the 'mind' of another.



*BeCalmed, 76 x 100cm, oil on canvas \$3800*

A moment of self reflection and a touch of bravado. The woman looks with slight bemusement into the distance, her life, her past. The boat that bobs on the ocean of memory is calm and introspective, while a cheeky fish blows new ideas into her imagination. The textured ground is dynamic and bright.



*Breathing Underwater, 58 x 76cm, oil on canvas \$3600*

A metaphor of the feeling that occurs when we release our grip on trying to keep everything under control. By allowing ourselves to be suspended in the unknown, plunging headfirst into the 'ocean' of our deeper selves, we meet the mysterious. Whispers from the deep are heard, and glimpses of our true self are available.