

ELISABETH CUMMINGS

Born in Brisbane, Elisabeth Cummings is one of Australia's most respected living artists. In 1958 she won the NSW travelling Art Scholarship and then in 1960 the Dyason Bequest. At such a young age, these early opportunities established Elisabeth's appetite for an artistic career that has now spanned 57 years. She travelled extensively throughout Europe living between Italy and France for 12 years. Elisabeth has been exhibiting since 1957.

John Stringer curated Elisabeth Cummings into 'Cross Currents: Focus on Contemporary Australian Art,' at the Museum of Contemporary Art in 2007. She was one of two artists featured at the Korean International Art Fair [with King Street on William] in 2012. In 2013, Elisabeth's work was included in 'Australia,' at the Royal Academy of Art, London and 'Still Life,' at the Art Gallery of NSW.

Cummings works quietly and consistently. While her work is influenced by landscape – or the idea of place – her process is led by intuition. She is a master of line and colour, which guide her somewhat abstracted paintings and drawings. Embedded within the abstracted works are hints of place – the odd tree or shape of a building and road – which reflect the slow reveal of her time in the landscape.

Cummings is the recipient of numerous awards and residencies-recently completing residencies in New Zealand and Hong Kong. She has won the prestigious Fleurieu Art Prize, S.A.; the Portia Geach Portrait Prize, Sydney and the Tattersalls Art Prize, Brisbane. Her works can be found in the collection of all major public and regional institutions within Australia: the National Gallery of Australia; the Art Gallery of New South Wales; The Queensland Art Gallery and Campbelltown Arts Centre, Sydney.

At the age of 81 Elisabeth Cummings has recently returned from a residency and exhibition in Hong Kong, followed by a short visit to the art island of Naoshima, Japan.

In 2014 she completed a residency in Waiheke, New Zealand with a group of 9 other Australian artists which culminated in a group exhibition at the Waiheke Arts Centre.

During 2013 Cummings travelled to Turkey and Gallipoli with 15 Australian and New Zealand artists to paint 'en plein aire' on the shores of Anzac Cove, The Nek and the surrounding battle grounds. The resulting travelling exhibition titled YOUR FRIEND THE ENEMY toured to Drill Hall Gallery, ACT; SH Ervin, Sydney; Bathurst Regional Gallery, NSW and is currently en route to New Zealand for an exhibition at Pataka Art & Museum, Wellington.

Elisabeth Cummings has worked and lived in her bush studio at Wedderburn, NSW since 1976; when a large parcel of land was gifted to 5 visual artists from Elisabeth's life long friend Barbara Romalis. Forty years later, the acreage has increased, however, the landscape remains much as it was in

1976-native Australian bush. Apart from the artist's studios and modest living accommodation, all of which blend into their surrounds, the landscape is untouched by the impinging urban sprawl.

A quiet activist, Elisabeth has worked tirelessly to preserve the Wedderburn retreat –participating in numerous campaigns and exhibitions to highlight and maintain the beauty that brought these artists to this area all those years ago.

It has been said that the last 15 years of Elisabeth Cumming's career have produced her greatest works. And the best is yet to come.

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KING STREET GALLERY ON WILLIAM

17 NOV – 20 DEC 2015