

SUBLIME WATERS



Lucinda Bresnehan invites viewers to experience the mesmerising energy of lutruwita/Tasmania's ancient rivulets through atmospheric oil paintings.

WORDS | COURTNEY KIDD

"Water that once ran wild is an expression of my journey, one that is deeply rooted in the exploration of life experiences set within the awe-inspiring beauty of the natural world. I draw and paint the landscape then wipe away the details leaving an image that can look like a faded memory," says nipaluna/Hobart-based artist **Lucinda Bresnehan**. In that image is the resonance of past histories, past lives and an ancient landscape that Bresnehan captures in hypnotically atmospheric oil paintings.

Think **J.M.W Turner** and his paintings of light, **Caspar David Friedrich**'s Romantic land-scapes or **Mark Rothko**'s soft-edged expanses of breathing pigment. Here the landscape captured in Bresnehan's works is lutruwita/ Tasmania, specifically the three rivulets that timelessly flow from Mount Wellington into the Derwent River.

"These paintings in my forthcoming exhibition are from the perspective of a person experiencing being in the waterways, of feeling its



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PREVIOUS LEFT: Lucinda Bresnehan, *Drift*, 2025. Oil on canvas. 180 x 110cm.

PREVIOUS RIGHT: Lucinda Bresnehan, *Muted Fables*, 2025. Oil on canvas, 180 x 110cm.

RIGHT: Lucinda Bresnehan in the studio. PHOTO: JACK BETT

OPPOSITE: Lucinda Bresnehan, Well Spring. 2025. Oil on canvas, 180 x 110cm.

COURTESY: THE ARTIST AND BETT GALLERY, NIPALUNA/HOBART

Water that once ran wild shows from 9 – 31 May 2025 at Bett Gallery, nipaluna/Hobart.

energy, its presence, its healing qualities," says Bresnehan who is a practicing yoga teacher and hopes that the works will offer viewers a contemplative space, a respite from the urban static of the built environment. "I seek to capture the sublime power of nature and its transformative effect on the human psyche."

Witness the dreamy whirls of paint in *Muted Fables*, the timbre of the light in *Drift*, the artist's unique talent to express the transient beauty of lutruwita/Tasmania's landscape, to capture its turbulence and chill in one breath, its muted palette of warmth the next.

The lofty aesthetic beauty of the landscape is familiar terrain to Bett Gallery who have been representing important artists for decades. Bresnehan first caught director Emma Bett's attention in 2022 when the artist completed a Bachelor of Fine Art with First Class Honours. That same year she won the Bett Gallery Award, was a finalist in the Henry Jones Art Prize and then in the Tidal Art Prize.

Bett notes, "With the lutruwita/Tasmanian landscape being such a profound and inspiring influence on so many artists, Lucinda's ability to capture its beauty and tranquility sees her work stand out. Such paintings lure the viewer emotionally back to that river or that mountain or that tree. Indeed, her first solo exhibition with us was a near sell out gaining the attention of national and international collectors. She offers something special and utterly sublime."

