

Crowd snaps up Lovegrove's 'shimmering' art

Review by Rob Kennedy

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"Shimmer" no 7.6... The complex and fine application of the watercolours on paper in their multi-coloured shades shows a master painter's hand and mind in action.

*Art / "Shimmer", paintings by Sue Lovegrove. Beaver Galleries. August 8-25.
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"SHIMMER" is the perfect title for the selection of these glittering watercolours by the active and well-known artist Sue Lovegrove who graduated from the ANU School of Art. The exhibition is on now at Beaver Galleries.

A close-up view is what is required to get the full impact of these amazingly detailed watercolour works by Sue Lovegrove. Perhaps a magnifying glass may have been better to see all the detail, but these tiny multi-panelled artworks, the biggest measuring just 8cm x 24cm shimmer with colour and presence.

Each one is like a miniature world of a personalised landscape. It's amazing just how much is captured and expressed in these small-frame paintings.

When up close, their world opens out to a watery landscape of reeds, grasses, reflections of land and sky and an entangled domain that feels close and personal. The intimate experience that a viewer gains from seeing these little wonders is almost physical.

All twenty-one of these works were created through Lovegrove's knowledge and experience with Persian miniature paintings with European watercolour traditions applied to paper. Her extensive career has seen her travel to and receive arts training in several countries.

The inspiration for all the artworks come from Lovegrove's time spent exploring wetlands on the eastern coast of Tasmania. Within these paintings, Lovegrove proves that old saying, where there is water, there is life.

A viewer can see and feel the rhythm of the waters and the windblown reeds and grasses as they live and grow in the wetlands. The artistic technique is quite stunning. The complex and fine application of the watercolours on paper in their multi-coloured shades shows a master painter's hand and mind in action.

While the size of the paintings is small, the perspective in some is expansive. Several cover many meters of landscape and waterways in ultra-fine detail.

The majority of Lovegrove's works in the exhibition have been sold. It's easy to see why people are snapping up these small paintings that offer a fine and expansive view of a very beautiful part of the world. Red dots, indicating sold, were in abundance; as was the crowd on opening night at Beaver Galleries in Deakin.