

## David Kelly

BEd. Fine Art

David Kelly has been an artist and teacher in Australia and South East Asia since the early 1980s, his work being held in private, corporate, consular and national collections both internationally and within Australia. His paintings have also featured in local and international award exhibitions, including the 2004 Artiade Olympics exhibition in Athens as joint representative of Australia. More recently he has been selected as a finalist in several national award exhibitions, including the 'Waterhouse', 'City of Albany Art Prize' [2008 & 2009], 'Redland Art Award', 'Paddington Art Prize' and SALA Contemporary Art Award, as well as winning the 2008 Heysen Prize, judged by Susan McCulloch, and he exhibits regularly in solo and collaborative projects in Australia and internationally.

*'...The current work is very strong and powerful. But it continues along the same journey as the earlier series: the celebration of the power of nature and the effects of the elements, fire, wind and water; the combined forces that create the 'marks on the landscape' set beside intimate glimpses of the trunks of trees, the shedding of bark, the feel of weathered rocks held in the hand, the sight of a leaf-strewn track in the bush or as in the case of the large painting commissioned by Santos, the awe-inspiring ancient landscapes of central Australia. David's working methods are unusual – his inspiration flows from his multiple experiences of the visual world, gathered over decades. He distils these with great skill into fresh abstract images that emerge slowly as he works. His lyrical, abstract images provide an opportunity for the viewer to travel privately to places or events held dear in the subconscious...'*

extract - 'Landmarks' 2008 solo exhibition opening address – R.J. Richards - Curator, Art Gallery of South Australia, (retired)

The diverse environments in which he has lived and travelled provide the inspiration for his work, drawing on distilled memories to capture something of their essence. An emotion related to a place and time rather than a recreation of physical reality. The results of nature's own creative and degenerative processes, moving through various stages of realism and abstraction with serendipitous interactions of paint, texture and memories.

The effects of time and the elements on man-made structures is another closely related source of inspiration. The aged patina of weathered surfaces and the stories they tell. Dilapidated shearing sheds of his South Australian farm house, temple walls of Cambodia's Angkor Wat and overgrown ruins of Argentina's Misiones. The process of all that we are and do, returning to the earth, also seen in the rocky outcrops of Arkaroola, bleached coastlines of Yorke Peninsula and twisting sungai [rivers] of Borneo. His points of reference shift from one extreme to another, looking at the intimate detail of seemingly insignificant forms to the alienating enormity of vast horizons. Written text in various languages is another recurring theme which explores the notion of communication and the meaning attributed to lines.

A water stained wall. Aerial views of salt lakes and jungles. Rusty sheets of metal. Endless desert ranges. The trunks of sap streaked eucalypts. Dense rainforest. Flaking paint on a wooden door. All linked by a common thread of aged textures and deeply weathered surfaces, coloured with the richness of earthly growth and decay.

David Kelly is currently represented by eye2eye fine Art Gallery, Unley Road, Adelaide.

### Solo Exhibitions

Prospective:

2010

Red Gate Gallery – London

'Tuol Sleng – silent walls' – eye2eye Fine Art Gallery, Adelaide

2008

'Eucalyptus' - eye2eye Fine Art Gallery, Adelaide

'Landmarks' - Santos Centre Adelaide

2007

Greenhill Galleries Adelaide

2005

'Earthworks' - Australian High Commission, Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei

2004

'Sungai' - Alliance Francaise de Brunei

2003

'Horizons' - Australian High Commission, Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei

### **Selected Joint Exhibitions**

Prospective:

2010

'Terra Australis' – Sala kubo-kutxa San Sebastian, Spain [ArtsSA]

The Heysen Trail Exhibition – Adelaide Festival of Arts Fringe

2009

Paddington Art Prize

City of Albany Art Prize

2008

Hahndorf Academy Heysen Prize – winner

Redland Art Award, Brisbane

City of Albany Art Prize

Macquarie Fine Art Exhibition – invited artists

2007

'Waterhouse' SA Museum

2005

'Boat' - EmpireArt Gallery, Empire Hotel and Country Club, Brunei

2004

'Artiade 2004 - Visual Arts Olympics' - Tsalapatas Exhibition Space Volos - Athens

'Art Forum – Brunei' - National Gallery, Brunei

'Citibank Exhibition' - Li Gong Exhibition Space, Brunei

'Local Colour' - Empire Hotel and Country Club, Brunei

2003

Rainforest Gallery - inaugural exhibition - Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei

1988

'Culture works' - senior student workshop participants and tutors Universidad de Cordoba - Cordoba, Argentina

Workshop exhibition - Mendoza, Argentina

### **Collections**

National Gallery, Brunei Darussalam

Australian High Commission, Brunei Darussalam

BHP Billiton, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Santos, Adelaide

University of South Australia - SA School of Art

Private collections in Australia, South East Asia, Europe, USA and South America