

KAREN FRANKEL – DRAWN

MUNDARING ARTS CENTRE | GALLERY 1

24 November – 22 December 2017



"Mixed media is perfect to create the illusion of depth which draws the viewer into the landscape. Layers of paper and ink allow for a serendipitous backdrop or a textured foreground. Charcoal, ink and pastels sketch in some familiar shapes."

So describes Perth artist **Karen Frankel** of her process for her solo exhibition *DRAWN* opening on Friday 24 November at Mundaring Arts Centre.

Born in Zimbabwe, Karen Frankel grew up surrounded and influenced by the art of her father, artist Eli Zagoria. With a never-ending supply of creative materials procured from his commercial art studio, the young Karen developed her fascination for mixed media as a precursor to her explorations with ink and paper on canvas today.

Moving to Western Australia in 1984, Karen was captivated by the rugged beauty of the Western Australian landscape. As a largely self-taught artist, Karen broadened her arts practice by taking part in intensive workshops with many renowned artists around Australia including Ian De Souza, Tony Smibert and Judith White. Attracted to the shapes of colour, dark and light, texture and the spaces created between and around subjects, Karen's mixed media process involves using a variety of paper, inks and acrylic to form rich layers which she then draws onto. This produces vibrant, intense works which illustrate her overriding philosophy - both as an artist and teacher - that the pleasure is in the process, regardless of the end result.

DRAWN references the inevitable marks and lines that appear in Karen's ever-present sketch book, thumbnail sketches and final works. She draws inspiration from the world around her - flowers from daily walks and views from travels to the Pilbara and New Zealand especially. She says *"There is a magic connection between observation and mark making. I draw people into my paintings by creating works that (initially seem) simple and pleasing yet are complicated by layers that reveal themselves slowly."*

Karen has exhibited extensively across Western Australia, developing a following of devoted workshop participants and collectors. She runs a range of workshops from her studio in Morley and is renowned for her ability to teach beginners in a fun and relaxing way. On Sunday's throughout the exhibition, Frankel will present talks and workshops at Mundaring Arts Centre. To book, please visit www.mundaringartscentre.com.au/workshops-and-events/

DRAWN continues until Friday 22 December 2017 in Gallery 1 at Mundaring Arts Centre. Located in the heart of Mundaring at 7190 Great Eastern Hwy (corner Nichol Street), entry is free and the Galleries and Shop are open Tuesday – Friday 10am-5pm, Saturday and Sunday 11am – 3pm (closed Mondays and Public Holidays). For further information call 9295 3991, visit www.mundaringartscentre.com.au or find us on Face Book and Instagram.



IMAGES: Mixed media works *NZ One*; *Forest Reflection*; *Pilbara Sky*; *Stolen Afternoon Tea*; artist Karen Frankel