

Stella Downer **Fine Art**

Dealer Consultant & Valuer

Member of the Australian Commercial Galleries Association

ABN 86 229 108 803

Statements for Annabel Butler works - Summer Show 2023

Artist at Work, Elisabeth Cummings (2021), oil on canvas, 61 x 76cm

I painted Elisabeth Cummings in her Wedderburn studio, while she herself painted. I was aware of her concentration and quiet energy as she walked back and forth to the canvas, mixing, applying and scraping off paint, as well as periods of stillness when she sat contemplating her work in progress.

Monaro Memories (2022), oil on board construction, 42 x 60cm

This work is a composite of memories of countless trips along the Monaro Highway and explores the notion of memory as a process of connection and reconstruction.

Memories often consist of multiple fragmented images which are connected or assembled together in the mind to create a whole. As I painted this work, fragments of memory surfaced; squat, round trees standing like sentinels on bare, parched hillsides, summer smoke haze, subtle shifts in colour according to different times of day and season. To emphasize the fractured nature of my memories I physically connected these fragments together, creating an assemblage of my Monaro recollections.

The following small works were painted on location as part of my *en plein air* practice:

A Sliver of the Monaro (2022), oil on board, 25 x 16cm

Late Summer, Centennial Park (2020), pencil and watercolour, 13 x 23cm

Alongside Lake George (2017), oil on board, 12 x 24cm

The Dam, near Camden (2016), oil on board, 11 x 22cm

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