



Melanie Waugh

The Stars Look Very Different Today

july 14 - 31, 2022



MELANIE WAUGH

Melanie's paintings of creeks and countryside capture familiar scenes from the artist's life. Her practise continues on with the grand narrative of Australian landscape painting where she uses broad brushstrokes, rich colours and contrasting light to reflect the vibrancy of Australia presenting an energetic picture of this immense land.

Living in the Bellingen Valley on Gumbaynggirr country, Melanie has a Bachelor Of Fine Arts from the National Art School and a Master of Arts from UNSW. This is Melanie's first solo show with Michael Reid Murrurundi.

Melanie has previously had three successful solo exhibitions with Michael Reid Northern Beaches and Southern Highlands. She has been a finalist in art prizes including the National Emerging Art Prize and the 9 x 5 Landscape painting prize (2021), The Kings School Art Prize (2020) and the Hawksbury Art Prize (2019). Melanie was awarded 2nd place in The Art In The Open Landscape Painting Prize in 2018. Her work is held in private collections across Australia and overseas.

The Stars Look Very Different Today

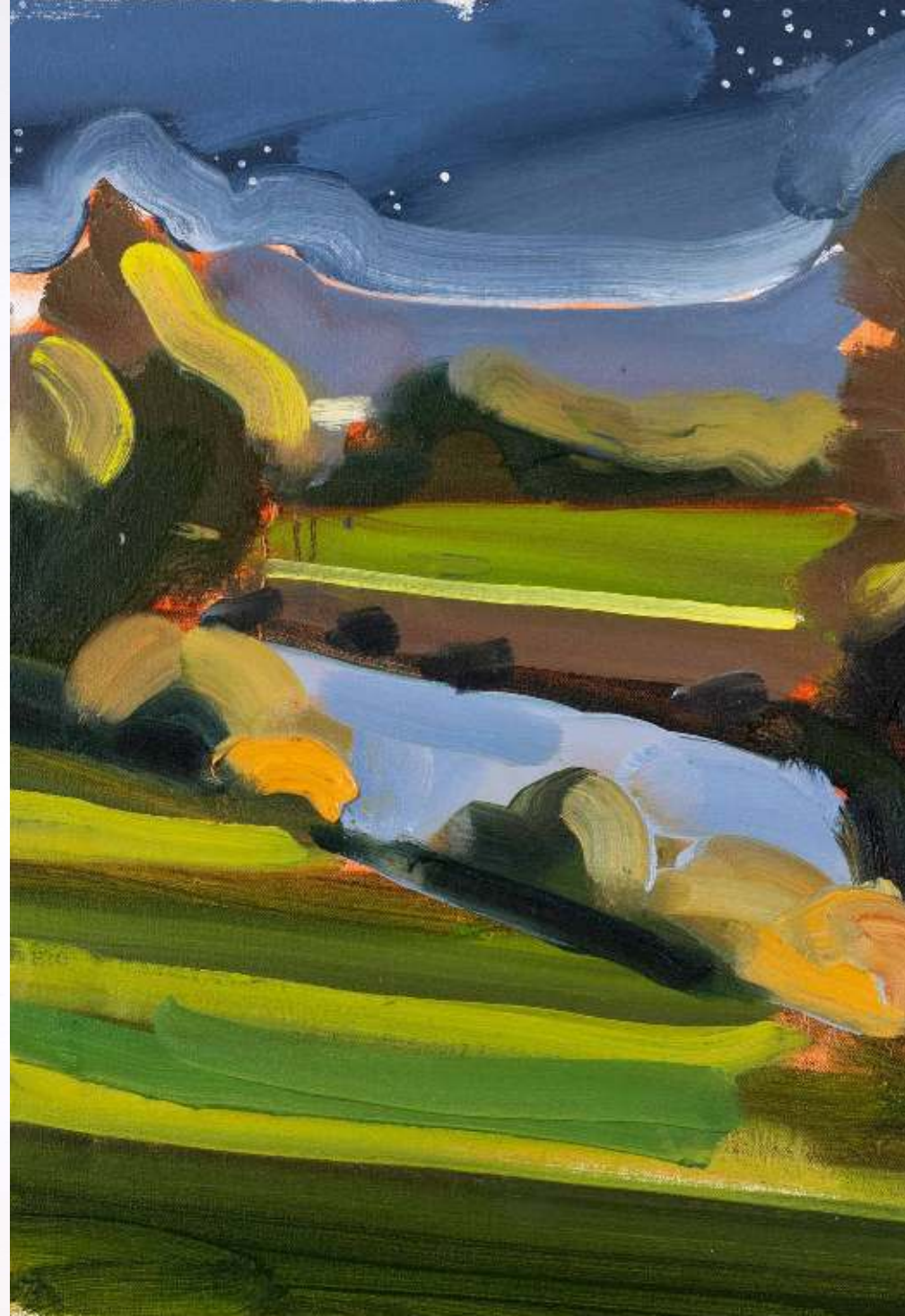
"The Stars Look Very Different Today is a collection of works that capture landscapes close to my heart, framed by the geography of Bellingin. This series is a portrait of the area, its reflections and shadows.

The exhibition focuses on the surrounding countryside, rivers and roads that link the two small towns of Bellingin and Dorrigo. The drive along Waterfall Way starts at sea-level on the edge of Urunga, passing through Bellingin and winding up to the plateau atop of Dorrigo Mountain and beyond. From the edge of the rainforest waterfalls and streams zigzag down the mountain feeding the freshwaters of the Bellingin River before it meets the salt waters on the coast.

Looking down at the Bellingin Valley the landscape stays constant. At closer inspection however colours are everchanging with the shift in seasons and impact of floods and drought. Bends in the roads mimic bends in the river. These are themes I continue to visit because of the never ending possibilities. I hurriedly record the scene by simplifying and still describing the essence of the landscape. I keep my painting purposely fresh and alive like the landscape.

Like the line from David Bowie's Space Oddity 'The Stars Look Very Different Today' the massive expansion of stars visible through the country air heightens feelings of stability and calm. Through nocturne paintings I settle into the discomfort of night, along with its beauty. It could be the reclusion, the pressure of the day lifting or the ethereal quality of this time but it is something I enjoy. The dusk and dark pose obvious challenges for landscape artists. Hard edges between things are confused and light changes quickly. However I am interested in turning the familiar unfamiliar and the night makes these locations less familiar, a paddock or field is not as identifiable at night and not somewhere often ventured to during these hours"

Melanie Waugh





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The Mighty Bellingin River, 2022

oil on canvas

72 x 72 cm, framed

\$2,400



Melanie Waugh

A Quiet Road, Gleniffer, 2022

oil on canvas

56.5 x 42 cm, framed

\$1,600



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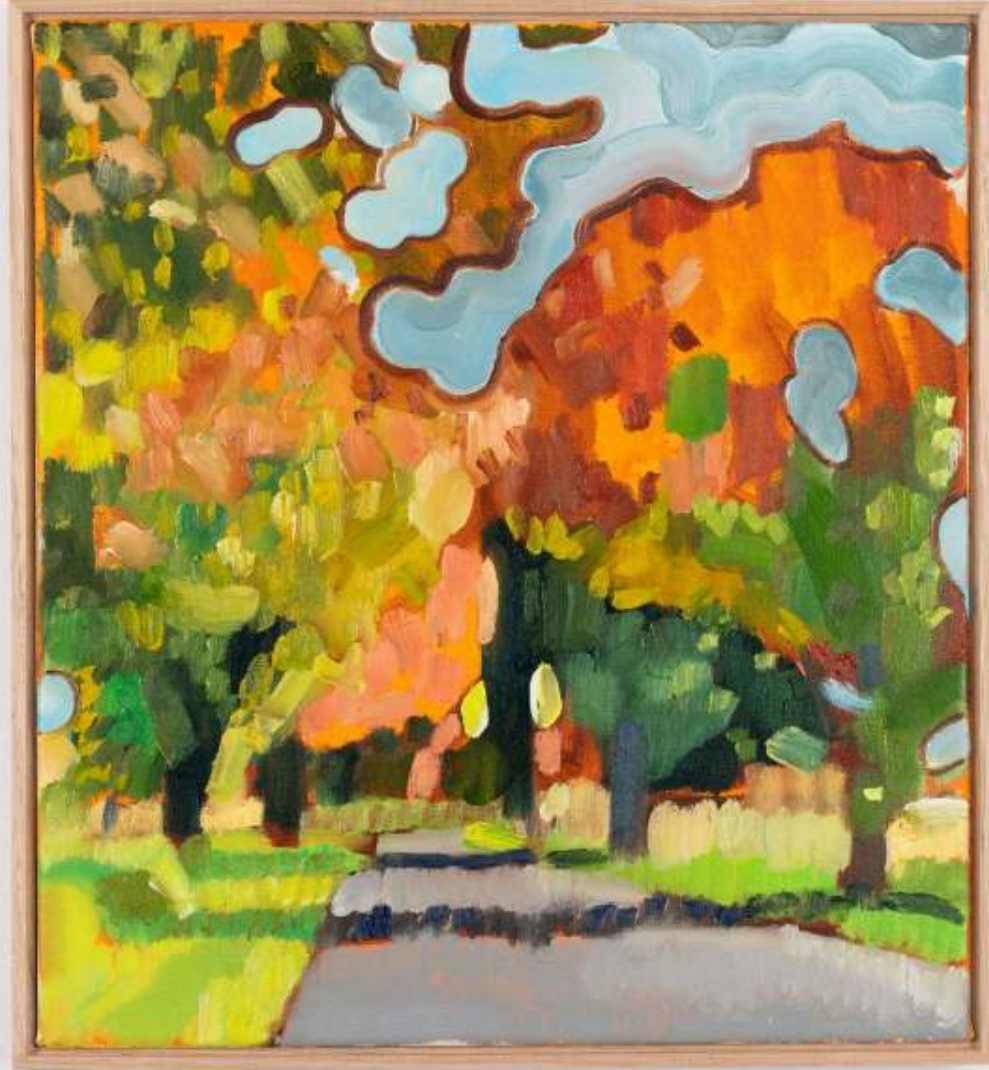
Eastward on the Bellinger River, 2022

oil on canvas

52 x 62 cm, framed

\$1,800





Melanie Waugh
Gleniffer Road,
Changing Seasons, 2022
oil on canvas
56.5 x 52 cm, framed
\$1,800



Melanie Waugh
Riverside, 2022
oil on canvas
62 x 72 cm, framed
\$2,200



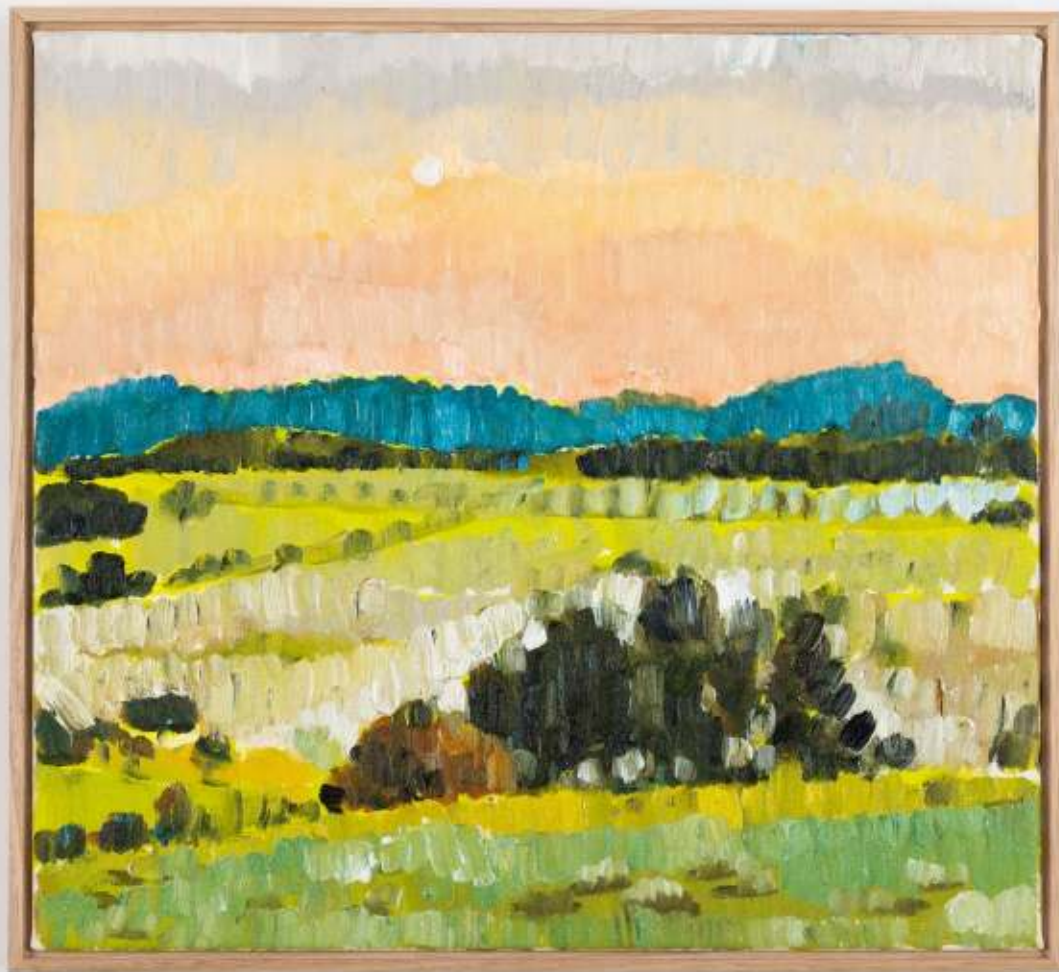
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Crystal Clear, Darkwood, 2022

oil on canvas

52 x 62 cm, framed

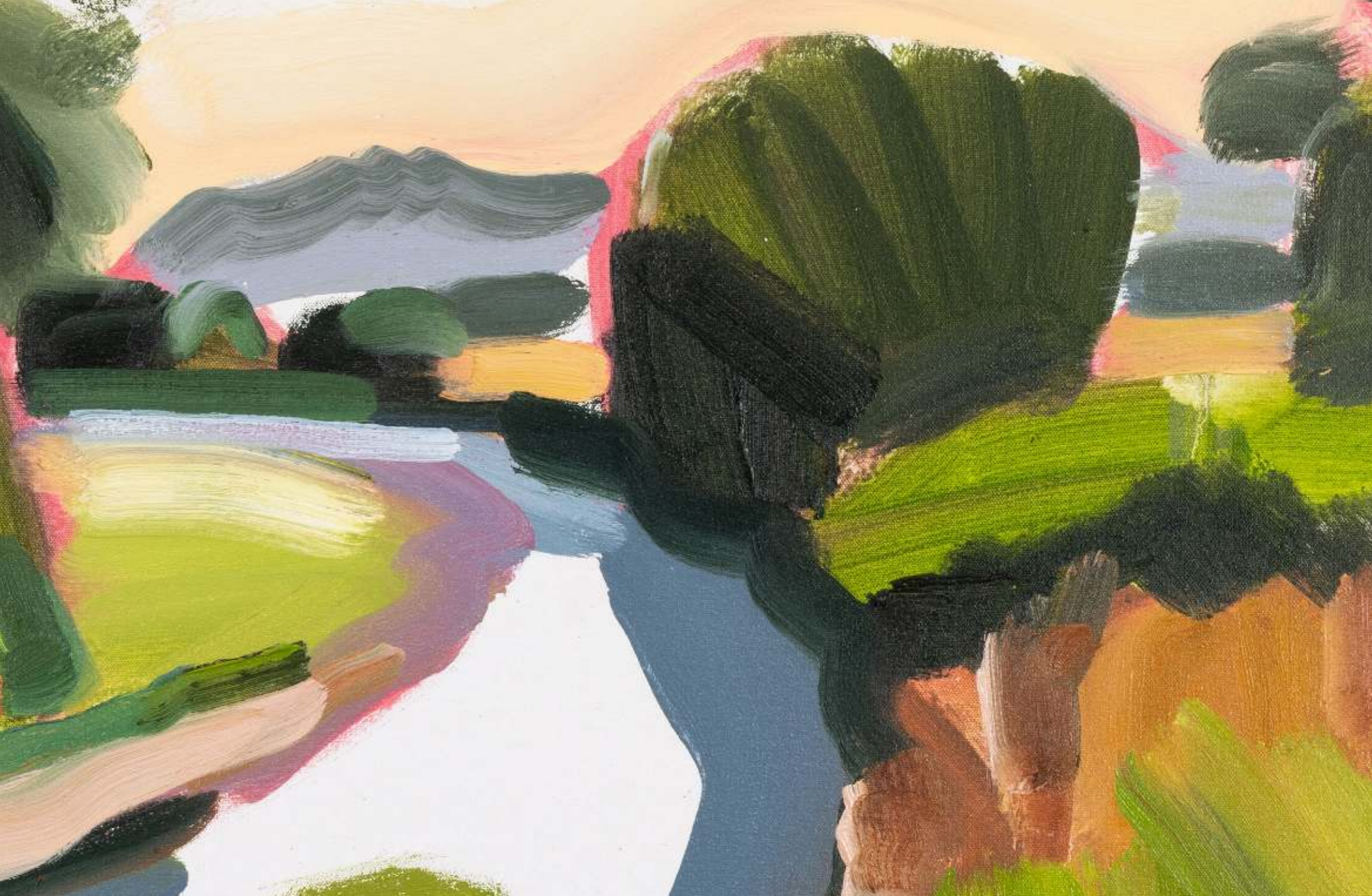
\$1,800



Melanie Waugh
Glow, Moon Rising 2022
oil on canvas
52 x 56.5 cm, framed
\$1,800

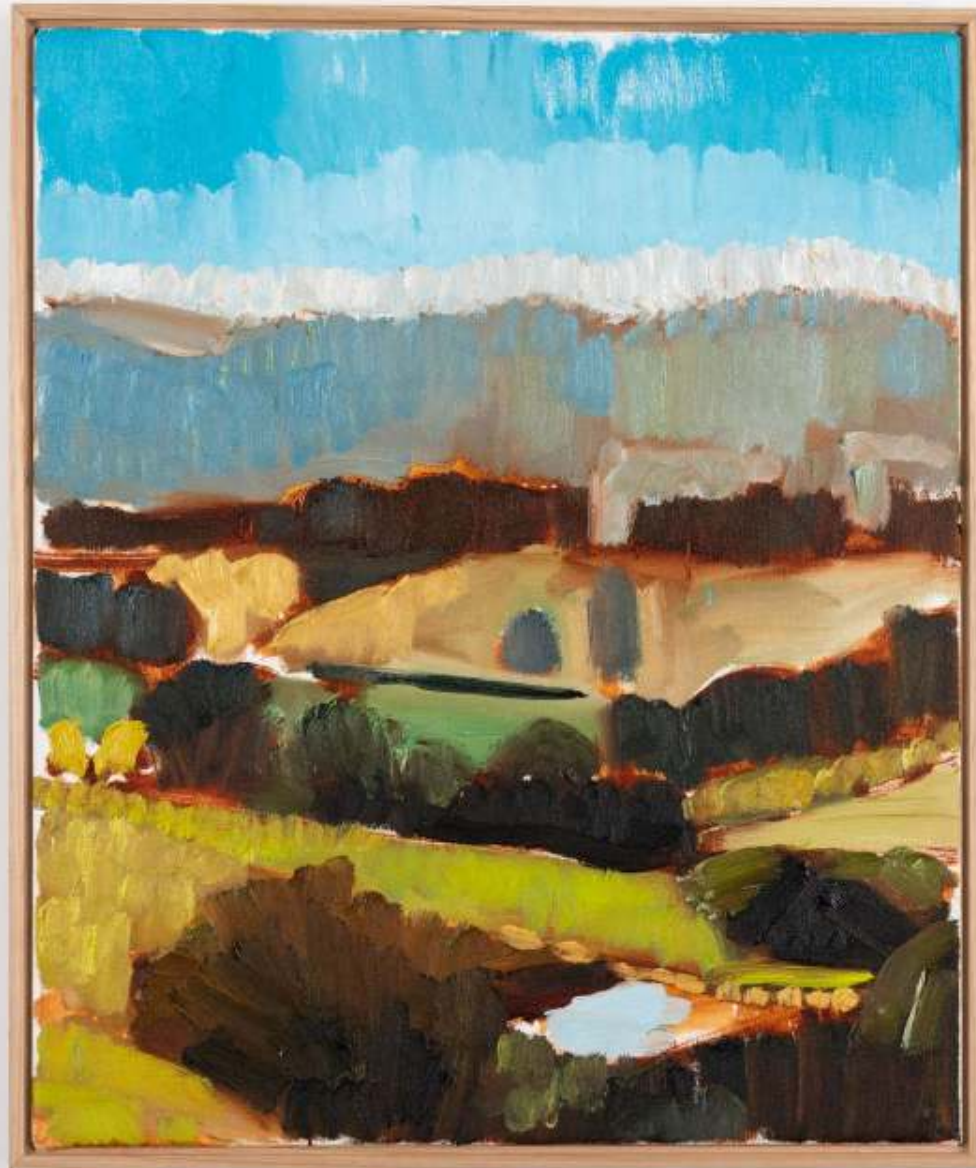


Melanie Waugh
The Curve of the River,
Bellingham, 2022
oil on canvas
72 x 72 cm, framed
\$2,400





Melanie Waugh
Thora Reflections, 2022
oil on canvas
72 x 72 cm, framed
\$2,400



Melanie Waugh
Red Earth, Dorrigo, 2022
oil on canvas
62 x 52 cm, framed
\$1,800



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Rolling Hills, Deervale, 2022

oil on canvas

52 x 56.5cm, framed

\$1,800



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Plateau Bends, Dorrigo, 2022

oil on canvas

62 x 52 cm, framed

\$1,800





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Still Autumn Night, Gleniffer, 2022

oil on canvas

52 x 52 cm, framed

\$1,600



Melanie Waugh

Moonlit Paddock, Dorrigo, 2022

oil on canvas

56.5 x 56.5 cm, framed

\$1,800



Melanie Waugh
Afternoon Shade, 2022
oil on canvas
72 x 72 cm, framed
\$2,400



Melanie Waugh

Mountain Mist, Dorrigo, 2022

oil on canvas

52 x 42 cm, framed

\$1,600



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