

MICHAEL REID

S . H I G H L A N D S



'Unfurl: Gatherings and Collections'

Joanne Sisson

In Ballarat-based artist Joanne Sisson's paintings, delicate stems arc, loop and wander across the canvas, their restless movement held — though never contained — within crystal, vintage glass and humble vessels. The flowers appear perpetually on the verge of outgrowing their arrangements, caught somewhere between cultivation and wildness.

Sisson's compositions occupy two interconnected worlds: the airy realm above the vessel, where stems reach outward and upward, and the submerged world below, where those same forms twist and coil through transparent glass. It is a space of doubling and reflection, where what is seen and what is hidden exist in conversation.

Working within the compressed pictorial space of the modernist still-life tradition, Sisson dispenses with deep perspective, locating her subjects within only the faintest suggestion of a tabletop, often established by little more than a subtle shift in tone against an otherwise uninterrupted field of colour. The celebrated, comparatively small series of still-life paintings John Brack completed in the 1950s comes to mind: their crisp edges, restrained backgrounds, and the precise visual tension between organic irregularity and geometric order.

The directness and graphic clarity with which Brack depicted his subjects reflected both a stylistic moment and a particular social climate — a preference for restraint, efficiency and economy over ornament. Sisson carries this inheritance into a contemporary practice, expanding the isolated botanical form into a more abundant language of colour and movement.

Across *Unfurl*, Sisson's flowers acquire an unexpected presence. A stem of sedum bends gently beneath the weight of its bloom, its curve recalling the poised movement of a ballet dancer. Such moments lend the paintings a distinct theatricality, as though each arrangement possesses its own temperament: a cast of characters suspended in a scene.

INTRODUCTION.

3

ARTWORKS.

4–17

Entwine I
Sedums, Eucalypts, and White Cosmos
Clematis and Sedums
Still life with Globe Thistles
Red Glass and Wildflowers
Eucalypt, Crocosmia, and Yarrow
Yarrow, Correa and Eucalyptus
Still life with Bird Motifs
Spring Collection III
Globe Thistles, Salvia and Yarrow

GALLERY CONTACT DETAILS.

18



Joanne Sisson
Entwine I 2026
acrylic on canvas
124 x 104 cm
float framed in timber
\$5,600





Joanne Sisson
Sedums, Eucalypts, and White Cosmos 2026
acrylic on canvas
94 x 154 cm
float framed in timber
\$5,800



Joanne Sisson
Clematis and Sedums 2026
acrylic on canvas
104 x 114 cm
float framed in timber
\$5,200



Joanne Sisson
Still life with Globe Thistles 2026
acrylic on canvas
104 x 114 cm
float framed in timber
\$5,200





Joanne Sisson
Red Glass and Wildflowers 2026
acrylic on canvas
62 x 62 cm
float framed in timber
\$2,900



Joanne Sisson
Eucalypt, Crocosmia, and Yarrow 2026
acrylic on canvas
94 x 104 cm
float framed in timber
\$4,600





Joanne Sisson
Yarrow, Correa and Eucalypts 2026
acrylic on canvas
104 x 78 cm
float framed in timber
\$4,200



Joanne Sisson
Still life with Bird Motifs 2026
acrylic on canvas
104 x 114 cm
float framed in timber
\$5,200





Joanne Sisson
Spring Collection III 2026
acrylic on canvas
100 x 170 cm
float framed in timber
\$6,400



Joanne Sisson
Globe Thistles, Salvia and Yarrow 2026
acrylic on canvas
94 x 94 cm
float framed in timber
\$4,200

MICHAEL REID

S . H I G H L A N D S

11b Old Hume Highway
Berrima NSW 2577
+61 (02) 8353 3535
southernhighlands@michaelreid.com.au

Monday - Saturday 10am - 5pm
Sunday 10am - 4pm

Michael Reid Southern Highlands acknowledges the Gundungurra and Tharawal people as the Traditional Custodians of the area now known as The Southern Highlands. We pay our respect to Indigenous Elders past, present and emerging.