

MICHAEL REID

S . H I G H L A N D S



'Moments'

Libby Wakefield

At first glance, the work of Gundungurra-based Libby Wakefield appears like imaginatively constructed landscapes: gauzy trees and milky waterways, skies of rose and blue, and landforms softly implied on the horizon line, veiled by fog. But, when viewing her source — the Wingecarribee River, its tree-lined banks, and the ancient peat swamp at Kangaloon — her paintings reveal themselves to be strikingly true depictions of exactly what she sees.

Wakefield finds her inspiration on a canoe, drifting leisurely down the narrow Wingecarribee in the early morning, or on foot, 'locking' what she sees in the mind before returning to her Southern Highlands studio to translate those impressions into paint. "These experiences foster an intimate connection with the landscape," the artist says, "allowing its rhythms, atmosphere, and subtle transformations to reveal themselves over time."

Through these repeated encounters, returning to the same places over and again, the artist develops her enduring visual language, the grammar of which bends and changes with the seasons.

The work of the English Romantics is vividly felt in the pieces that form *Moments*, her second collection, following her 2025 debut, *Capture*. Romantic painters like J.M.W. Turner sought to capture the sublime in nature: moments of communion with the awe and grandeur of the natural world, when the smallness of the observer is thrown into sharp relief against its vastness.

For Turner, this feeling found expression in giant, roiling skies, ships at full mast thrown forward by winds on turbulent oceans, and peachy dawn skies. For Wakefield, the river and wetlands provide their own version of the sublime, as she continues to tease out new vistas and moments in this local landscape.

Wakefield has achieved finalist positions in the Salon des Refusés, the Paddington Art Prize, the Heysen Prize for Landscape, and the Fisher's Ghost Art Award, among others.

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ARTWORKS.

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That Day I
End of Summer
College View
That Day II
Morning Haze
Through the Mist
Rain on the Right Bank
Kangaloon View

GALLERY CONTACT DETAILS.

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Libby Wakefield

That Day I 2026

oil on board

60 × 60 cm

timber float frame with accented slip

\$1,800



Libby Wakefield
End of Summer 2026
oil on board
80 × 60 cm
timber float frame with accented slip
\$2,200





Libby Wakefield
College View 2026
oil on board
80 x 120 cm
timber float frame with accented slip
\$4,500



Libby Wakefield

That Day II 2026

oil on board

60 × 60 cm

timber float frame with accented slip

\$1,800







Libby Wakefield
Morning Haze 2026

oil on board
80 × 60 cm

timber float frame with accented slip
\$2,200



Libby Wakefield
Through the Mist 2026
oil on board
90 × 60 cm
timber float frame with accented slip
\$2,400





Libby Wakefield
Rain on the Right Bank 2026
oil on board
90 × 60 cm
timber float frame with accented slip
\$2,400



Libby Wakefield
Kangaloon View 2026
oil on board
80 x 120 cm
timber float frame with accented slip
\$4,500