

SECOND NATURE

Soft yet bold, simple yet complex, and chaotic yet calm, Amica Whincop's paintings effortlessly juxtapose tensions between opposing elements to create balance. Amica grew up along the rocky coastline of Britain's Isle of Wight and now resides on the sub-tropical Sunshine Coast. Having experienced the diversity of different coastal ecosystems, Amica is inspired by nature's ability to be one thing and another simultaneously and emits such elements through her work.

Nature's rich, diverse colour palette radiates through Amica's canvases. Profound hues of blue oceans, stunning pinks and oranges of luscious sunsets, and subtle greens and greys of the Australian gumtree are just some of the colours captured in *Second Nature*. Amica's organic influence continues through stone-like forms that seem to float amongst a void of negative space in her paintings; yet, hidden beneath the void lies the concealed elements of an understudy of colour, spontaneity and movement that becomes central to Amica's paintings.

Natural contrasts are deeply embedded in Amica's processes and techniques. She employs a kinaesthetic process using her whole body to quickly and spontaneously move around her canvas. She freely marks her canvas with layers, drips and splashes of pure pigment and paint, using water, ink and air pressure to manipulate its movement. Amica often uses spray paint to push against the current of the paint as it freely flows across the canvas.

These techniques are intrinsic to creating fluidity and a connection between the forms that become the final anchor of Amica's work. Once the paint settles into its own place, Amica attempts to make sense of the new landscape on the canvas by mapping a pathway through the chaos of paint. She conceals the remaining landscape behind an opaque, flat ground leaving behind the stone-like forms that balance the tension between negative and positive space.

For Amica, the creative process allows her to channel her energy and quiet her mind. Balancing tensions between conflicting emotions, she states she feels a range of sensations, from anxiety to excitement, when painting. The energy oozing from Amica's fluid paintings emulates her ability to intuitively balance many opposing elements, much like nature itself.

This exhibition has been curated by BCM's Emerging Curator Danielle Harvey on behalf of *artisan*.

All works are courtesy of the artist.