

“Tableau” at the Hive Gallery

Linda Gallus is an artist who is fascinated and endlessly inspired by rural Victoria. In fact, for the month of February, her current work will be on display in the Hive Gallery in Ocean Grove, featuring a painting of the Stick Shed in Murtoa.

Following this exhibition, Linda will be doing an art residency at Rainbow in April, when she will work on her next series of paintings. Already she has been fortunate enough to have been invited to have a solo show next year at the Mildura Arts Centre, featuring this new series of works.

This series is to be called “Finding the Wimmera” and will feature paintings based on the locations in the Wimmera where artist Sidney Nolan painted his Wimmera series. Nolan used the shop next door as his studio during his posting there in World War II. In this way her family and Sidney Nolan are linked, which inspired her to use Nolan’s subject matter, interpreting with her own style, which is very different to Nolan’s.

Linda’s Artistic Style

Artist Linda Gallus has always found old structures and ancient buildings intriguing. She enjoys her drives around rural Victoria, discovering interesting farm buildings and beautiful rural scenes of animals and birds. Strong lines and shadows, created by repetition and dramatic perspective, often inspire her to create a personal response in a unique and original way, often adding animals, birds and humans to the scene to create a story and to give a sense of scale to the scene.

Rural Victoria holds endless inspiration for Linda, and she enjoys recording pieces of its history in glimpses and snippets, focusing on shapes, colours, and perspective. Her paintings usually depict a real place with a story to tell, using strong shapes to give the work a dramatic, contemporary feel. Alongside the workings of these

places, lots of paraphernalia is usually scattered throughout the scene. The graceful old machines and structures hold on to an important part of Victoria’s early history.

Linda will often use a “bird’s eye” view of the scene which adds mystery and intrigue. She sees wonderful buildings, structures, birds and animals in her adventures around Victoria, and likes to add another aspect to the story – a surreal quality or her own quirky, amusing elements.

Inspirational Scenes

It is interesting to learn more about the inspiration for the scenes she captures, when describing her first visit to the Stick Shed, she says, “I was blown away by the enormity of the timber poles and the length of the building. It is cathedral like!”

Linda goes on to explain the challenge it was to paint it – lots of measuring to get the correct perspective and the addition of dogs to give a sense of scale. Perhaps the building isn’t exactly the same as the real thing, but as an artist her aim was to give the viewer a similar experience to the one she had the very first time she saw it. A feeling of WOW!

“The dogs weren’t even there that day,” said Linda, “they belong to a friend of mine and are my little pals, so they were perfect in size, shape and colour.”

Billy Goat Hill was inspired by a particular farm Linda Gallus passed many years ago when, to her amazement there were goats all over this unique little hill of trees in the centre of a paddock. Perhaps it was formed when the land was levelled for cropping and trees grew from the seeds

pushed up into the pile of soil. She regretted not taking a photo at the time, as there were many occasions when she drove past and the goats just weren’t there. Very recently she drove past it again and was so thrilled to see the goats had returned; she just had to paint this scene.

Blue Stone Farm was so fascinating; it has a rather strange quality to it which intrigued Linda at the time she first saw it.

“I think it was the blue stone buildings and the bits and pieces around the farm such as the old well, the old cars, the gates, etcetera,” she said, “I have changed it quite a bit to make it look a bit more ‘lived in’ than in reality. I added in the white cat, and the man with his dog walking over the field to check on his bees. I wanted to tell a story, so I orchestrated the placement of the elements, the perspective and the rich colours.”

Coming Exhibits

Those three paintings featured on this page are just a sample of what is on display at the Hive Gallery, 1/41 Smithton Grove, Ocean Grove, for the month of February; Friday to Sunday 10-4p.m. or by appointment 0417 116 216.

For more information visit the website thehiveocean-grove.com.au.

In April, 2023, Linda will have a new collection on show at the Mildura Arts Centre featuring many scenes from the Wimmera.

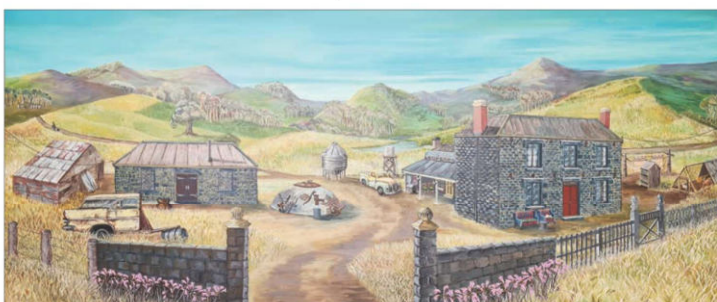
For more information closer to the date, visit the website at milduraartscentre.com.au.



• *The Stick Shed.*



• *Billy Goat Hill.*



• *Blue Stone Farm.*