

SARAH FAULKNER

Artist Statement

My immediate environment has always been a catalyst for a new series of paintings. From travelling to unknown places, to domestic situations, I always draw on these new experiences in my work.

Since moving to Blairgowrie 2 years ago the ocean, (specifically the back beach), the sky and the dunes have inspired the paintings in *The Sea, The Sea*. Over the last two years walking along the cliffs, it is the energy and the force of nature, be it big and wild or calm and contemplative, that have provided inspiration for these paintings. Every day there is change.

The paintings are driven by emotional content which affects the colour and the drama of each work. They are more spontaneous than studied as I find this the best way to capture the movement of the sky and the sea. An instinctive approach to painting, be it an expressionist style, has always enabled my direct approach to my subject matter, helping to keep it fresh and honest. In painting the seascapes, I find wild abandon with the brushstrokes helps capture the energy. Colour may be true to life or heightened to create more drama or a softness which is also evident along the coast. It depends on the day, the tides, the light from the sky. But it is the movement that I'm really interested in trying to find and the movement of the ocean is both confrontingly obvious and a mystery.

- Sarah Faulkner, February 2022