

Kylie Wardlaw

Vantage Point

Earlier this year I spent six weeks in Europe and America and visited eight amazing art museums, including the Rijksmuseum and Van Gogh Museum in Amsterdam, the Munch Museum in Oslo, a small museum in France with a small but impressive collection of impressionist works, and The Metropolitan, Guggenheim and MOMA in New York.

Returning to New Zealand I was struck by the peaceful landscape and uncluttered open space.

When I was travelling, as well as seeing work by my favourite abstract expressionist and post-impressionist artists, my most surprising source of inspiration was Cy Twombly. Something about seeing the 'hand of the artist' up close and in real life as opposed to reproductions really spoke to me. Like the individuality of handwriting, the way he expressed his 'mark' or 'gesture' on the canvas in a free, experimental way was quite fascinating.

In this body of work I have drawn from these influences as well as from Fauvism and the New Zealand landscape painter Toss Woollaston. My painting process is more like a sprint than a marathon. I like to work in a burst of energy, 'alla prima' ('all at once') style, while my ideas are fresh. I work without thinking too much about what I'm doing, preferring an intuitive and somewhat impulsive application of paint. I like exploring different brushstrokes and ways of applying paint, in a vigorous manner which captures the immediacy of my experience.

{ Gallery 1 }