

returning to the source

new imagined landscapes by Charlotte Giblin

This is a particularly significant collection of new work. It is a return to the location where my professional career began in New Zealand; it is a return to the energy of creativity and trust that I have often doubted, tested, and questioned in my art practice; it is the first major body of work I have produced since the successful birth of my latest book 'Seeing Clearly' and the death of my mum, who was my biggest fan.

These landscapes are celebrations of colour, light and palette-knife technique, evolving organically without any source material. Each painting tells a story and is intended to take the viewer on their own personal journey, creating space for the eye and the mind to wander freely.

Charlotte Giblin is a full-time artist and writer living in New Plymouth. She has worked professionally in the visual arts for twenty-five years, including two years as the inaugural director of the Wallace Gallery, Morrinsville.

always, we begin again
acrylic on canvas
122 x 76cm
\$2,900



This was the first painting to emerge, and is a clear transition piece from the trees of my previous series to the open landscapes which subsequently unfolded. I had no idea what was going to happen on the canvas and started to feel despondent when I found myself smearing an abstract mess of thick paint over the surface. I was thinking about my mother and felt emotional – I was asking for her creative help – and I started to massage the thick paint as if it was mum’s back and shoulders. She used to love the massages I gave her and this therapeutic movement of my hands within the paint gave me some peace. Deep ridges started to form in the wet material, I reached for black paint (which I never use!) and a tree began to grow.

Always, we begin again is the title of a book that mum had two copies of, describing the philosophy of the Benedictine monks, and encouraging the mindset of hope and self-forgiveness.

This painting is about renewal, hope and nourishing the deep roots of love.

as my mind wanders on
acrylic on canvas
91 x 91cm
\$2,800 **SOLD**



There is no doubt in my mind that I was dreaming of Wales when I painted this. The rolling hills, the wind whipping through the lush grass, the rocks, the sunlit valley... and the mountains way ahead, shrouded in mist and low-lying cloud. The split between a sense of realism in the foreground and somewhat surreal or suggestive view in the distance, is a wonderful illustration of the way my mind works. These days I can truly appreciate what is directly in front of me, but my imagination is hard to tether, and I still dream of – and eagerly anticipate - all kinds of possible views way up ahead.

the constant lift of light
acrylic on canvas
76 x 122cm
\$2,900



Rocks and beaches appear in many of my paintings. The idea of open sea and the potential for adventure and change is a reoccurring theme: sometimes the vast expanse feels intimidating, other times exciting, and the rocks always provide balance and support.

Here, the anchor of the earth is still strong, but there is a clear pathway lit by the growing light which is calling me forward. However, I can always choose whether to pause and stay close to the rocks, or weave amongst them towards the horizon. My heart is lifted by the light and the clarity it brings.

the promised land
acrylic on canvas
91 x 91cm
\$2,800



I still marvel at this painting because it unfolded with such ease, and in such an unusual palette of colours! The softness of the scene surprised me – I am accustomed to being drawn to use bolder tones – and I found myself yearning to be at the foot of those hills. Even though there is warmth and light surrounding the viewer's position in the painting, I am dreaming of finding a way across the lake to see what is on the other side. The hills feel like they could be from a Fairy-tale, and their soft folds and undulations promise security and peace alongside adventure.

returning to the source

acrylic on canvas

76 x 122cm

\$2,900



This became the painting with the most layering and complexity in the collection, as the story within it changed dramatically during its creation. It became a painting about energy, protection, challenge, and the human spirit.

The bright sliver of light is intentionally suggestive and open to interpretation, despite the grounded realism of all the other elements within the work. The grand gateway of solid, mountainous, rocky formations feels to me like a protective force, guarding the precious river as it flows towards... who knows what?

There are so many directions for the mind to wander in and to explore across this landscape, but for me, it signifies my return to the purity of an unknown creative source after a challenging odyssey. The joy of feeling a cool breeze on your face when you reach the summit, and the triumph and relief of seeing an easy way forward.

breathing in the detail
acrylic on canvas
61 x 41cm
\$840



That moment when you start a journey and feel like you need to open your eyes as wide as possible to take everything in. There is the thrill and excitement of the light horizon and the open water ahead, while simultaneously noticing – and appreciating – the beauty of everything in front of you, not wanting to forget a single detail. Will the islands ahead be this rich in colourful detail, this beautiful, when you get close to them?

the invitation beckons
acrylic on canvas
41 x 61cm
\$840



Twilight on a warm, safe beach, toes in the sand, nestled amongst the rocks. The lights beckon invitingly from across the water, I can almost hear the sound of music and voices: I am intrigued and feel a sense of anticipation and energy. Do I cross over, stay where I am, or pause halfway with the strong ancient trees on the island?

still waters
acrylic on canvas
51 x 51cm
\$840



A storm rages up ahead, but here the waters are calm and still. The clouds create dramatic shapes and forbidding shadows, but here all is quiet, and the light continues to dance playfully on the gentle waters lapping around us. These rocks – these islands – are strong and secure. I feel protected by their energy and comforted by their wisdom and experience.

the golden lure
acrylic on canvas
51 x 51cm
\$840



In this 'pathway painting' there are more obstacles, and the way forward isn't quite so open. However, there is so much absorbing detail along the way that I am enjoying every element of the journey and not nearly so focussed on the destination. And yet, the golden light ahead is undeniably pulling me, filled with warmth and optimism. *That* is where I want to go!

The healing room
acrylic on canvas
51 x 51cm
\$840



Ever since I learnt that cut or damaged trees are nourished by the root systems of the surrounding healthy trees, my forest paintings have taken on new meanings! For years I have painted forests and tree stumps, and never understood the full significance of the healing symbolism within them. They always grew without conscious thought on my canvas, and I applied stories to them in retrospect. When I found myself creating a cut tree in this collection, I had a different perspective which gave me goosebumps. There is veiled mystery in this forest ceremony, and yet it feels wholly positive and redemptive. It is undeniably a healing dance, there is magic happening, and the nurturing communal response is one of absolute love.

dreaming of velvet green
acrylic on canvas
61 x 41cm
\$840



This is another painting which startled me somewhat during the creative process. The smooth curves and minimal detail are unlike anything else, but the story remains familiar. Yearning again for the emerald green grasses of home, the fresh fields and soft, dreamy hills, I was transported away in this painting and returned feeling refreshed and revived. There is such promise ahead, and my heart lifts at the prospect of journeying across this landscape to the water's edge... and beyond.