



Amy Dynan

SKY TALK

# Amy Dynan

**SKY TALK**

18 November - 11 December 2021

**e-catalogue**

Stanley Street gallery  
SYDNEY

11am - 6pm Wednesday - Saturday  
1/52-54 Stanley Street, Darlinghurst NSW 2010  
02 93681142 art@stanleystreetgallery.com.au  
www.stanleystreetgallery.com.au



maelstrom  
2021

## SKY TALK

The sky is softly changing, standing still through the sun's orbit. There is movement and stillness as tangents of pink, orange and purple sway between the silhouette of leaves. It is almost five thirty where I've found myself sitting on the golf course that saddles Goolay'yari (the Cooks River). Under the Banksia the sky hasn't stopped changing, a canvas of spatial movement, a ritual transformation spilling wide, boundlessly, effortlessly. The sky doesn't resist or refrain from the sun's course, slipping between gradients fading into each other, the light tracing ill-defined clouds rolling softly towards the horizon. There is a stillness. How to put these gentle shapes into words?

Covid-19 has taught us a lot about restraint, a lot about control, isolation and regiment. An experience of doing what you are told, for better or worse, it is happening, happened. Time feels different, but it hasn't changed. The sun continues its course, yet we have shifted together, our bodies in time, in isolation, unsettled, yet settled, our temporal senses confused. Already it is September. A ritual of the pandemic, I come to the river each day to see the sun moving through the sky. It is changing again, always in a new way that I've never seen before. Today it is warm, the colours sighing quietly, settling into dusk. At a time when we all yearn for a sense of connection, the sky becomes one of those places where we can meet, a never-ending breadth that we all look up to, talk to, dream to, a ritual escape to somewhere else.

Interested in using the framework of beauty to explore human relationships with the natural world, Amy Dynan's exhibition, 'Sky Talk' is at once of a shared experience of the natural world, as it is of personal places once travelled. The series of pastel cloudscapes was born from the long drives out in the countryside, getting away and out herself, momentarily forgetting the pandemic. It was here that the sky became a confidant, a companion for aspirations and desires. In talking to the sky the spectrum of our fragile existence became apparent for the artist. This series is meditative, dreaming of family gatherings, personal histories and a nostalgia for togetherness. We can see the experience of moving through landscape quickly and freely, yet confined to the car lingering between the muted marks.

*Sky Talk* represents a transition in material practice and process. Departing from charcoal and away from her typical monochromatic palette, Dynan is taking a bold new direction to explore new beginnings with a new medium. Classic burnt colours of the country along the iconic Hume Highway are evoked in the wide pastel cloudscapes, finding a wilderness, depth and longing in subdued thoughtful compositions. The Hume, a path well travelled to meet loved ones, connecting the artist from Sydney to Albury and further south, is trail of familiarity and quiet, of movement and stillness.



Enquire

*gundagai*  
2021

pastel on paper  
Saunders Waterford hot-pressed paper 425gsm  
75 x 50 cm Paper size, 84 x 59 x 6cm Framed

**\$2035**



Enquire

*flux*  
2021

Pastel on Saunders Waterford  
hot-pressed paper 425gsm  
80 x 150 cm Paper size, 89 x 159 x 6 cm Framed

**\$5,200**

It was at the Hill End residency at the end of a turbulent 2020 that Dynan's focus on the sky and transition into colour solidified. It was intended to be a moment of productive making, but due to health turned into a moment of rest and healing, of being quiet and still, and of spending hours looking at the sky. This time spent noticing and watching were in fact studies that came to consolidate this evolution in Dynan's practice that we see in *Sky Talk*.

Critical to Dynan's conceptual framework is care for the environment. As the exploitative relationship with the land of Western cultures becomes more difficult to ignore, alternative ways of framing our connection with nature garner importance. 'Sky Talk' is a series exploring aesthetic perspectives that evoke the sublime to inspire a sense of care and love for environment beyond the human. According to the artist, to choose to convey the beauty of our land is not to deny the very real decline, but rather to encourage a shift in focus, turning to emotional atmospheres of wonderment and majesty for new direction.

Merging photorealism with abstract sensibilities, Dynan has always been interested in moments of sublimity both within herself and within the natural world. Her drawing practice explores the fluidity between psychological and spiritual shifts in consciousness, something occurring in-between the repetition and routine of the process. There is a happening in the artwork, a breath or shift, which for Dynan is best described as a coming into stillness over an arc of time. Realism can be arduous and rigorous, yet through the layers and discipline Dynan speaks of slipping into an alternate state of mind, a giving in to the work as it becomes its own. In many ways, this tends to her conceptual concerns, to the supple fluidity of the mind and the body experienced in the car seat speeding down the Hume.

In her transportive atmospheres of sky, I feel sensitive to a longing, where the dynamics of light and dark work allegorically to interpret the opposing forces in nature and in ourselves. As a series, *Sky Talk* presents something more than cloudscapes, but a suspension between land and sky, material and ethereal, it is a wanting of being without constraint, control or regiment, a departure from reality, looking to the sky to converse personally and philosophically.

This text was written in response to Amy Dynan's latest body of work *Sky Talk* presented by Stanley Street Gallery.

*I would like to acknowledge the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation as the traditional custodians of the land upon which this text was researched and written. I pay respect to the Elders past, present and emerging. Sovereignty never ceded.*

**Claire de Carteret**  
*writer & curator*

Enquire



*the road home - flying down the hume*  
2021

Pastel on Saunders Waterford  
hot-pressed paper 425gsm  
80 x 150 cm Paper size, 89 x 159 x 6 cm Framed

**\$5,200**



Enquire

*hill end morning*  
2021

Pastel on Saunders Waterford  
hot-pressed paper 425gsm  
80 x 150 cm Paper size, 89 x 159 x 6 cm Framed

**\$5,200**

Enquire

*maelstrom*  
2021

Pastel on Saunders Waterford  
hot-pressed paper 425gsm  
80 x 150 cm Paper size, 89 x 159 x 6 cm Framed

**\$5,200**





Enquire

*the hume*  
2021

Pastel on Saunders Waterford  
hot-pressed paper 425gsm  
75 x 101 cm Paper size, 84 x 110 x 6 cm Framed

**\$3,500**



Enquire

*over the rise I & II*  
2021

Pastel on Saunders Waterford  
hot-pressed paper 425gsm  
101 x 75 cm [single]  
109 x 84 x 6 cm Framed

**\$5,800 (Diptych)**



*the road home – flying down the hume*  
2021

The landscapes are vast and the skies are vaster still.

Giant skies, with towers of clouds, above golden-brown plains.

The curves and curls of the clouds echoed in the gentle rise of hills  
and swirl of roads and river.

I love the contrasts. The blue and gold of field and sky, or sand  
and sea and sky. The brooding clouds and shafts of sunshine. The  
blocky, geometric marks of the pastel, with wispy fine details.

Turneresque in the way it veers from perfectly rendered land and  
skyscape to impressionistic. But unmistakably clouds, wonderfully  
discrete and utterly themselves, not the fog and haze of Turner's  
Londons.

The paintings look good enough to eat.

A sense of openness and freedom. A reminder that adventure and  
the open road awaits beyond our lockdown.  
It's a big world after all.

Caitlin Fitzsimmons  
Writer



Enquire

*hill end preamble*  
2021

Pastel on Saunders Waterford  
hot-pressed paper 425gsm  
75 x 101 cm Paper size, 84 x 110 x 6 cm Framed

**\$3,500**

Enquire

*electric dreaming*  
2021

Pastel on Saunders Waterford  
hot-pressed paper 425gsm  
101 x 75 cm Paper size, 84 x 110 x 6 cm Framed

**\$3,500**



Enquire

*wonderlust*  
2021

Pastel on Saunders Waterford  
hot-pressed paper 425gsm  
101 x 75 cm Paper size, 110 x 84 x 6 cm Framed

**\$3,500**

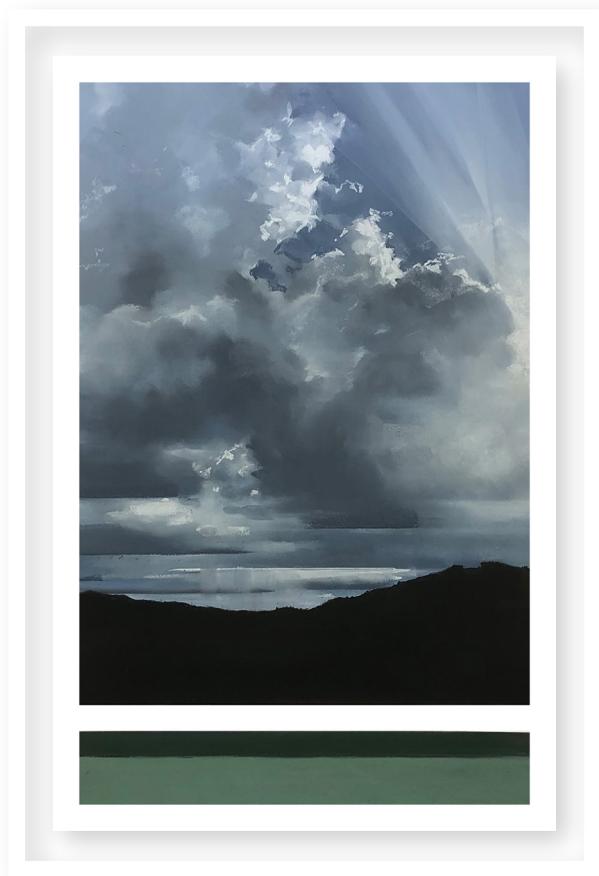


Enquire

*sky talk I & II*  
2021

Pastel on Saunders Waterford  
hot-pressed paper 425gsm  
75 x 50 cm (each) Paper size, 84 x 59 cm Framed

**\$2,035 (each)**





Enquire

*sky talk III*  
2021

Pastel on Saunders Waterford  
hot-pressed paper 425gsm  
75 x 50 cm Paper size, 84 x 59 cm Framed

**\$2,035**



## AMY DYNAN

Amy Dynan is an award-winning artist renowned for her nuanced balance between conceptual rigour and classical drawing skills. Dynan sees drawing as a fundamental means of expression that is often overlooked as a preparatory stage in lieu of master artworks and is driven to continue to contribute to contemporary drawing in Australia. According to Dynan, “drawing is the most intuitive stage of the creative process and I want to continue to bring awareness to drawing as the veritable art form that it is.”

Following a ‘tree-change’ to Wagga Wagga in 2012, Dynan pursued her love of drawing and held her first exhibition ‘Solitude’, an experience which cemented her desire to pursue an artistic practice professionally.

Upon returning to Sydney, Dynan pursued a Master of Contemporary Art and Master of Fine Arts at Sydney College of the Arts, developing a strong conceptual framework of beauty as a means to explore human relationships with the natural world.

“As a visual artist, research can offer a deeper, more profound connection to the significance of one’s own art practice in a field beyond the studio. I knew that my passion for drawing, combined with rigorous institutional and art world scrutiny and support would provide the necessary framework to further my aesthetic.”

Dynan’s career has since taken off. In 2019 her solo exhibition ‘Water’ sold out and she was selected for Sydney Contemporary Art Fair; she has been a finalist in the Dobell Drawing Prize in 2019 and 2021, and was also a finalist in the Adelaide Perry Drawing Prize for 2018, 2019 & 2021. Dynan has been selected for art residencies in France and Norway in 2018, to Hill End, Mornington Peninsula Regional Gallery and Gonyah programs in 2020 and Tweed Regional Gallery in 2021.



## AMY DYNAN - CURRICULUM VITAE

### Education

- 2017 Master of Fine Arts Sydney College of the Arts, University of Sydney
- 2014 Master of Contemporary Art Sydney College of the Arts, University of Sydney
- 2008 Bachelor of Arts - Art History & Theory University of Sydney

### Solo exhibitions

- 2021 Sky Talk, Stanley Street Gallery, Darlinghurst NSW
- 2019 Water, Stanley Street Gallery, Darlinghurst NSW
- 2017 Draw the Light, Bondi Pavilion Gallery, Bondi NSW
- 2013 Displacement, Wagga Wagga Art Gallery, Wagga Wagga NSW
- 2012 Solitude, Docker Street Gallery, Wagga Wagga NSW

### Group exhibitions

- 2021 Dobell Drawing Prize Finalist Exhibition, National Art School, Darlinghurst NSW
- 2021 Adelaide Perry Drawing Prize Finalist Exhibition, Adelaide Perry Gallery, Croydon NSW
- 2020 Séance, Curated by Sean Morris, Stanley Street Gallery, Darlinghurst NSW
- 2019 Dobell Drawing Prize Finalist Exhibition, National Art School, Darlinghurst NSW
- 2019 Adelaide Perry Drawing Prize Finalist Exhibition, Adelaide Perry Gallery, Croydon NSW
- 2018 Sgraffito, Saint Cloche Gallery, Paddington NSW
- 2018 Sydney Contemporary Art Fair Representing Stanley Street Gallery, Carriageworks, Eveleigh NSW
- 2018 Lifeblood - Square 1 Studios, Grace Cossington Gallery, Wahroonga NSW
- 2018 Adelaide Perry Drawing Prize Finalist Exhibition, Adelaide Perry Gallery, Croydon NSW
- 2017 Ravenswood Australian Women's Art Prize Finalist Exhibition, Ravenswood School for Girls, Gordon NSW
- 2017 Represented Artists, Stanley Street Gallery, Darlinghurst NSW
- 2017 SCA Postgraduate Degree Exhibition, MFA Sydney College of the Arts, Lilyfield NSW
- 2016 Myself Art Prize Finalist Exhibition, Jugglers Art Space, Fortitude Valley QLD
- 2016 Hornsby Art Prize Finalist Exhibition, Wallarobba Arts and Cultural Centre, Hornsby NSW
- 2016 Marie Ellis OAM Prize for Drawing Finalist Exhibition, Jugglers Art Space, Fortitude Valley QLD
- 2016 Warringah Art Prize Finalist Exhibition, Creative Space, North Curl Curl NSW
- 2016 Salon of Infectious Ideas, Stanley Street Gallery, Darlinghurst NSW
- 2016 Swan Hill Print & Drawing Acquisitive Awards Finalist Exhibition, Swan Hill Regional Art Gallery, Swan Hill VIC
- 2015 Portraits, Stanley Street Gallery, Darlinghurst NSW
- 2015 We Get By, Cooks Hill Gallery, Newcastle NSW

- 2015 Inspired HVGS Art Prize Exhibition, Maitland, NSW
- 2014 Works on Paper, Stanley Street Gallery, Darlinghurst NSW
- 2014 St George Art Awards Finalist Exhibition, Hurstville Museum & Gallery, Hurstville NSW
- 2014 SCA Postgraduate Degree Exhibition Sydney College of the Arts, Lilyfield NSW
- 2013 Black Swan Prize for Portraiture Finalist Exhibition, Linton & Kay Gallery, West Perth WA
- 2013 The Mortimore Prize Finalist Exhibition, St. Brigid's Hall, Dubbo NSW
- 2013 Wagga Wagga Art Prize Finalist Exhibition, PCYC, Wagga Wagga NSW
- 2012 The Mortimore Prize Finalist Exhibition, St. Brigid's Hall, Dubbo NSW
- 2012 Wagga Wagga Art Prize Finalist Exhibition, PCYC, Wagga Wagga NSW
- 2012 Raw Art Lounge Gallery, Wagga Wagga NSW

#### Awards and Achievements

- 2021 Finalist Dobell Drawing Prize, Finalist Adelaide Perry Drawing Prize
- 2019 Finalist Dobell Drawing Prize, Finalist Adelaide Perry Drawing Prize
- 2018 Finalist Adelaide Perry Drawing Prize
- 2017 Finalist Ravenswood Australian Women's Art Prize
- 2016 Winner Myself Art Prize, Finalist Hornsby Art Prize, Finalist Marie Ellis OAM Prize for Drawing, Finalist Swan Hill Print & Drawing Acquisitive Awards
- 2014 Finalist St George Art Awards
- 2013 Semi-Finalist Doug Moran National Portrait Prize, Finalist Black Swan Prize for Portraiture, Finalist Mortimore Art Prize
- 2012 Winner Wagga Wagga Art Prize, Winner Drawing Section, Wagga Wagga Art Prize, Finalist Mortimore Art Prize

#### Residencies and Grants

- 2021 Nancy Fairfax Artist Residency, Tweed Regional Gallery
- 2020 Hill End Artist in Residence Program, Hill End NSW
- 2020 Artist in Residence, Police Point Shire Park, Portsea Mornington Peninsula Regional Gallery, Mornington VIC
- 2018 Recipient CREATENSW Professional Development Grant
- 2018 Artist in Residence KUNSTNARHUSET MESSEN, ÅLVIK, Norway
- 2018 Artist in Residence DRAWInternational, Caylus, France
- 2017 Hill End Artist in Residence Program, Hill End NSW
- 2016 Winner, Zelda Stedman Young Artist Scholarship University of Sydney

#### Collections

Amy Dynan is collected by many private collections both nationally and internationally.

# e-catalogue

Amy Dynan is represented by Stanley Street Gallery

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All frames are 20mm wide x 60mm deep white box moulding with the artwork floated over an off white matboard.

Cover image: *wonderlust* (detail) 2021, pastel on paper 101 x 75 cm

Photography Amy Dynan  
Contributors Claire de Carteret & Caitlin Fitzsimmons  
Design: Marilyn Bailey

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