



**Two-thirds sky: searching for the sublime in the Northern Rivers  
Sandra Guy**

The Macnaughton Focus Gallery

Friday 19 June – Sunday 2 August

---

*“...the contemporary sublime is mostly about...a transformative experience that is understood as occurring within the here and now. Ultimately, the sublime is an experience looking for a context”.*

Simon Morley, “Introduction/The Contemporary Sublime”.  
[www.simonmorley.com/biography/The\\_Sublime-An\\_Introduction](http://www.simonmorley.com/biography/The_Sublime-An_Introduction)

This exhibition re-examines the 19th century Romantic aesthetic notion that divides the world into categories: the sublime, the picturesque and the pastoral. For the Romantics, the ‘sublime’ was wild, vast, powerful – inspiring awe and terror, and was clearly differentiated from a pastoral or inhabited landscape.

My experience of the Northern Rivers landscape led me to question these ideas and conclude that ‘sublime’ moments can be experienced in any environment. Prominent road signs coupled with two-thirds of ‘sublime’ sky hint at the sometimes uncomfortable marriage of the natural environment with a rural environment typical of the Northern Rivers – reiterating existing environmental tensions related to land use versus land preservation. Ominous and dominant skies above an environment impacted by humans could be seen as a warning of man’s complacency about their surroundings.

My work reflects this search for a fusion of contemporary experience and Romantic notions.

Sandra Guy, September 2014

---

**Sandra Guy**

*No U-Turn* 2014

oil on linen

50 x 60cm