



ROCK FACE

Gabriela Soelkner

Macnaughton Focus Gallery and Kelly Wall

13 November 2020 – 28 February 2021

“Thirty-eight years of exploring the caldera of an extinct, ancient shield volcano that erupted twenty-three million years ago.

Thousands of opportunities to gather information. Hundreds of memorable and inspiring details collected on every walk through the bush and rainforest, along many creek beds, touching countless textured, weathered rock surfaces on every mountain climb. Seeing eroded faces in profile on giant rock formations and headlands. Contemplating what fossils could be suspended in the compressed mud, silt and sediment lines of extraordinary shape and colour.

Often beginning with clear candle and white oil sticks to create a barely visible layer of first impressions, I then draw with earth coloured pencils dipped in black and sepia ink, using soft and hard charcoal for sharp and smudged lines. Powdering the surface with loose graphite and ground pigments of lamp black, caput mortuum, cassel earth and titanium grey. Painting with opaque copper, iridescent nickel, flat black and white gesso. Scraping, scarring and scratching back the layers exposing earlier hidden marks as the process opens a cache of collected memories and stories.

While reflecting on the permanency of a rock face and the temporary nature of human life, I have combined my interests in anthropology, archaeology and geology into an exhibition of work revealing my relationship stories about the land and the people that have created intimacy in my life and art practice.”

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An outcome of the Community Access Exhibitions Program.

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SISTER TRACKS 2019

gesso, ink, charcoal, oilstick on 300 gsm paper, 70 × 100cm

Image courtesy the artist.