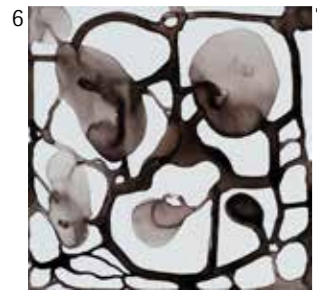
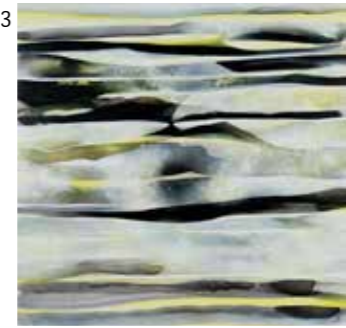


... EMBRACING  
THE SENSE OF  
BELONGING  
IS ONE OF  
THE CENTRAL  
THEMES TO  
HER ARTISTIC  
PRACTICE



1 'Transplanted', oil on canvas 2016  
2 'Allison: He Poroporoaki', oil on canvas 2016  
3. Untitled: 30cm x 30cm, Ink on ply, 2017  
4. Country: A Place of Hope, 120cm x 120cm, oil and ink on canvas, 2017 Inaugural Royal Art Landscape Award , 2017  
5. Tree of Life: Tihei Mauri Ora, 150cm x 125cm, oil and ink on canvas, 2016, Minnawara Award Finalist  
6. Taranaki: A Place to Remember, 150cm x 125cm, oil on canvas, 2016, Minnawarra Art Award Finalist  
7. Loch Katrine: 30cm x 30cm, oil and ink on ply with B/W Photograph, 2017



## SUE LEEMING

For Sue Leeming, the process of accepting Perth as her home and embracing the sense of belonging is one of the central themes to her artistic practice.

"It's my tūranga-waewae, a well-known and powerful Māori concept," says Sue, who was born in New Plymouth, on New Zealand's North Island and identifies as a New Zealand Maori as well as of English and Scottish descent.

Literally tūranga (standing place), waewae (feet), tūranga-waewae is often translated as "a place to stand".

Like many, Sue lives in a space between cultures not fully Maori and not fully Pakeha (Maori for white New Zealander).

"Tūranga-waewae are places where we feel especially empowered and connected. They are our foundation, our place in the world, our home," she says.

It's taken a few years for Sue to feel that way about Perth having left New Zealand in 1998 after graduating with a Fine Arts degree and Post Graduate Diploma in printmaking from the Elam School of Fine Art in Auckland.

"I am not from here, this is not my country, but it is where I met my husband and where our children were born. It is our country, our place of belonging in this world. This is our turanga-waewae," says Sue.

"I love the open skies and expansive horizons that keep me looking towards the future, and give me the space to breathe and embrace the moment by moment experience of life."

Sue's work is also informed by a continual

exploration of the sense of loss and accepting a grieving process for home which many emigrants feel.

Sue has always painted and drawn and remembers clearly a formative moment at primary school.

"I remember my teacher showing another student how to draw clouds and, to my young eyes, it seemed like magic. One minute there was a blank page and the next a whole new world of possibility appeared before me. I was hooked," she says.

Nowadays she "draws with paint", enjoying the immediacy of creating images in the moment.

"I majored in printmaking and bought a beautiful old Japanese etching press from my university so that I could continue to make prints," she says.

"I always felt that I approached printmaking like a painter preferring more immediate processes like monotype and lithography."

Sue worked alongside a man with an acquired brain injury as an art aid for four years. It was both challenging and freeing, she says.

"I learned very quickly that our internal vision, our capacity to perceive and find expression for that, was extremely potent," she says.

Sue works mostly in oils, but experiments with a variety of mediums.

The time it takes for oil paint to dry is not a negative factor for Sue; she uses that time to reflect, and often works on several pieces at the same time.

As she continues to work on a larger body of work of abstracted landscapes, she's exploring the possibilities of the marouflage method (an ancient technique that affixes paintings to a surface such as wood, canvas or a wall).

"The marouflaging of surfaces provides an alluring metaphor for immigration, the coming together of cultures and identities, and the inevitable tension of adhesion and resistance within that experience," she says.

"Art is so continually undervalued, you constantly have to fight for the right to be you," she says. "I hope to always be doing this with more freedom to travel and exhibit regularly and to have the resources to support this habit of mine."

Visit [sueleeming.com](http://sueleeming.com), or find her on facebook.com/SueLeemingArtist and @sueleemingartist