

## **ARTIST Q & A: Danie Mellor**

### **Who was your earliest/biggest influence artistically?**

Tim Storrier, David Hockney, Joseph Beuys, Anselm Kiefer, Caspar David Friedrich, my mother (she taught me art at high school), and the amazing spaces suggested in Rover Thomas' paintings, which I love.



### **What media do you use and why?**

Anything that suits the ideas I'm working with – quite often I use materials I'm not familiar with, so it's a process of finding someone who knows more than I do who can add their expertise to the project. I tend to learn more that way, and experts in the field contribute so that work develops in unexpected ways.

### **What study have you undertaken, in art and other disciplines, and how has this contributed to your practice?**

I've studied at university to doctoral level in the area of fine art, and that was pretty encompassing in terms of the areas that I explored. Having been to a Steiner School for most of my pre-tertiary education, it was a very interesting lead in to my interest in the landscape, in that emphasis was placed on observation through the arts and sciences. Interestingly enough, even though Steiner talks using a Eurocentric ideology and framework of interpretation, there are comparable elements and themes inherent in his philosophical narrative that parallel an Indigenous outlook, which is holistic in the way it approaches deeper and more intuitive readings of the environment and landscape.

### **What is the biggest source of inspiration for your work?**

The landscape and nineteenth century responses to it; Romanticism, and the way in which country began to be interpreted through that particular framework especially. I also find a lot of British art from the last 15 years particularly interesting in its reengagement with history and contemporary practice.

### **Is there a dominant message that you try to convey through painting to your audience?**

No – messages are interwoven and have relative importance to one another, and also the context in which they rest.