



PETRA REECE

IN SEARCH OF LIGHT

Solo Show

ARTIST STATEMENT



My paintings have a traditional background, long before I was able to pick up a brush; I was influenced by my father's work.

His paintings were mostly copies of old Dutch masters so the books and posters that informed my early years were the likes of Vermeer, Rembrandt, Ruysdael, I love the low horizons and dramatic skies of the Dutch painters. Later I would look at some of the Australian landscape painters, and later still at art school, the works of Morandi and Balthus.

The paintings in the September exhibition at 19 Karen gallery will comprise of still life and landscape-beach works. The main theme, for want of a better term will be 'Light'. It is important to me to depict light in most of my work.

With the still life paintings, I arrange the pieces and cloth materials for maximum effect. The fabrics are placed and draped so that folds and creases run in an almost circular fashion to 'contain' the centre of the work. The possibilities are endless and sometimes I will spend hours arranging and trying out various materials. For instance silk and cotton and satin will hang and behave in totally different ways. But silk shantung can be pushed and folded and almost moulded to suit and it won't move. Other fabrics hang heavily and have to be pinned so as not to fall or slip.

When I paint the landscapes and beachscapes the emphasis is nearly always on the light and drama in cloud forms. The colours and found in the sky and clouds are endless, greens, purple, yellow, orange, and all shades of blue to nearly black. Clouds can be light and fluffy to dramatic with clearly defined edges.

The subjects of the landscapes come from various sources and I have a fascination with abandoned buildings and houses that I place in precarious settings.

Traditional still life paintings with a nod to past masters. Traditional landscapes with a slightly surreal and edgy drama.

