

Naomi Bishop

Ribbons of light. Hollowed-out plant life. Rock inscrutable. Rock over rock. Inside weather. Outside lakes, townships. Wild pink striking against vertigo. A year shaded at the edges. Threads of harmonic colour. Clustering branches. Spectacular endings, messages, tree roots.

Naomi Bishop understands that the eye is always looking for a place to rest but that the spirit is restless. In her paintings timescales layer, matter and light splitting her objects – ritual, magical – into dimensions beginning here but arriving someplace just beyond us. These paintings have been shaped by her travels across three continents. They bring together the sheer crystalline force of Finland’s winter daylight, the damp edges of Taipei’s forests, the drama of our own dry scrub’s sandpaper heat. The paintings come alive in this way; a portal opens up between them and us. For Naomi perhaps they exist as a kind of map. For us they are a trail.

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The Unexplained and Unexplored are recurring themes in the work of Naomi Bishop. She is interested in exploring darkness, silence, mysterious events and peripheral, otherworldly places. A shared interest in both science and metaphysics, searches for the point at which they might converge and reveal secret knowledge from unseen worlds. Her work is based primarily in the areas of painting and works on paper.

Naomi Bishop has been exhibiting internationally since graduating with a Masters of Fine Art from Chelsea College of Art in London in 2003. Internationally her work has been exhibited at London’s Whitechapel Gallery, The Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin, Fondation Hippocrene, and Galerie Nicolas Silin in Paris, Arteles Creative Centre, Finland, and The National University of Taiwan. She has presented several solo exhibitions at Galerie Nicolas Silin, Paris. In Melbourne she has presented solo exhibitions at Blindside, Kings, Rubicon and Alternating Current Art Space. From 2014-2015 Naomi collaborated with Melbourne fashion label Tettmann.Doust, creating prints for two ranges *Underland* (AW14) and *Vellamo* (SS14/15). In 2019 Naomi exhibited in Sydney at the Hazelhurst Arts Centre in *The Land of The Green Ghosts* and *Graphics* at AiRSpace Projects. She curated and exhibited in *Microcosmographia* at fortyfive downstairs Melbourne in 2020. She has been included in significant prizes and curated exhibitions and has received grants from Creative Victoria, The Menzies Foundation, The Wellcome Trust and The Australia Council.

Naomi was artist in residence, at Arteles Creative Centre in Finland in January 2014 and August 2015, and at Heritage Hill Museum and Gardens, Dandenong, and Hawthorn Arts Centre in 2018.

Naomi Bishop's work is represented in the collections of The Whitechapel Gallery, La Banque Postale, Rachel Whiteread, and Pierre Pradié, and private collections in France, Spain, Germany, Finland, United Kingdom, Ireland, Taiwan, Australia, New Zealand, and The United States. Her work has been featured in FAINT, Gallery (NGV), Elle Decoration and Têlêrama, and Time Out and The Guardian (UK).