



STORIES

by Hela Donela


Friday 8 - Wednesday 13 December, 2023
The Shop Gallery, 112 Glebe Point Road, Glebe NSW

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“Find the thread. Find me.

Follow the thread. Find yourself.”

Follow the series of paintings to see the individual, but
interwoven stories unfold.



WAIL OF THE MAGPIE

I was lying there, on my bed. Stapled and throbbing.
And listening to the magpies outside my open window.
That day the magpies didn't sing. They cried. So did I.

25 Broken Like a flower with a broken stem, I doubted if I could stand again. On my bed, I dreamt of magpies. On the floor, I painted sunflowers.

**Previously not shown in public

Acrylic, stainless steel staples and surgical staples on unstretched cotton canvas
2013

NFS

26 Sunflowers in Summer Night Celebrating midsummer night blue hues with sunflowers.

Acrylic on cotton canvas on board
2013

\$12,000

27 Hela How much easier it is to say what you think than to express how you feel.

Acrylic on unstretched canvas with board backing
2014

NFS

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|----|-------------------------------------|---|
| 28 | Wail of the Magpie 2 | I was lying there, on my bed.
Head stapled and throbbing.
I was listening to the magpies outside my open window.
That day magpies did not sign, they cried.
So did I.

Acrylic and staples on linen on board
2013

\$8,000 |
| 29 | Wail of the Magpie 3 | The one who does not know how to cry,
cannot laugh either.

Acrylic on canvas
2014

\$8,000 |
| 30 | Wail of the Magpie 4: Broken Dreams | For dreams to be free
the shells must be broken first.

Acrylic, straw and egg shells on linen
2016

\$8,000 |
| 31 | Wail of the Magpie 5: Defiance | I stand up strong.
I remember
and I let go.

Acrylic and stainless steel staples on linen
2021

\$8,000 |

WHAT'S YOUR BUTTERFLY?

Does the caterpillar know it will become a butterfly? Does it worry about not being able to fly? I only know two things. Caterpillars are hungry. And they don't speak butterfly. Yet.

- 1 Wild as a Flower To live, live live.
Wonderfully live and flourish.

Acrylic on linen
2023

\$5,800
- 2 Song of a Black Swan Share your song.
A black swan gets a black swan.

Acrylic on linen
2019

\$4,200
- 3 Ode to the Sunflower Needless to say,
I LOVE YOU.

Acrylic on recycled linen
2020

\$5,800
- 4 Cover Up I am sorry.
In their behalf,
In my behalf.
Forgive me.
Conceal me.
Heal me.

Acrylic and picked up rubbish, on linen
2023

\$8,000

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| 5 | Some Time Later | The air was not for lungs.
My village being saved, I felt guilt.
Will we ever learn?
Will gumtrees flower again?
Will the butterfly have a new home?

Acrylic, stainless steel and bushfire ash on linen
2020

\$13,500 |
| 6 | Bluegum Jazz | Find your own tune,
And colour your life
with strokes unpainted.

Acrylic and copper on linen
2020

\$8,500 |
| 7 | Passion | Let it out!
Never fear.

Acrylic on linen
2023

\$6,900 |
| 8 | Sunflowers | Bring out your own sun.

Acrylic on linen
2023

\$6,900 |
| 9 | We Live From
Light 3 | Breathing in darkness.
Breathing out light.

Acrylic on linen
2023

\$5,200 |

BEING HOME

'Where' is not as important as 'why'. The person I am, in the place I call 'home'. And wonderfully, you call it 'home', too. The person you are.

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| 10 | Ruminating
Heifers | And we contemplated the world, the universe and it all.
We let it all go and embraced only the rough, wet kisses -
then and there. |
| | | Acrylic on linen
2023 |
| | | \$5,500 |
| 11 | Gerringong Light | I stand ankle deep in wintry water
and breathe in the crisp ocean air.
My eyes rest on the emerald green eminence
as warm rays dance on my cheeks.
Here, I reflect on the name: Fearful Place. |
| | | Acrylic on board
2020 |
| | | \$2,900 |
| 12 | From Mountain
Top to Mountain
Top and as Far
as Eye Can see | I belong.
I am grateful. |
| | | Acrylic and stainless steel staples on board
2020 |
| | | \$2,900 |
| 13 | Terara | Thank you for the 60 zone. |
| | | Acrylic and copper on 100yo herringbone linen
2021 |
| | | POA |

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|----|--------------------------|---|
| 14 | Rantasaunalla | Rantasaunalla (sauna by the lake)
In my own safe heaven
where I breathe and sweat all worries away.

Acrylic on 100yo herringbone linen
2022

POA |
| 15 | Make Mine
Smooth Jazz | Mine? Soft, smooth jazz. But interesting. With a few
broken notes. Played with a clarinet, preferably. Yes.
Smooth Jazz. Yours?

Acrylic and clarinet reeds on linen
2020

\$6,800 |
| 16 | A Woman and
Her Horse | He venido a este centro de la nada pa' gritar
Porque el alma prende fuego cuando deja de amar

(Lhasa se Sela "El Desierto")

Acrylic on linen
2020

\$6,800 |
| 17 | Five Visitors
Allowed | Five visitors allowed.
Just no dancing.

Acrylic on linen
2020

\$6,800 |

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|----|-------------------------|---|
| 18 | Pink Gumtree
Flowers | Every time a gumtree is felled,
it's friends mourn in pain.
Sadness turns their flowers pink.
And my heart weeps with them.
All this for standing in the wrong place.

Acrylic and stainless steel on linen
2017

\$12,000 |
| 19 | Early Morning
Sounds | Oyster catchers on Jervis Bay shore on an early morning.
Discords and harmonies of nature.

Acrylic on linen
2020

\$6,800 |
| 20 | In Confidence | Things may not be as they seem.

Acrylic on linen
2021

\$6,800 |
| 21 | Safe | Here, I rest and nourish my soul.
May the tempest release its rage.
I have no fear -
For I feed on your nectar.

Acrylic on linen
2023

\$5,500 |

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|----|------------------------------|---|
| 22 | Truth and I | The Truth
& I
Are stanger
Thank fiction;
Perhaps we are one
& the same

(poem by Adam Rehn)

Acrylic, egg shells and mixed media on cotton canvas
2017

\$9,800 |
| 23 | A Field of Broken
Flowers | Escaped.
Unnoticed.
Blooming.
This is the story of some cornflowers gone wild.

Acrylic on linen
2022

\$8,000 |
| 24 | Frostbitten | Kissed by the First Winter Frost.
Still alive.

Acrylic on fine Belgian linen on board
2018

\$9,800 |