

Coexistence

Zoelene Cook

With unfolding panels revealing a gateway to bizarre parallel spaces, *Coexistence* comes to life. It symbolises the individual's role in parallel universes and the totems that become a way of life. The first portal reveals a young sightseer birthing from her rippling watery dimension. A deeper perspective beneath the surface appears through the sensitive application of blended watercolour strokes.

The wet hair's snake-like strands float gently only breaking surface tension when they flow into the radiating lines of the portal. Calmly observing passers by, her purple coloured third eye catches your attention. Her constant gaze meets and follows yours in judgement. An unnoticed dual dimension reveals itself on the portal's reverse side. The surreal hues of an ancient purple tree tower over distant stormy lands symbolises an unnatural ever present world of an entangled mind reaching outwards indicated by its spreading limbs and roots. Isolated with few sprouting leaves there appears several inner beings as numerous open eyes denoting a conscious spirit that is very aware of its own existence. It too observes the passing world with the one purple eye connecting to the sightseer in a parallel dimension. With an outstretched hand, her conscious state begins to pull free from its weighted form.

The success of *Coexistence* is in the distinct expressive brushstrokes and ambiguity of life's déjà vu moments as nothing is quite what it seems, beginning with the physical appearance of the artwork. Hayden Davies' sculptural shifting planes and the distinct cubist edges of Pablo Picasso informed the structural unfolding planes found in *Coexistence* where outer branches successfully wrap each panel meeting at the portal opening. Inspiration came from symbolizing the human spirit, which led to explorations into the surreal illusions of Salvador Dali's weird universes and Joe Webb's inner framed collaged worlds. Each artist compositionally guided the dual perspective and subject's scale.

The dramatic tonal contrasts of watercolour artist Nancy Smith is effectively seen in my control of the backwash and salt application within the sky. Each tonal transition was reinforced through the blending, which helped connect the perspective across both dimensions. A reality check came with my application of Sofia Bonati's radiating contour lines that ripple around her portraits. Struggling with angles, I eventually produced a shallow sweeping action that enhanced the sightseer's emerging moment.

The overall success of *Coexistence* comes from Lucian Freud's emotional character portraits that are strongly expressed within my line work of the sightseer's face together with Alex Garant's multi eyed portraits that instinctively hold your gaze. Making art for me has no expectations, boundaries; it is about creative fun experiences and channelling my emotions towards a safe place. Art calms my mind as I search for creative solutions and I make art to challenge a different point of view.

As I express my personal aesthetic in imaginative ways, I hope viewers look twice. I want them to use their existing memories and experiences to interpret my artwork. When this happens, they construct a new parallel universe as they apply their own theory and find their way like me.