

RUTH WALLER

PAINTINGS '21-'22

28 AUGUST – 25 SEPTEMBER 2022

NANCY SEVER | GALLERY

Level 1, 131 City Walk

Canberra City ACT 2601

T. +61 2- 6262 8448

M.: 0416 249 102

E: nancy.sever@iinet.net.au

W: nancysevergallery.com.au

Open: Wed-Sun 11 am – 5 pm



NANCY SEVER | GALLERY

invites you and your guest to the opening of
the exhibition

RUTH WALLER PAINTINGS '21 - '22

Sunday 28 August 2022, 12-4 pm

Wed - Sun: 11am - 5pm
E: nancy.sever@inet.net.au
W: nancysevergallery.com.au
Facebook: [nancysevergallery](https://www.facebook.com/nancysevergallery)
Instagram: [@nancysevergallery](https://www.instagram.com/nancysevergallery)

Level 1, 131 City Walk, Civic
(next door to King O'Malley's)
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Exhibition runs until 25 September 2022. Image: Black vase
with fern leaf. 2022, acrylic on wood panel, 40.5 x 30.5cm

Photography: David Paterson and Brenton McGeachie. © The artist

The Nancy Sever Gallery is pleased to present *Paintings '21-'22*, an exhibition of Ruth Waller's recent work.

Ruth Waller was born in Sydney in 1955. She graduated from the Alexander Mackie School of Art in 1978 and in 2000 completed a Masters by Research in Art Theory at the ANU School of Art. She has lectured in art since 1979 in Sydney at TAFE, Sydney University and East Technical College. From 1990 she lectured fulltime in Painting at the ANU School of Art. From 2006 – 2018 she was Associate Professor, Head of Painting, ANU School of Art & Design and currently she is an Honorary Associate Professor.

Over the past thirty years she has exhibited widely throughout Australia in solo and group shows. Her work is held in the National Gallery of Australia, the National Gallery of Victoria, the Art Gallery of NSW and the Art Gallery of Queensland, Artbank as well as in numerous Regional Gallery collections, including those of the Wollongong City Gallery, the New England Regional Art Museum, the Ballarat City Gallery, the Warnambool Gallery, the Manly Art Gallery & Museum, the Maitland Regional Gallery, the Lake Macquarie Regional Gallery, the Gold Coast Regional Art Gallery and the Canberra Museum & Gallery, and other University and private collections.

Ruth Waller has received Australia Council awards for residencies in Italy, Spain and Finland, and an FRGS Grant to travel to Europe to study late Flemish altarpieces.

The artist describes the works in this exhibition as 'a series of improvisations stimulated by daily walks in local bushland and suburban and botanic gardens. Loosely floral motifs are gathered together as bouquets and vessels, and small blocks of colour emerge in relief or extend the composition, spilling out and subtly breaking with pictorial conventions'.

Paintings '21-'22 is on show from 28 August until 25 September 2022. Gallery hours: 11am-5pm Wednesday to Sunday. For further information please contact nancy.sever@iinet.net.au or 0416 249 102.

Ruth Waller

Black vase with fern leaf. 2022

acrylic on wood panel .

51 x 40.5 cm.

\$1,800

SOLD



Ruth Waller

Forest vase. 2021

acrylic on wood panel.

35.5 x 28 cm.

\$1,700

SOLD



Ruth Waller

Squat vase in olives and pinks. 2022.

acrylic on wood panel and balsa.

45.5 x 34 cm.

\$1,800

SOLD



Ruth Waller

Small bushland vase. 2022.

acrylic on wood panel.

40.5 x 30.5 cm.

\$1,700

SOLD



Ruth Waller

Magnolia (minor). 2021.

acrylic on wood panel and balsa.

40.5 x 34 cm.

\$1,800



Ruth Waller

Dark vase on storm blue. 2022.

acrylic on wood panel and balsa.

42 x 38 cm.

\$1,800

SOLD



Ruth Waller

Vase of dark ellipses. 2022.

acrylic on wood panel and
balsa.

43 x 34 cm.

\$1,800

SOLD



Ruth Waller

Olives and chocolate. 2022.

acrylic on wood panel.

40.5 x 30.5cm.

\$1,700

SOLD



Ruth Waller

Park. 2021.

acrylic on wood panel and balsa.

30.5 x 28 cm.

\$,1700

SOLD



Ruth Waller

Bright rocks and pink creeper. 2021.

acrylic on wood panel and balsa.

40.5 x 30.5 cm.

\$1,800

SOLD



Ruth Waller

Two vases and a rose. 2022.

acrylic on wood panel and balsa.

35.5 x 34 cm.

\$,1800

SOLD



Ruth Waller

Sombre floral. 2022.

acrylic on wood panel.

40 x 30 cm.

\$1,700



Ruth Waller

Green Cluster. 2021.

acrylic on wood panel and balsa.

30.5 x 28 cm.

\$1,700

SOLD



Ruth Waller

***Silver composition with
mineral cluster.*** 2021.

acrylic on wood panel and balsa.

30.5 x 28 cm.

\$1,800

SOLD



Ruth Waller

Tower in bush greens. 2021.

acrylic on wood panel.

30.5 x 28 cm.

\$1,700

SOLD



Ruth Waller

Alphabet forest vase. 2022.

acrylic on wood panel.

40 x 30 cm.

\$1,800

SOLD



Ruth Waller

Jug of lilies I. 2022.

acrylic on linen, rice paper and
balsa.

54 x 42 cm.

\$1,800



Ruth Waller

Double vase on gold ground. 2022.

acrylic on wood panel and balsa.

54.5 x 44.5 cm.

\$1,800

SOLD



Ruth Waller

Bush flowers on pink ground. 2022

acrylic on linen and balsa

88 x 56 cm.

\$3,000

SOLD



Ruth Waller

Flowers in a jug. 2022.

acrylic on linen and balsa.

88 x 56 cm.

\$3,000

SOLD



Ruth Waller

*Large vase on wintery
blue ground.* 2022.

acrylic on linen.

80 x 54 cm.

\$3,000

SOLD



Ruth Waller

***Large floral vase on
brown ground.*** 2021.

acrylic on linen and balsa.

80 x 54 cm.

\$3,000

SOLD



Ruth Waller

Bush landscape vase. 2022.

acrylic on linen and balsa.

80 x 54 cm.

\$3,000

SOLD



Ruth Waller

Large green urn. 2022.

acrylic on linen and balsa.

112 x 77 cm.

\$3,800



Ruth Waller

Large landscape vase. 2022.

acrylic on linen and balsa.

112 x 77 cm.

\$3,800



Ruth Waller

Small dark bush vase. 2022.

acrylic on wood panel and balsa

54.5 x 44.5

\$1,800

SOLD



Mood pervades depictions of nature

Review

Sasha Grishin

RUTH Waller: *Paintings '21-'22*. Nancy Sever Gallery. Until September 25, 2022. nancysevergallery.com.au.

Ruth Waller has spent about four decades teaching art in Sydney and Canberra and only about four years ago returned to full-time studio practice.

As a teacher, she had an enviable reputation as a well-informed and empathetic mentor who guided many a nervous and insecure student through the minefield of an art-school education.

Throughout this time, Waller managed to sustain her own art practice with numerous exhibitions, residencies and international travel. However, it is only recently that all excuses have vanished and her art practice has become the day job and the main game.

This exhibition consists of about 26 recent relatively small-scale acrylic paintings on wood panels or linen, some supplemented with painted chunks of balsa wood.

Thematically, one could describe them as variations on the tradition of still life genre paintings with imaginary vases into which the artist has gathered her impressions from her frequent walks in the bush capital.

Waller writes about her new show in the exhibition catalogue, "a series of improvisations stimulated by daily walks in local bushland and suburban and botanic gardens.

"Loosely floral motifs are gathered together as bouquets and vessels, and small blocks of colour emerge in relief or extend the composition, spilling out and subtly breaking with pictorial conventions."

The exhibition has been well received by the Canberra art audience with more than half of the works finding homes on the opening day of the show.

Idris Murphy claims to have pioneered the use of acrylic metallic paints in easel painting and certainly today it is in vogue, particularly in paintings coming out of Sydney. Waller, together with a number of other artists, has enjoyed glitter in her paintings



Ruth Waller: *Tower in bush greens*, detail. Photo supplied

and in this series she fully embraces metallic pigments.

In a number of paintings, including *Silver composition with mineral cluster*, 2021, she alludes to the heavy metal presence in her titles.

Also, in many of the pieces, painted lumps of wood around the edges of the painting or protruding from the body of the work erode the two-dimensionality of the pieces creating ambiguous pieces for contemplation.

As a whole, the exhibition has a somewhat sombre and subdued mood with the paintings emerging as rather personal contemplations on nature, nature that has been brought home and dissected in the studio.

Some of the small paintings, such as *Tower in bush greens*, 2021, are little contemplative gems with interesting patterned heavily worked surfaces.

This one is a very focussed and highly personalised painting where small pockets of energy are confined within pools of green and blue.

It is a clever little painting, but its cleverness is not showy or overt, rather it is employed to seduce the eye and to open up a field for contemplation.

Generally, they are very compressed paintings in which a broad field of observation of nature has been concentrated within a rather confined "still life" format.

Another very effective small painting is *Black vase with fern leaf*, 2022. The title guides the mind to search and find the black vase and to locate the prominent fern in the foreground.

The earthy palette is subtle and is employed to echo the main compositional forms and to create an enchanted space. The personalised surface and the organic forms again invite a response of personal contemplation.

COVID has generally made a lot of artists somewhat introspective and the local slices of nature that are at hand have become the raw materials through which to contemplate the world.