

Celebrating a Return to Life

Annabel Tully Launched 8th Exhibition - March 11, 2011

Graydon Gallery, New Farm, Brisbane, Australia



By Nell Arnold

Out of Australia
series

Featuring People of Inspiration

March 9, 2011 I attended the VIP opening of “**Orgy of Life**”, the 8th Exhibition of **Annabel Tully**, Contemporary Landscape Artist from the far west of Queensland. I returned March 11 for the official opening of the exhibition. While I have been witnessing the progress of the artist for a year, I had not yet met her. This article shares my thoughts as I viewed the vibrancy and scale of her work for the first time – *any website does not do justice* - and met the artist whose story I have been sharing with the world for many months now.

“**Out of Australia**” was a partner of this exhibition with **THYNNE & MACARTNEY Law Firm**, **BENTLEY CAMERAHOUSE**, **ANGOVE FAMILY WINEMAKERS**, **VINE RESTAURANT BAR** and **GLADES-GLOBAL ENTERPRISE INNOVATION PTY LTD**. Public relations/branding was contracted through **PRECISION OPERATIONS**

Stories Have a Beginning -

But I start in the middle of this life story and ask you to make the leap past the first 25-30 years of beginning of the life of this artist. Her arrival in Australia and that of her families go back to the earlier times of European settlement and before that there would have been centuries of evolving histories on another continent. So we begin March 11, 2011 by referencing around 1995 – rural Australia.

“Living through more than a decade of drought, working in isolation in far west arid lands of Queensland, battling with cancer, then floods, dealing with limited transport, often no telephones or computers, driving more than a 1000 miles through mud, creeks turned river, and night skies darkened by thunderclouds – Annabel Tully was standing in the middle of a warm glow gallery. Her red dress highlighted the reds in the night sky feature painting that hung on the gallery wall behind her.

Polished wooden floors, champagne glasses sparkling, wines on ice, music playing, twenty little fragment candles danced with their own reflections in the window, not a cobweb in sight – I stood for a moment taking in the size of the artworks hanging on walls, the glass desk with brochures and bowl of rocks and geode cuts, glass shelf wall with cards, and a stand in a little archive with another bowl of red earth – fine grain dust fundamental foundation as well as texture sprinkle in the paintings.

Forty minutes before opening – keyboardist and sax player were warming up instruments. I wandered into another alcove to find an array of brush stroke-miniature paintings of little characters – leaping frogs, dragonflies, flying insects of most description. These were the little ones crawling out of the cracked earth after years of hibernation. The rain and then the floods had filled the channels once more. Once more they would celebrate life – taking to the sky and to the channels now filled with water again.

I wandered into the larger exhibition centre where a work 74 by 260 cm stretched as black red, night sky across the wall. The milky-way sparkled through light clouds, and there flying up into this stunning sky-scape the insects released from the baked earth, there to dance once more.



Here also looking at the painting stood the artist, calm, collected, a Viking of a woman in stature and spirit. One would never have guessed she had come through challenges insurmountable to so many. Yet against all odds, there she stood in quiet reflection.

She turned, saw me, and her quiet moment dissolved with a radiant smile. Eyes flashing with excitement and hands outstretched, she welcomed her guest. Ah ha! this is a champion, the spirit of the land that brought life to canvas. How was this reporter going to be objective?

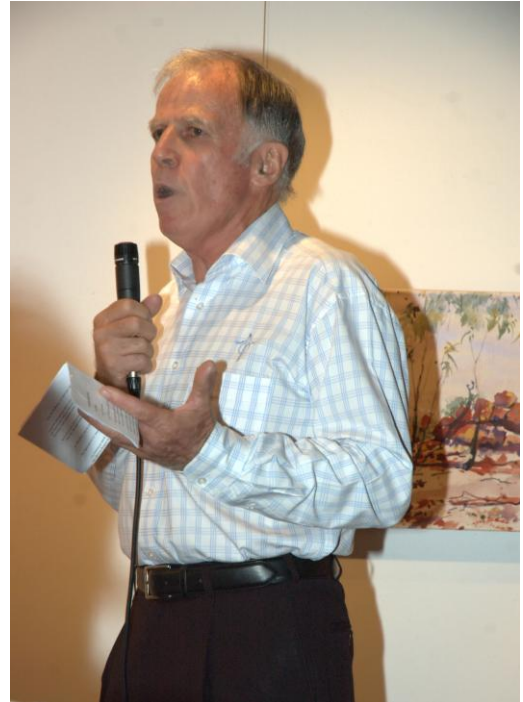
One has little time to be awe struck for as Annabel Tully shared her thoughts – “I have moved to a new phase I think”, she considered, “the sky and this new life hold new meaning to me.” Then she began to explain various aspects of the work. The story, earth with soil holding the multiple colours of flame not only reflecting in the sky but also becoming the pigment and dust particles that added texture.

I could have listened for hours as the voice was music, skipping along with the insects, laughing with the scientist astronomers who questioned some of the arrangements of the stars -

The quiet did not last long for soon people slipped in early. “Last year it was packed and we could hardly see the paintings, so this year we came early.” They were not off the mark for twenty minutes after the opening the place was so tight I had to carry my camera above my head and side walk in the fashion of a crab.

Major Chad Sherrin, poet and actor, now leader of memorial treks through the jungle and mountain climbs of the Kokoda Trail - WWII’s Pacific Theatre history, had difficulty quieting the buzz in the room.

As a colleague of the artist, Chad Sherrin was to open proceedings and to introduce the featured speaker and guest of the evening, Brisbane City Councilor Margaret De Wit.



Rebecca Arnott, Director of the Marketing Communications Firm, ***Precision Operations***, stood in front of one of three artworks, Annabel Tully’s painting, “Mysterious Origins”, which is in the process of global auction for *LEGACY* during the Exhibition which closes March 20, 2011. *LEGACY* is an Australian non-profit organization providing support to families of veterans lost during war beginning WWI.

Cr. De Wit welcomed all to the evening, delighted that so many people from the western suburbs were there... including Giles Tilley, President of The Rotary Club – West Brisbane Daybreak who represented another one of the charities, the McIntyre Centre for Disabled Riders.

The distinguished speaker also recognized sax player Matt Hunter and Pianist Nick Springall of *TIMBAH* Band and *The Moderato Trio* who shared their music as part of the festive evening.



Nick Springall composed and directed the music for Annabel Tully's DVD and organized for nine musicians to contribute their talent and time. Both performers, also award winning artists from the Pullen Pullen district of Annabel Tully's early life, met Annabel Tully for the first time. They provided background music for both the VIP and opening nights of the exhibition.

Cr De Wit repeatedly broke from her notes to speak from her heart. “As I looked at that painting, sun rising over the valley of red dust and trickling stream, I remember my youth and the time I also lived on the land. How could you not, the passion, love of country, the vista of vastness, the fleeting moments of sunlight glancing off rock, and gentle movement of wild grasses in a whisper of wind ... it is all there.”

Pulling out of the reminisce, Cr. De Wit went on to share the reasons she admired the artist – not only for the brilliant play of colours, the daring in contemporary style, the use of red earth dust as the blend in her oil and acrylic paints, but also for Annabel’s personal history – growing up in the large acreage western suburbs of Brisbane where Cr. De Wit has served as representative for some 20 years.

“Annabel attended university, obtained her teacher qualifications, travelled west to serve as teacher, then principal, and there to find not only a love of the land and the lifestyle but also to find the love of her life, husband Steve Tully. The story does not end, five little bubs, years of drought, isolation, then the battle with a life threat, dreaded by all, cancer. The story does not end. Depression following such challenges is devastating – so Annabel began to paint. With each stroke her heart and soul found silent voice in the canvas. That voice is heard in this gallery. **Paintings that speak from the heart.**”

Trying to remain objective, I concurred in my own mind, because through the evening the crowd had not been socializing as was usual during openings in which champagne and wine and delicate finger foods found way to palate. Instead people were peering at the art, discussing the colours, technique, touching the red earth dust, watching the DVD that featured photographers and artists who attended Annabel’s artist camp, buying some 25 of the 40 paintings in this exhibition --- all before the official opening.

Cr. De Wit was speaking again.

“Annabel Tully is not only an artist, she is also a business woman.” Holding up a brochure, Cr. De Wit spoke of the cattle station – **Bunginerry** where Annabel and her husband Stephen host an Artist Camp. “I thought it would be in a swag sleeping under the stars. The brochure suggests humble accommodation for 10 people in cabins, hot showers, electricity, TV and computer outlets! Camping in the bush has upgraded since my day.”

Cr. De Wit was so impressed she forgot her speech again and started looking for her diary to book in a time for rest and relaxation, with one exception in the service package. “It would be useless to try to make an artist out of me. I failed art when I was 8 years old and the principal begged me to find another career.”



Cr. Margaret De Wit, with artist Annabel Tully and life partner, Stephen Tully, proud directors of Bunginderry Artist Camp

LONDON
PARIS
ROME
CHINCHILLA
NEW YORK
BUNGINDERRY

BUNGINDERRY
artist camp.

www.bunginderryartistcamp.com

Then putting the joking aside,

Cr. De Wit outlined some of the achievements of Annabel Tully as school teacher, principal, coordinator of exhibitions of the artists and photographers who study at the art camp. The Bunginderry Artist tour, co-directed with Queensland Arts Council, is presently touring Queensland.

While the community leadership endeavours of Annabel Tully are numerous, the details are found in depth illustrated with photos, artwork and photos on several websites in Australia and America.

www.annabeltully.com.au

www.outofaustralia.net.au

www.glades-globalenterpriseinnovation.com (news page)

www.phzi.us (link to Galleries and Articles by Professor Nell Arnold)

Cr. De Wit began to close her comments.

“Before declaring open this wonderful exhibition of art, this celebration of life returning to drought country – Annabel’s country and our country too, I would like to read you a critique of this exhibition, written by an established artist, Des Rolph.”

Cr. De Wit spoke with a voice that foretold emotion was under the surface.

“This critique says it all.”

Cr. De Wit then read the words that confirmed the reason for the celebration and the title of the exhibition.

**For the “Orgy of Life” Exhibition of Annabel Tully
March 2011, Brisbane, Australia**

Annabel Tully – feel her song

“Here is a beautiful soul,
bountiful in love in every way.
She has had a battle with cancer,
but her spirit soars despite all odds.

Cancer cannot define her,
her brush defines her.

She is the new pioneering woman
of the modern day, in a time when
such a person’s talent is embraced.

And, her work is embracing.

She looks struggle in the eye,
and forges forward,
celebrating in her orgy of life.

The land anew with life lain buried
in the evolution of nature,
Annabel strikes the canvas
with joyful abandon as she finds
new life and a reason to forever paint.

In solitude one finds peace, and in this peace,
she brings us a feast for the eyes and soul.”

Des Rolph (artist)



Artist Des Rolph
one of Annabel Tully’s landscapes.

Well now, how does one follow that?

But follow it one must, and
Annabel Tully stepped up onto the square box,
upturned to be a speaker's platform.

Ms Tully thanked the Cr and had a personal note
for each of the sponsors, all represented there.

She recognized ***Out of Australia*** as an inspirational
alliance of artists, authors and business people that
has provided considerable support during the past 12 months.

Annabel also thanked her husband Stephen,
who had driven for two days in every wrong direction
many times over to find ways to cross flooding rivers,
mudflats that were becoming lakes to be at the opening.

He ended up leaving the vehicle,
getting into a "tinny" – a small dingy of a boat –
crossed the river and ran for the plane that was
taking off for Brisbane.

I got lost in all the directions he had to take,
but decided I would get out a map
and explore this part of the far west which was
arid land and desert one minute and a lake with
flooding channels and properties the next minute.

Standing quietly in the background,
I saw a tall man, leaning against the wall.
He just smiled at his life's partner.

The exhibition goes, now an audience,
watching the magic of the moment,
clapped spontaneously.

The release of the emotion filled moments was a relief.

Just as well, for Annabel did not give up there, but said,
"rather than talk about this exhibition,
I would like to read from my diary of notes as I painted
the artworks that hang in this exhibition."

“Grief can manifest itself in many ways.

My response to the devastation inflicted on my health,
my homeland and that of fellow Queenslanders is expressed
in every single wash and brush stroke I create.

Every single moment, in solitude, I have spent creating this series of paintings

Orgy of Life,

is a moment spent in reflection and gratification
for all things lost, endured and recovered.

These last 12 months, I have allowed myself the time to spend
sifting and wading through the thoughts associated
with the aftermath of natural disaster.

I feel as though I have emerged from a chrysalis of self-reflection.

Now it is time to spread my wings and share with you the celebration of new life.

After times of devastation and grief, nature finds ways to rejuvenate...

look ever so carefully and you'll see

there is an *Orgy of Life* dancing around you, inviting you to join in.”

Annabel Tully

“*Orgy of Life*” Exhibition

March, 2011



Annabel Tully

“Orgy of Life”

Exhibition – 2011

The art work is anticipated to sell before the close on March 20, 2011. Annabel does work on commission and consignment. While I do not write commercials, I anticipate now is the time to acquire this work for personal as well as investment purposes. Annabel Tully is already global.”

- End of Article -

Full Exhibition may be reviewed on

www.annabeltully.com.au

BACKGROUND INFORMATION on OUT OF AUSTRALIA

“Out of Australia” was founded in 1997. The concept evolved as Professor Nell Arnold started a long term ethnographic and action research commitment in rural Australia in 1992. The first two-year phase of the research determined the specific challenges in macro-environmental information collection and analysis from 33 communities in remote and rural Queensland. The study expand into two-year segments for another decade of action research testing challenge response systems including development of trial projects, training and educational tools to help internationalize and then global engage communities with sister projects around the world. People of innovation and inspiration living in the far reaches from remote communities to rural and regional communities of this vast country where then selected to be part of the “Out of Australia” program.

“Out of Australia” became a theme supported by the “research” Australia company, GLADES (Global Links, Associated Development, Education Services) but also by the financing/investment company GLADES-Global Enterprise Innovation. The co-operative divisions then integrated several to provide economic and enterprise development strategy and funds for projects. In 2007 a global promotions company was formed – C&C-Global Promotions Pty Ltd with companion corporation in the USA to assist participants in the Out of Australia program. The collection of companies established a number of writer/research retreats and global libraries to house information about the innovations and economic development models.

This co-operative of small communication research and development companies supports the project - **“Out of Australia”**, a global communication service which contributes expertise, time and funds to artists, authors and architects of creative endeavour and innovation design.

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photographs which were taken by photo-journalist Nell Arnold.

One exception – Photo of Tully Artwork – page 3 resides with the artist,
Annabel Tully.

IP Laws of Australia Prevail.



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www.glades-globalenterpriseinnovation.com

(also hosts the website services of C&C-Global Promotions Inc. – USA)

www.outofaustralia.net.au