

*Out of Australia*  
series  
Featuring People of Inspiration

Review of Metka Skrobar's Brisbane Exhibition 2011  
by independent arts critic, Nell Arnold,  
***Out of Australia***,  
C&C-Global Promotions USA

**Metka Skrobar** - eminent Australian artist,  
on exhibition in Brisbane, 15<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> June, 2011  
prepares for exhibition in her country of birth, Slovenia  
at the end of September this year..

**June 2011, I had the privilege of viewing Metka Skrobar's art** in her cyber library of images, visited the Brisbane Exhibition, spoke with Metka Skrobar and spent a week reading her story as immigrant child to Australia, her father an electrical engineer and her mother a seamstress for top fashion designers. I also spoke with five of her colleague artists obtaining their views of her work and workshops.

**Metka Skrobar is highly respected** by artists, gallery managers, workshop directors and viewed in Australia as an eminent Australian artist, an inspiration to other artists including poets. She is valued not only for her talent and skill, but also for her insight into human nature and recognition of many rural people whose courage and enduring spirit she upholds.

**Metka, the child artist**, grows up in Melbourne, falls in love with the rainforests in Victoria and northern Queensland and there creates water colours of exquisite beauty – capturing the strength of towering trees, clinging vines, streams of light glancing of umbrella plants and fern's fronds. Hidden in the works are tiny splashes of colour of rainforest birds, frogs and even a miniature elf or fairy – if you know to look through the eyes of imagination.

**Now, decades on**, viewers are struck with awe while gazing at her landscapes stretching across canvas in the brilliant colours of Australia's red earth, blue skies, vast expanses with a stark tree standing as guardian or memory of time passing. The artist holds integrity to nature's stories, again hidden, not as tiny fairies or elves, instead in layer upon layer of paint. The depth of acrylic draws the viewer into experience. The artist leaves the viewer to find their own insights, reflections, awe and inspiration.

**Nature speaks through the artist** - her brush delicate, light one moment, then striking passionately in the next. At times one finds a script in a layer of paint partially scratch away or a dark opal hidden in the depth of an acrylic layer covering the roots of tree or scrub.

**The beauty of view and vision** may have started very young in Metka Skrobar. Her talent recognized early as a child. Her imagination caught in a land of hard work, adjustment, but also magical light, forests, red earth and stretches vast before a disappearing horizon.

**Realization is the theme in her art now.** Beyond the realities one witnesses on the surface - the drought, fire, floods - life's struggle is acknowledged but the challenge is met and the artist holds yet a glimmer in her eye. That sparkle finds place on canvas, as it does in the heart of the viewer. The viewer walks away with respect, acknowledgement and a desire to be a collector of part of this evolution of artistic skill and life's insight.

**Classical training in the arts** shows in the clarity in which Metka Skrobar structures space, initiates lines, sets more than one rhythm in her collection of strokes. The structure is there to carry the passion of colours - blood to fire reds, burnt orange to cashmere veil, and blues and greens now rare on dry landscapes recede in and out of the paintings in mirages of a landscape's memory – that stretch of desert that once was a forest; that valley a lake.

**Metka Skrobar's work merits status of art investor** for private and public galleries. Her brush captures insights, memories, vision of Australia's vast lands as few artists do. No whimsy here. No superimposed emotions or meaningless splashes, outbursts of confusion left incorporated as part of a beginner's learning process.

**Metka Skrobar has walked the land,** worked with those who live in the far reaches – beyond the landscapes she paints. Her work honours the spirit of the people for her brush pays tribute to the land which they, call home.

For further information about Metka Skrobar's work, including the beautiful, leather bound corporate gift book of Australia's landscapes, visit her website [www.metkaart.info](http://www.metkaart.info).

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