

Guy Maestri

The Lane

26 May - 20 June 2020

Jan Murphy Gallery is excited to present, *The Lane*, an exhibition of new landscapes by Guy Maestri.

The Lane is perhaps Maestri's most ambitious exhibition to date, with all of the large scale oil paintings created plein air rather than in the studio. Anchored by two vast diptychs, these works explore his experience of the changing landscape with striking immediacy.

"There is a song by Bill Callahan where he describes feeling uncomfortable dressed in a suit, and at odds with his community. He says he feels like "a robot by a river, looking for a drink". I think about this when I paint the landscape. We are at odds with nature. We are the only animals on earth at odds with our environment. We trim it, shape it and need to control it. For most of us it's just something to look at anyway. That's why we make paintings of it, so it can be viewed from a safe and comfortable distance. The lane I have been painting in for ten years has never been so dry. I fake it with green. I want to make fake paintings because most of what we see is constructed. These paintings are at odds with where I stand painting them."

Guy Maestri - 2020

ABOUT THE ARTIST

A graduate of The National Art School, Maestri won the 2009 Archibald Prize, the 2014 Kings School Art Prize and the 2013 Premier's Plein Air Painting Prize. He is a regular finalist in significant art prizes and his work is held in several public collections, including the Art Gallery of New South Wales, the National Portrait Gallery, the Art Gallery of South Australia, Artbank and Parliament House collections.