

Louise Tate

Flowerings

16 March – 10 April 2021

Jan Murphy Gallery is excited to present 'Flowerings' by Melbourne-based *Protege* artist Louise Tate.

Personal and fictional histories layer the paintings that Louise Tate crafts from family photographs, public archives, and landscape imagery. In these vignettes, from different times and places, her paintings are built, in layers of textures and marks, to defeat the linearity of time. They become an amalgam of human experience, her own palimpsest of history that extends outside the moment. Painted during lockdown and in the time following, Tate's dreamlike imagery offers a cautious sense of levity and hope.

'An hour of solitude, to undo all the wrongs of the world,' writes poet Pablo Neruda.

"There have been so many hours of solitude this year. The majority of this exhibition was made during lockdown in Melbourne, where life mostly took place within the four corners of my living room. The roads outside the apartment where I live quickly emptied, and people watching became bird watching as pigeons reclaimed the street. The hours lengthened, thick and slow like molasses. The vastness of the world shrank to the barest of birdsong.

And yet there were many things that flowered during the winter's lockdown: a sense of unfolding that comes with the letting of old habits, long periods of introspection that lead to fruitful ideas for new ways of living, the foliage in these paintings as I painted what I wasn't able, but wished, to see.

Each work is a kind of fiction, narrated by the many writers who kept me company during a long and lonely winter. Disembodied hands appear again and again, like a community of distant friends that aren't quite close enough to touch. These paintings became a comfort; an antidote to the restlessness that pervaded everything and everyone, and a way to tell the stories that couldn't exist.

Louise Tate, 2021

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Tate completed a Bachelor of Fine Arts (with first class honours) at Melbourne's RMIT in 2016. During her degree she undertook a university exchange in the Netherlands studying (for six months) at the Utrecht School of the Arts (2014). This was formative for her painting practice. In 2019, Tate completed a residency at the prestigious NARS Foundation in New York and was also a finalist in the Churchie National Emerging Art Prize. In 2020 Tate was a semi-finalist for the Brett Whiteley Travelling Scholarship and a finalist in the Hopper Prize (USA).