

*Icarus and The Mountain* 1995  
ink and acrylic on canvas 299 x 204 cm  
Private Collection

*Treefern Woman and Icarus* 1995  
ink and acrylic on canvas 299 x 204 cm  
Private Collection

*Tribal* 1997  
oil and acrylic on canvas 161 x 362.5 cm  
Private Collection

*The arrival* 1990-98  
acrylic on linen 274 x 274 cm  
Private Collection

*Conference* 1998  
acrylic on canvas 157.5 x 244 cm  
University of Wollongong Art Collection

*Hidden memories, secret lives* 2006  
acrylic on canvas 160 x 360 cm  
Collection: Art Gallery of New South Wales -  
Patrick White Bequest Fund 2006

#### **UNCATALOGUED WORKS**

*New York* 1983  
oil on paper monoprint 79 x 108 cm  
Private Collection

*Daphne in the forest* 1987  
ink on paper on canvas 229 x 144cm  
Private Collection

*Golden Day* 2007  
watercolour on paper  
Private collection



Watson Road, Observatory Hill, The Rocks, Sydney  
Gallery Front Desk: (02) 9258 0173

Gallery Hours: Tuesday – Sunday 11am-5pm [www.shervingallery.com.au](http://www.shervingallery.com.au) Sunday afternoons @ the  
Gallery – Special guest talks selected Sundays at 3pm

*Mother and child (bush idyll)* 2015  
acrylic on canvas 159 x 180 cm  
Courtesy OlsenIrwin Gallery

*The dust of memory* 2015  
acrylic on canvas 109 x 185 cm  
coll: the artist

*Bride falling* 2015  
acrylic on canvas 122 x 152 cm  
Private Collection

*Fall of Icarus* 1994  
5 photographic prints 105 x 81cm  
Private Collection

*Homage to the Cornish folk  
and to the people of Baajantji* 2012  
watercolour and oil crayon on paper  
Courtesy Olsen Irwin Gallery, Sydney

# GENESIS OF A PAINTER: GUY WARREN AT 95

15 April – 29 May 2016



At the grand age of 95, artist Guy Warren is celebrating with a special focus exhibition at the S.H. Ervin Gallery – *Genesis of a painter: Guy Warren at 95*

Guy Warren was born in Goulburn on 16 April 1921. As a child the family moved to Sydney and Guy grew up in the eastern suburbs & northern beaches. He left school at 14 to pursue his love of art and worked in Sydney at The Bulletin magazine and started formal art training part time at the J.S. Watkins Art School.

His epiphany came after volunteering for the AIF in 1941. He trained in the rainforest of Queensland, fell in love with it and then became overwhelmed by the mysterious beauty of Bougainville where the indigenous people decorated their bodies so that they could disappear and reappear at will. This became the leit-motif of his vision and the essential metaphor for him of the quintessential secret of painting: a notion of nature's camouflage within which questions of our existence may be hidden and found.

Warren studied at the National Art School as a rehabilitating soldier, and in 1950 married an English girl Joy and went to live in England where they stayed for eight years. Joy became a distinguished academic and ceramicist working until her death in 2011. Guy became a close friend of the distinguished art scholar and critic Norbert Lynton who later wrote a long introduction to his monograph - *In search of Gaia* (2003). But the most intriguing British encounter was with the young David Attenborough.

After seeing a BBC TV production depicting decorated native dancers of the New Guinea Highlands Guy wrote to the BBC requesting some still images and was put in touch with Attenborough who loaned many photos in exchange for a painting. After return to Australia in 1959 Guy pursued, along with his painting, a successful career as editor, writer and teacher. He was, and still is, exceptionally articulate as a speaker and writer, and warmly magnanimous, one could even say sage-like, in his appreciation of fellow artists.

The exhibition, curated by Barry Pearce, Emeritus Curator of Australian Art, AGNSW, was inspired from a visit to the artist's studio as Warren reflected on his growing sense of mortality and was considering how to disperse his work. Discovered in a stack of paintings in the corner were paintings of the 1950s from his London years and 1960s soon after his return to Sydney. The evident qualities of these works and the obsession with emergence and submergence of the figure in relation to its background, has resonated throughout his oeuvre to the present day.

This special focus exhibition features work from his earliest days in London during the 1950s and after his return to Sydney in 1958, together with recent works which show the enduring imagery of the relationship between the figure and background that signifies not only a timeless aspect of the language of painting but also the mystical connection between man and the environment.

The S.H. Ervin Gallery acknowledges the generous support of the Gordon Darling Foundation in the production of the catalogue

The S.H. Ervin Gallery is supported by



Guy Warren is represented by Olsen Irwin Gallery, Sydney

## LIST OF WORKS

*Jungle swamp, New Guinea* 1944  
pen and ink on paper 29.7 x 24.9cm  
Australian War Memorial, Canberra  
ART94339

*Soldier playing* 1945  
watercolour 22 x 32 cm  
Private Collection

*View of Mount Bagana, Bougainville* 1945  
watercolour 22 x 32 cm  
Private Collection

*Crashed plane, Bougainville* 1945  
watercolour 22 x 32 cm  
Private Collection

*"Mac"* 1945  
pencil on paper 33.2 x 25.4cm  
Australian War Memorial, Canberra  
ART94340

*Mount Bagana, Bougainville* 1945  
pencil on paper 25.2 x 34.8cm  
Australian War Memorial, Canberra  
ART94338

*Isamu Sato* 1945  
pencil on paper 33 x 27cm  
Australian War Memorial, Canberra  
ART94343

*Japanese POW, Bougainville* 1945  
pencil on paper 44 x 25.8cm  
Australian War Memorial ART94344

*Dropping supplies by air, Bougainville*  
1946  
pencil on paper 26.2 x 33.5  
Australian War Memorial ART94348

*Destroyed landing barge, Bougainville*  
1946  
watercolour 22 x 32 cm  
Private Collection

*Self portrait in jungle greens* 1946  
oil on canvas 61.5 x 40.5 cm  
Private Collection

*Soldiers bathing in a river* 1954  
oil on board 82 x 122 cm  
Private Collection

*Sketch after PNG photograph by David  
Attenborough* c1954  
watercolour  
Private Collection

*Bather, woman and volcano* 1955  
oil on board 122 x 102 cm  
Private Collection

*Mother and child* 1955  
oil on canvas 101.5 x 122 cm  
Private Collection

*Bathers (2)* 1957  
oil on canvas 100 x 128 cm  
Private Collection

*Green warrior* 1957-58  
oil on canvas 101 x 61 cm  
Private Collection

*Bathers in a red jungle (3)* 1958  
oil on linen 76 x 101 cm  
Private Collection

*Warrior and nude* 1958  
oil on linen 91 x 71 cm  
Private Collection

*Princess* 1958  
oil on canvas 76 x 101.5 cm  
Private Collection

*Torokina* 1958  
oil on canvas 102 x 127 cm  
Private Collection

*Red warrior* 1959  
oil on linen 127 x 76 cm  
Private Collection

*Rainforest, Torokina* 1959  
oil on linen 102 x 127 cm  
Private Collection

*Horizontal image III* 1960  
oil on board 81.2 x 162.5 cm  
Collection: Art Gallery of New South  
Wales - Purchased 1960

*Return to the rainforest* 1962  
oil on board 122 x 183 cm  
Private Collection

*Prisoner of the sun* 1962  
oil on canvas 51 x 61cm  
Private Collection

*Tiger in my garden* 1963  
oil on board 122 x 183 cm  
Private Collection

*Estuary in winter, Shoalhaven* 1963  
oil on board 94.1 x 127.4 cm  
Collection: Art Gallery of New South  
Wales - Purchased 1964

*Untitled* 1963  
oil on board 140 x 92 cm  
Private Collection

*Mungo brush* 1963  
pen, brush and ink on paper  
Collection: Art Gallery of New South  
Wales - Purchased 1964

*Green and gold* 1964  
acrylic on board 137 x 122 cm  
Private Collection

*Moon at Mungo Brush* 1965  
oil on canvas 100 x 126 cm  
Mosman Art Collection

*Above and below* 1965  
oil on board 122 x 102 cm  
Private Collection

*January Mungo Brush* 1965  
oil on canvas 102 x 61 cm  
Private Collection

*Coming storm, Mungo Brush* 1965  
watercolour 39 x 56 cm  
Private Collection

*Mungo Brush scrub* 1965  
watercolour 57 x 78 cm  
Private Collection

*Mungo Brush no 18* 1965  
watercolour 56 x 76 cm  
Collection: Art Gallery of New South  
Wales - Purchased 1965

*The clearing, Mungo Brush* 1965  
watercolour 57 x 78 cm  
Private Collection

*Mist, Mungo Brush 1* 1966  
watercolour 39 x 56 cm  
Private Collection

*Intimations of mortality: memories of Mort  
Bay* 1982  
ink on paper laid on canvas 154 x 457 cm  
Private Collection

*New York woman* 1983  
acrylic on paper 223 x 150.5 cm  
Private Collection