

## **Underlying Reality: recent works by Lyne Marshall**

My paintings are inner landscapes that look at life from many perspectives, echoing humanity's strengths and fragility, while drawing us deeper into nature's beauty and design. Storms, wind and water erode the surface of these works, peeling back the layers to reveal the secrets of an energetic and ancient earth. As if mirroring nature's cycles, our lives move through times of plenty and drought, of unspeakable beauty and unexpected turmoil.

The use of negative space, and my belief that an artist can trap positive energy in their work to evoke emotion and calm contemplation, has been influenced by encounters with oriental art and my attempts to discover and engage creative processes. I seek to capture the viewer long enough to have them consider the world through different eyes, and to allow an escape, if only briefly, from their daily lives.



### **In the beginning Diptych 122 x 122cm acrylic 2007**

Before rain  
Before man,  
God said '*Let there be light*'  
And divided light  
From the darkness,  
And created herbs  
And the trees  
To give forth seed  
And a mist rose up  
From the earth  
To water and nourish the land...



**Glasshouses Diptych 122 x 144 cm acrylic 2007** adapted from the book *Gleaner or Gladiator: the struggle to create*

Sitting on the beach of my childhood home, I look across the water to the bridge that now hides the Glasshouse Mountains on the mainland. I have sat here many times as a child waiting for my father's fishing fleet to return. These mountains for me symbolise a time of immense freedom, and their unusual volcanic formations leave lingering impressions. Now in the light of perceived threats to our environment, the glasshouse that protects our world seems fragile.



**Glasshouses 9 122 x 101 cm acrylic 2007**

This painting has as its base the fragility of nature but touches a deeper core for me as it was painted as a family member faced possible underlying illness. I found I was painting the flesh of humanity, and drew on a positive outcome through the ability we all have to heal ourselves just as we do with a flesh wound.



### **Restoration 122 x 100c m acrylic 2007**

The earth's surface has many scars from our ill treatment. Here I paint the wounds that are healing, showing a fresh skin growing out to form a surface that will be restored to its former beauty.



### **Earth Matters 4, 122 x 122cm acrylic 2007**

The earthy and vibrant colours of the rocks at Rainbow Beach mirror aspects of my life on Minden Range. This discovery was a visual trigger for a whole series of paintings titled *Earth Matters*, reflecting natural and constructed shapes in the landscape. These rock shapes have become handprints now that continue to rise up to make imprints on the surface of my paintings.



### **Red Sky Night / Red Sky Morning each 122 x 91cm acrylic 2007**

These titles were suggested to me and seemed to reflect my father's [ sailor] warnings about the sea that I still hear ringing in my ears today. ' Take care, beware, the sea can be dangerous'. This is also biblical, referred to in Mathew 16.2 'When it is evening, you say, It will be fair weather: for the sky is red. And in the morning, It will be foul weather today: for the sky is red and threatening.' In my morning sky, the red is clearing.



### **In the Midst of Valleys 1 and 3, 122 x122cm acrylic 2008**

Standing in the midst of valleys, exposed to the elements, surrounded by nature, I sense that there is water here, one of nature's miracles that sustain the earth and life. I am drawn deeper in to this miracle that is life, finding a place to restore the soul and nourish the spirit.



### **River's Bend 4, 122 x 122cm acrylic 2008**

At every bend in the road or river there is something new to explore. The seasons come and go, but the beauty remains. The challenges and the changes float past and fall like blots upon the landscape leaving memories of what has been.



### **Our Sacred Terrain diptych ,122 x180cm 2008**

Memories of the pristine white beaches of my childhood merge with the volcanic black sand beaches of North Island, New Zealand, encountered while travelling in 2008. This was so inspiring and contrasted so vividly with my own landscapes of home, that it prompted a series of paintings exploring the sacred earth. The sand, shifting and stirring, seems attached to an inner movement of the spirit.



*While the landscape may look cold at times,  
inwardly it has warmth*

*For peace.....look upwards  
For success....look forwards*

*For truth.....look inwards*

**Look not Down 2, 91 x 101 cm acrylic 2008**



**Passages 1, 2, 3 122 x122cm each acrylic 2009**

I stand before the sea, my childhood drifting before me in the passage that separates the island [me] from the mainland [life]. The ebb and flow of the tide washes to the beach the flotsam and jetsam of ships and people that have passed by me. Exposed to this debris, life will continue; just every now and then I stop to clean up the shoreline.



### **Creation on Day Three 1, 2, 3, 4, 122 x122cm acrylic 2009**

This series of four paintings happened unexpectedly, yet with a purpose. My desire to explore the sacred at a deeper level saw the horizons of my previous work fade softly into the background. These works are biblical, based on the original creation, when God divided the waters and created the firmament, and called it heaven, and the dry land we call Earth appeared. It signifies a new beginning.



**Songs of the Land 1, 2, 3, 91 x 91 cm acrylic 2009**

It seems now I have turned the corner to new experiences. I find my vision has widened, and I am looking with a new found wonder at an abstracted world. My music, written on a canvas page with a brush, rises and falls and expresses the moment. The water that surrounded me as a child, conspicuously absent from the last twenty years of my life, remains embedded in my psyche, as a symbol of time and the moving tides of life.