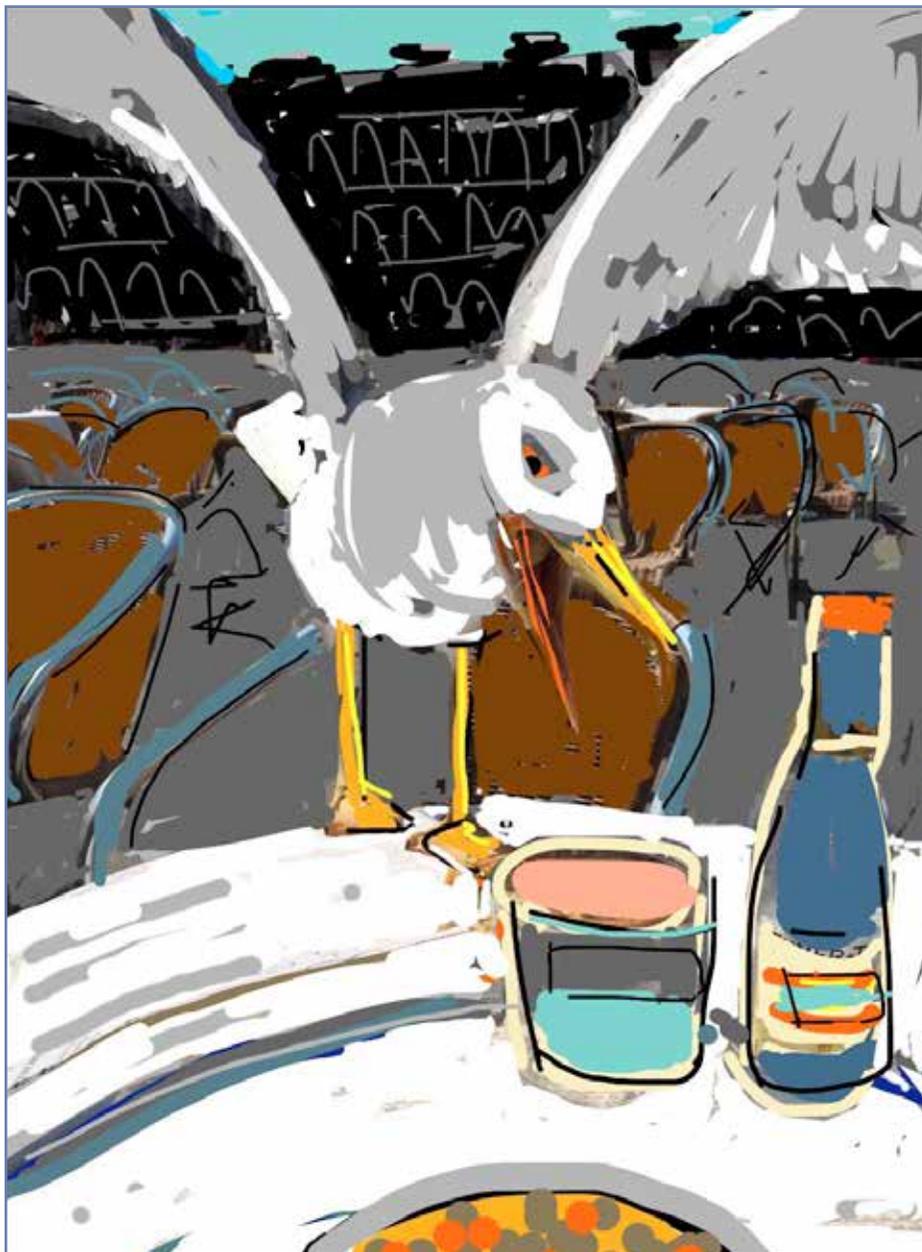


ANN WARNES

Artist with an iPhone

*My artist journey began on the P&O ship 'Strathmore' travelling from London to Melbourne when I was eight years old. Spellbound by the cabin steward sketching as we children sat on a pile of bed linen outside our cabin, I decided then and there that that was what I wanted to do in life.
To be an artist.*



AW

Our family settled in Australia, I married, raised two children and lived near Mon Repos Turtle Rookery at Bargara, Queensland. It was there I was inspired by the magical natural environment to paint with watercolours. This led to a commission to produce a series of watercolours of sea shells for the Patron of the Lord Howe Island Art Project.

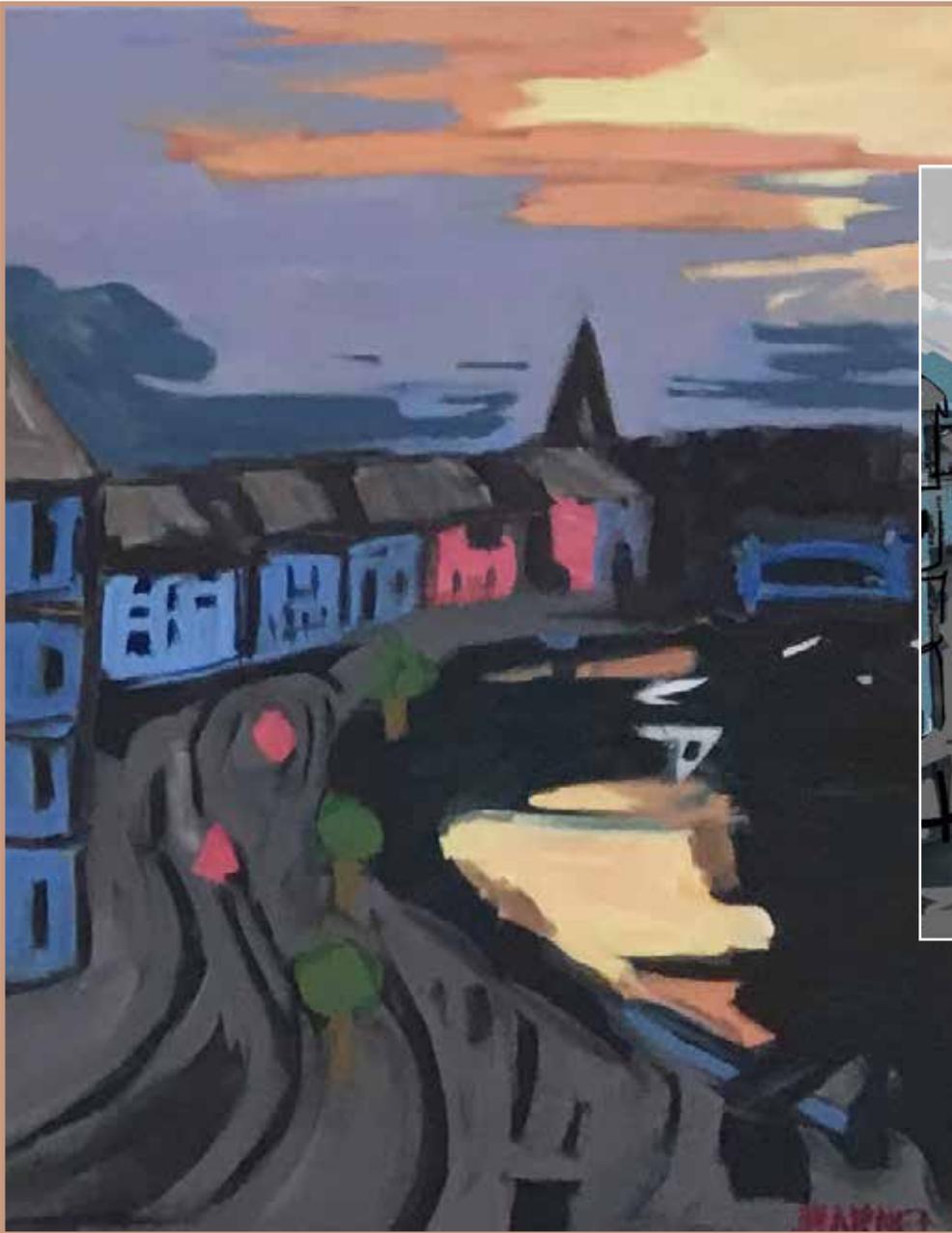
Many solo and combined exhibitions in South East Queensland followed, enabling me to showcase and sell my work, and along the way I acquired numerous awards. I also participated in 'artist in residence' programs at various high schools in South East Queensland, a rewarding experience enjoyed by all parties.

A most memorable undertaking was designing and painting a large silk scarf for Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent as a gift from the Bundaberg City Council when she visited Bundaberg. I also partnered with a dress designer and milliner and the three of us established 'Upstairs Designers', our own creative art space.

Irish Pub, Pembrok: Through the old glass pane windows. Distorted view of the building across the road and car parked outside.



A huge influence in my work has been David Hockney, not only because of his familiar Yorkshire accent, which reminded me of my father, but because of his unique use of an iPad and iPhone. This appealed to my travelling lifestyle and I adapted this technology to a personal style which I have continued to develop....



This page:
Evening light, Waterford, Ireland
Opposite:
Banyan Trees on Lord Howe Island:
Strolling through this paradise. Wood
hens and blackbirds dashing past through
the Banyan roots. Shadows across
twisted trunks. White doves in pairs fly
over the lagoon.

A move to the Blue Mountains opened up many opportunities as well as influencing my change in technique from watercolours to acrylic and oils. I have had a number of local exhibitions, including at the light-filled gallery (formerly squash court) at The Everglades National Trust Property in Leura and with various art societies.

A huge influence in my work has been David Hockney, not only because of his familiar Yorkshire accent, which reminded me of my father, but because of his unique use of an iPad and iPhone. This appealed to my travelling lifestyle and I adapted this technology to a personal style which I have continued to develop over the last thirty-five years. My use of iPad and stylus allows me to capture

images wherever I find myself, which I then 'paint' with the stylus that evening, while my memory is still fresh. In my studio I then develop the work on canvas with acrylic and oils.

Other artists who have influenced me greatly are Australians Pamela Griffith and Helene Grove, due to their high work ethic, attention to detail and their wonderful use of colour.

My creative journey has given me an immensely enjoyable life. I am fortunate to have met many interesting and talented people while being able to indulge in my passion and giving pleasure to others through my paintings, many of which have found new homes far and wide.

These are the processes and techniques which I have adapted to suit my travelling lifestyle over the years. For the past three years I have been using an iPhone and stylus as a sketching tool:

Sometimes it is a photo which is my starting point, sometimes just a mark making the important beginning of the design, with the final painting in oil on canvas. The stylus mark-making creates a loose abstract impression.

Travelling and experiencing moments on the journey and at my destination: with my iPhone I observe images that others may not see or notice. At left, see the beautiful evening light reflected by the sunset on water in Waterford, Ireland.

My practice allows for great spontaneity. For example, the gull thief I managed to capture in St. Mark's Square in Venice (previous page). He snatched my whole quiche and I managed to capture the exact moment!

On another magical moment, I captured a Ulysses butterfly in Mossman Gorge, Port Douglas. Ultramarine/cobalt and

cerulean blue darting among bright red and alizarin pink ixora flowers. Quick! capture the moment!

One important thing I have learned is that it is essential to record the day's events that night, while the experience is still fresh in my mind.

Once I am finally home all the designs on my phone are transferred to iPad. Here I make a larger image and fine tune the work again with the stylus.

I print out my design and refer to it as I start the underpainting on canvas, using acrylics, loosely working but also referring to the photo for fine detail. Oil paints are then used to paint over the whole canvas with bright, rich, creamy colours.

Ann Warnes

