

## ***About Shirley***

Shirley is a Visual Artist based in Barwon Heads, Victoria who is passionate about the environment and capturing the beauty of nature.

Walking is a key part of her art practice enabling her to slow down, to observe and to participate in her coastal town however in these most challenging times there is a changed perspective to this ritual with amplified appreciation, interaction and keener observation of nature's minutiae. Shirley's curiosity of the layered and patterned organic details of nature has been her oeuvre for many years and she continues to be captivated and curious about all those often overlooked minute entities combining to create graceful and fragile worlds.

Shirley is passionate about both drawing and painting, always in search of developing a language which expresses her love for nature. Over the years Shirley's use of drafting film has been her preferred substrate combining graphite, charcoal, inks and oils to create works that evoke a calm sense of quiet.

In her paintings Shirley uses very thin layers of oil in combination with solvents to create a translucent matrix of natural elements to evoke a sense of fragility and gentle delicacy. These works provide an intimate insight into an imagined world inspired by Shirley's coastal walks which she hopes to create a sense of familiarity and yet mystery, some recognisable features and yet spaces that seem worlds away.

Shirley has participated in a number of solo and group exhibitions and has been a finalist in numerous art prizes namely the Wyndham Art Prize, Stanthorpe Art Prize, Lethbridge 10,000 Art Prize, St. Kevin's Art Prize and the Macquarie Emerging Art Prize.