



Plein air studies, 2009, oil on board, 60 x 60cm each

# LUCY CULLITON

**Lucy Culliton** has been hailed as one of the great spontaneous talents of Australian art. She received a Graduate Diploma of Fine Arts from Sydney's National Art School in 1996, majoring in painting. In 1998, she joined the Ray Hughes Gallery stable and has exhibited successfully there ever since. Culliton was awarded the Portia Greech Prize in 2006 and the Mosman Art prize in 2004, amongst others. She has been a regular finalist in Archibald Prize and has formed parts of many group shows including The Heyson Trail exhibition at the SH Ervin Gallery 2008

### What draws you to paint landscapes?

Painting is an excuse for being outside. I love exploring new places whether they're natural wilderness or cultivated lands. Painting is thinking, looking time, you get a real good look and feel for the space.

### What do you gain from working in the landscape?

Landscape painting is hard. There's the wind, heat, cold, wet, sticky insects and the light is constantly changing. Every now and then the challenge of being in the landscape is necessary as opposed to the controlled comforts of the studio. Painting landscapes is problem solving and I can only become wiser by the process.

### Can you outline your process from plein air to studio?

My little plein air paintings are completed finished works. Size is restricted to the outside elements (and travel) so for big stuff I'd blow up my 'littlies' using the composition and colours. And photos (if I remember to take them) are great for any info I missed.

### What materials did you find most useful on the trip?

I work with oils on board and my 'wet paint box', heavy as it is, is a must. And I couldn't paint outside without my hat. I did learn from Idris that metallic paints can look sensational.

### How did you find the experience of working with a large group of painters?

I've been along on a couple of trips with gangs of artists. It's very different to normal private practice of painting—I love them. Competition for making is intense—is it quantity not quality? We were all painting the same subjects and we all came out with very different results. Sorry guys (especially Shonah) for my coughing fits—I was rocking a good chest cold.



### What did you enjoy most from the trip overall?

Paul organised great weather—New Zealand with no rain! Loved the big mountains, loved making paintings of volcanoes. ■

Lucy Culliton is represented by Ray Hughes Gallery, Sydney  
[www.rayhughesgallery.com](http://www.rayhughesgallery.com)

EXHIBITION  
Bibbenluke Paintings—23 October to 18 November 2009  
Ray Hughes Gallery—270 Devonshire Street, Surry Hills, Sydney