

A-M Turner

Biography

A-M Turner has painted for in excess of two decades. Born in the small country town of Cootamundra NSW, she attended Art School at Wagga Wagga, now Charles Sturt University under the tuition of Donald Laycock. Having been accepted to the Canberra Art School at the time, Wagga was the place of residence for economic reasons. Subjects studied included photography, printmaking, ceramics, film and sound.

Turner lived in Sydney during 1985 and studied animation at Randwick Tafe, while immersing herself in Sydney theatre movies and other cultural pursuits, painting was at an all time high yet confidence prevented her from exhibiting her work at that time. Turner relocated to Wollongong in 1986 and took up a job as an Art Teacher at Figtree High School, spending 4 years on the coast, she continued to paint abstractly in oils and express her coastal experiences in pastel in a realistic style. This period expressed the country girl discovering the beach. In 1986, Turner's younger sister Mary-Ellen developed sarcoma in her left hip and died in 1989. This experience had a huge impact on Turner.

In 1990 Turner relocated to the capital of Australia, Canberra, to study computing with the ambition of developing skills in animation and to heal wounds by being closer to her family. It seemed to be a sense of relief to have a horizon back in her life. Despite the beauty of the ocean and the cultural mix of Wollongong, returning to a country environment with distinct seasonal differences instead of continuous green and the blue of the ocean and sky (with the confinement of the Wollongong escarpment), gave Turner a sense of space and a sense of belonging. It was in Canberra that Turner was able to facilitate the process of grieving and began to paint a series on relationship disasters. These experiences facilitated the process of deeper self knowledge and a growing interest in the work of Carl Jung.

After travelling overseas in 1994 and 1995, Turner began to find feet again through art having several exhibitions at Leichardt Street Studios, Artspace 71, where she took on the role of Chairperson before becoming ill with Chronic Fatigue Syndrome. Having surrendered to the process of diagnosis, treatment and recovery Turner took up a job in Japan in 2000 and began teaching business English for an American Language Company based in the Hokuriku Prefecture. As well as writing, facilitating and convening the International Summer Conference for the company, Turner studied and applied the principles of Systems Analysis to the Japanese English Language School. Japan was a place where Turner was able to reflect, create and connect many of the dots in her life. She had several shows in Japan and continues to show her work there.

For Turner, her art is the thread that keeps her psyche together and gives her a place where her struggle with mainstream concepts of human interaction merge her inability to feel connected to her social environments. Turner is highly intuitive and psychologically connected by the process of painting and self-expression.

In 2003, Turner gave birth to her child - resulting in living her creative dream whilst experiencing a near death experience. This has given her a greater understanding of archetypes, and the process of Jung's individuation, thus facilitating another phase in her creative development.

Art Practice

- 2007 *see-thru* University of Canberra Staff Club
- 2006 *Fire and Light* GIG Gallery, Sydney.
- 2006 Canberra Contemporary Art Space Manuka, Portrait Show
- 2005 *Drawing Show* Canberra Contemporary Art Space
- 2005 *Gaikokujin Group Show* Mae Fine Art, Japan.
- 2004 *Arto Parko,* Mae Fine Art, Japan.
- 2003 *Arto Parko,* Mae Fine Art, Japan.
- 2002 *Artist in Residence* Year of Indigenous, Ltyentye Apurte NT
- 2002 *Women Artists Show* Mae Fine Art, Japan. Sep/Oct
- 2002 *Space Painting* CSU Studio Space, Wagga Wagga
- 2002 *Space Painting No.3* short digital animation CSU Art Theatre.
- 2001 *Magokoro* solo show Toyama Japan. Oil on canvas 24, five installations and seven drawings
- 2001 *Group Show* Mae Fine Art Toyama Japan. Oil on linen
- 2000 *Drawing Show* The Spiral Arm Gallery Bega Australia
- 1999 *Space Painting* Artspace painting installation
- 1999 *Turner's Timing* Spiral Arm Gallery Bega NSW
- 1999 *The Drawing Show* Spiral Arm Gallery- pastel, pencil
- 1999 *LSS Tennant Show* Spiral Arm Gallery – oil on canvas
- 1997 *Turner's Turning* Spiral Arm Gallery
- 1996 *Tenants' Show* The Spiral Arm Gallery
- 1986 *Solo Show* Plant Room Wollongong
- 1983 *Student group show* Regional Gallery Wagga Wagga
- 1983 *Student Show* Martin Place, Sydney OEC building
- 1982 *Student show* Regional Gallery, Albury
- 1982 Assistant Designer – 'Tommy', Riverina Trucking Company
- 1982 Alma De Groen's *Moving In* Assistant Designer RTC
- 1981 Set Painting for *Wagga Theatre Anniversary Show*

Education

- 2005 Masters in Visual and Performing Arts student, Charles Sturt University

1995 Grad Dip Information Systems University of Canberra
1987 Dip Media Studies- School of Photogenic Arts Sydney
1985 Randwick TAFE, Sydney, Animation
1983 Grad Dip Education CSU Wagga
1982 Diploma Applied Arts CSU Wagga

Travel

2002 Resided in Japan from September 00-January 2002
2000 Japan, Korea
1996 Vietnam
1996 Italy- Milan, United Kingdom
1997 Indonesia
1994/95 USA- San Francisco, Los Angeles, New York
Mexico- east coast, Mazatlan, Mexico City
Spain, Portugal, Morocco, France, Italy, Austria, Switzerland
United Kingdom, Ireland, Hong Kong, Phillipines

