

# The Magic of Country

Works by

## David Lancashire

'The Magic of Country' is an exhibition of painted and collage works by David Lancashire (AGI). It presents more than 50 works connected to a larger body of over 200 works started on a long ago trip to the MacDonnell Ranges in Alice Springs. Here, David Lancashire, sat and painted in the 40 degree heat. He looked and listened; and began to feel something else. He started out painting 'landscape' but ended up painting 'country'—the gaps, chasms and gorges.

### 3 February→11 March

### Nishi Gallery

NISHI GALLERY  
17 Kendall Lane  
Canberra ACT 2601

Gallery Hours  
Wed to Sun 11am–3pm

By HOTEL HOTEL  
25 Edinburgh Ave  
Canberra ACT 2601

nishigallery.com.au  
nishigallery@hotel-hotel.com.au





'The Magic of Country' presents over 50 works connected to a larger body of over 200 works by David Lancashire (AGI) initiated on a long ago trip to the MacDonnell Ranges, Alice Springs. Here, Lancashire sat and painted in the 40 degree heat. He looked and listened; and began to feel something else. He started out painting 'landscape' but ended up painting 'country' — it's gaps, chasms and gorges.

Working for over 40-years in cross-cultural contexts, Lancashire has seen the hard work that still needs to be done; but his works don't get bogged down in this. They are optimistic and hopeful. They are a celebration of the rugged beauty and fragility of the Australian landscape; a place he describes as one of the most beautiful on the planet. He hopes the works will spark a curiosity in others. A curiosity to go, to see it, to smell it, to feel it. 'The Magic of Country' is a reminder that nature requires our nurture; and that we all have a role to play in turning the tide whether that be through activism, expression, communication, acknowledgement or appreciation.

Originally from the United Kingdom, Lancashire began his study of fine art at the Circle Studio in Stockport at the age of eleven. He continued to study painting and ceramics at Stockport Art School and Liverpool Polytechnic. He began working in graphic design in the UK before emigrating to Australia in 1966 as a £10 pom (having travelled with the Chifley government initiated Assisted Passage Migration Scheme), where he established his own design practice in 1976.

In Australia, David Lancashire Design was part of collaborative, cross-cultural teams tasked with sharing Indigenous stories, culture and knowledge at various cultural and visitor centres around Australia. These include the Bowali Visitors Centre and Warradjan Cultural Centre in Kakadu National Park, the Karijini Visitors Centre in the Pilbara and the Bunjilaka Aboriginal Centre at the Melbourne Museum. These commissions completely redirected the trajectory of his working, creative and personal life.

In 1993, Lancashire experienced a juncture while working on the Bowali Visitor Centre in Kakadu National Park with architects Glenn Murcutt and Troppo. Of the experience, he said "working with Indigenous people gave me a precious insight into this country. It was life changing, and gave me a sense of place and an appreciation that helps me see Australia in ways that I don't believe you can come to grips with in the city." While on assignment here, Lancashire went bush many times with the late Gagudju elder, Bill Neidjie. Here, he woke up under big skies with stars on both sides of the horizon. On one of these trips, the Elder told him that "he must listen to this country". These words opened Lancashire up to to a whole different way of seeing and working.

'The Magic of Country' is presented by Hotel Hotel.

HOTEL HOTEL

Hotel Hotel is a Hotel. A place of collaborative craftsmanship made by artists, makers, designers and fantasists.

Physically Hotel Hotel is a place made by and informed by art and culture. It is also a vessel for ongoing cultural and artistic creation. 'The Magic of Country' is one of a number of cultural projects made in partnership with our friends, creatives and co-conspirators.

NISHI GALLERY

Hotel Hotel's Nishi Gallery is a unique space dedicated to the presentation of exhibitions that explore our curiosities on local identity, objects and their meaning, the natural and built world, design experimentation and artisanal making.

1 – 12  
Small Works from a Big Country  
Collage, acrylic on various size rag paper  
Unframed 15 x 22cm (approx)  
\$150 ea

13 – 24  
Small Works from a Big Country  
Collage, acrylic on various size rag paper  
Unframed 15 x 22cm (approx)  
\$150 ea

25 – 37  
Small Works from a Big Country  
Collage, acrylic on various size rag paper  
Unframed 15 x 22cm (approx)  
\$150 ea

38  
Small Works from a Big Country  
Collage, acrylic on rag paper  
Framed in hand-painted frame by artist  
26 x 30cm  
\$550

39  
Small Works from a Big Country  
Collage, acrylic on rag paper  
Framed in hand-painted frame by artist  
26 x 30cm  
\$550

40  
Small Works from a Big Country  
Collage, acrylic on rag paper  
Framed in hand-painted frame by artist  
26 x 30cm  
\$550

41 – 49  
Small Works from a Big Country  
Collage, acrylic on various size rag paper  
Unframed 15 x 22cm (approx)  
\$150 ea

50  
Small Works from a Big Country  
Collage, acrylic on rag paper  
Framed in hand-painted frame by artist  
26 x 30cm  
\$550

51  
Small Works from a Big Country  
Collage, acrylic on rag paper  
Framed in hand-painted frame by artist  
26 x 30cm  
\$550

52  
Small Works from a Big Country  
Collage, acrylic on rag paper  
Framed in hand-painted frame by artist  
26 x 30cm  
\$550

53  
Timeless Country  
Graphite, carbon pencil, charcoal on paper  
Framed 60 x 85cm  
\$1200

54  
Small Works from a Big Country  
Collage, acrylic on rag paper  
Framed in hand-painted frame by artist  
26 x 30cm  
\$550

55  
Small Works from a Big Country  
Collage, acrylic on rag paper  
Framed in hand-painted frame by artist  
26 x 30cm  
\$550

56  
Small Works from a Big Country  
Collage, acrylic on rag paper  
Framed in hand-painted frame by artist  
26 x 30cm  
\$550

57  
Gaps, Chasms, Gorges  
Gesso, acrylic on paper  
Framed 45 x 65cm  
\$800

58  
Gaps, Chasms, Gorges  
Gesso, acrylic on paper  
Framed 45 x 65cm  
\$800

59  
Dancing Hills  
Indian ink, gesso, on Arches 300gsm rag paper  
Framed 75 x 105cm  
\$1600

60  
Gaps, Chasms, Gorges  
Gesso, acrylic on paper  
Framed 45 x 65cm  
\$800

61  
Gaps, Chasms, Gorges  
Gesso, acrylic on paper  
Framed 45 x 65cm  
\$800

62  
Bonza Country  
Acrylic, gesso on linen  
150 x 150cm  
\$4500

63  
Gaps, Chasms, Gorges  
Gesso, acrylic on paper  
Framed 45 x 65cm  
\$800

64  
Timeless Country  
Graphite, carbon pencil, charcoal on paper  
Framed 60 x 85cm  
\$1200

65  
Gaps, Chasms, Gorges  
Gesso, acrylic on paper  
Framed 45 x 65cm  
\$800

66  
Engraved Country  
Acrylic, gesso, Indian ink on linen  
100 x 150cm  
\$3500

67  
Gaps, Chasms, Gorges  
Gesso, acrylic on paper  
Framed 45 x 65cm  
\$800

68  
Timeless Country  
Graphite, carbon pencil, charcoal on paper  
Framed 60 x 85cm  
\$1200

69  
Gaps, Chasms, Gorges  
Gesso, acrylic on paper  
Framed 45 x 65cm  
\$800