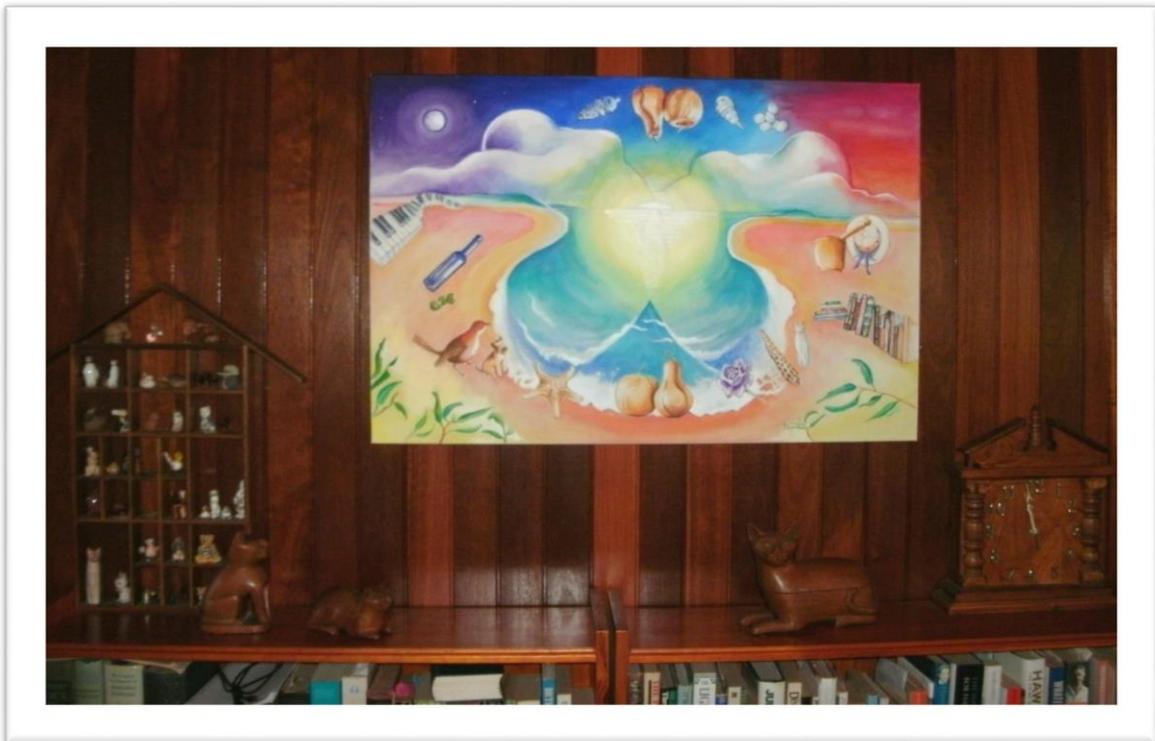


The Landscape of our Lives



Francesca and Phyllis

The Landscape of our Lives

Francesca and Phyllis

Phyllis Papps and Francesca Curtis

50th Anniversary. 11th July 2020

Foreword by Phyllis Papps

With text by Josephine Allen

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Main text by Josephine Allen

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Hanging at Rhyll, September 2020

Josephine Allen
Acrylic on canvas 61 x 91cm
September 2020

Printed by:

FOREWORD

LANDSCAPES AND MASTERPIECES OF OUR LIVES

We have lived very full lives and had a wonderful journey during the past 50 years.

Now is the time to say 'goodbye' and say 'no regrets.'

We have so many paintings, so many stories, so much on Google, so many interviews, so many chapters recorded in our lives by others.

Watch ABC in February 2021 for "Why did she have to tell the world."

This is the last to final piece in the jigsaw of our lives.

THE PAINTING

On 11th July 2020, Francesca and I decided to have our 50 years together celebrated and remembered in a visual/ artistic and original way to add to the penultimate story of our lives.

There are many famous artists here in the Bass Coast region. But it didn't take me very long to choose Josephine Allen (Josie Kent). She is a visual artist and I was familiar with her wonderful art work over the decades.

I asked her to do a non-traditional portrait of our lives celebrating a non-conventional relationship that has lasted over 50 years and that was all about 'Freedom to BE OURSELVES.'

Francesca and I are now in the 'elderly' bracket and coping with health issues, yet both of us are still pursuing our lives (albeit slowly) through various literary activities. Animal and bird companions have been a constant in our lives.

All we have ever wanted is to be ACCEPTED for who we are irrespective of our gender, age, colour, race, religion, politics ... Our lives have been about freedom, diversity, equal rights and a better future for everyone devoid of bigotry, hate and discrimination. We would like the same benefits that heterosexuals have and no longer wish to be seen as a non-conformists who are 'on the fringe' of society.

I truly believe that we have earned our place in society, as do all other members of the LGBTI community. We have earned the right to be accepted for who we are and to be treated as equals.

We truly thank Josephine Allen who captures all of that and so much more in her wonderful painting:
The Landscape of our Lives- Francesca and Phyllis.

Phyllis Papps and Francesca Curtis on our 50th Anniversary. Rhyll, 11th July 2020



Phyllis Papps and Francesca Curtis receiving
Lifetime Achievement Award. Australian LGBTI Awards 2019. Sydney, March 2019

An Art Commission

It came to me on Facebook - 12 July 2020

White on purple

“We would like you to paint a portrait of our lives.”

I knew they had been together for 50 years

Two women that I respected and admired

I felt honoured and up for the challenge

So - I said yes, but a lot more politely!

We spoke on the phone first

Just Phyllis and I

She sent me stories, images and we made a date.

I googled Phyllis Papps and Francesca Curtis

A wealth of documentation

Feminist activists

Radically standing up for the fringe

Writers, educators and community workers

A love story that began in the 1970s

And sustained the years.

I held a blank canvas in my mind

On that first visit to the log shack in Rhyll
I was enthralled by the light on the wooden panels inside
Greeted by Susie Q and Phyllis
And I sat on the edge of my chair,
Feeling in the design of the objects
That meant so much to them.



We interviewed each other
Got practical things sorted

I learnt about

Heritage - Scottish, Egyptian, Greek, Australia

I taped, made notes

Heard the love story

Family darks and lights

Highlights and times I could not ask about.

Yin and Yang

Pisces and Aries

Photographed throughout the house

All things that sprung out to me

The words:

“Chesca wants to go back to Italy one more time.”

Gave me the composition

The Pantheon!

Baroque and operatic music gave the feel.

I was excited.

There before I left, Phyllis gave me a gift.

“I don’t want to interfere with your creative process.

We choose you.”

And it wasn’t the first time she had to say it!

It took two-weeks to clean up my studio

Filled with 16 little paintings of ascensions

The last three months of work.

I signed and stacked them ready for an exhibition

As that canvas played in the back of my mind

Colours chosen, renaissance inspired, rainbow hues

Hints through messenger

I wanted to sketch them together,

But not to be, portraits not essential

Only to me.

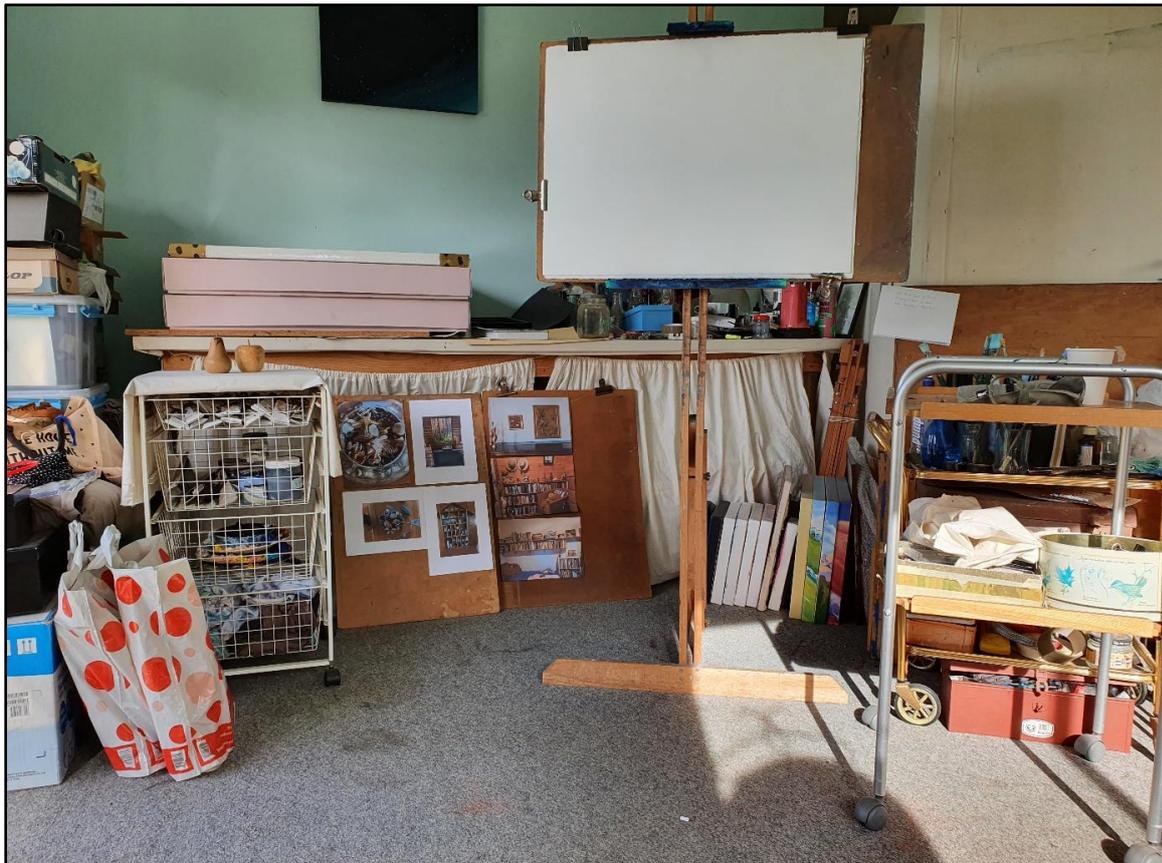
More reading and another visit

Understanding of their loves of nature.

A bundle of their photo albums and

A wooden pear and apple come to my home

I set the studio up.



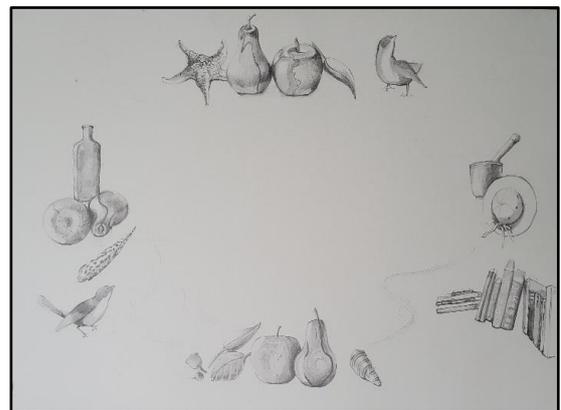
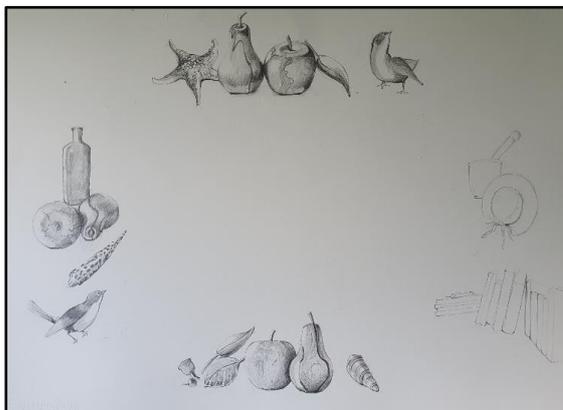
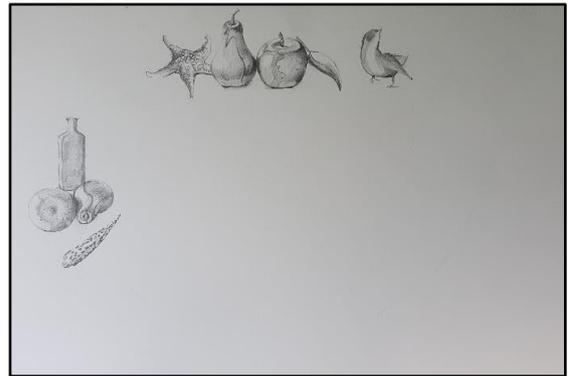
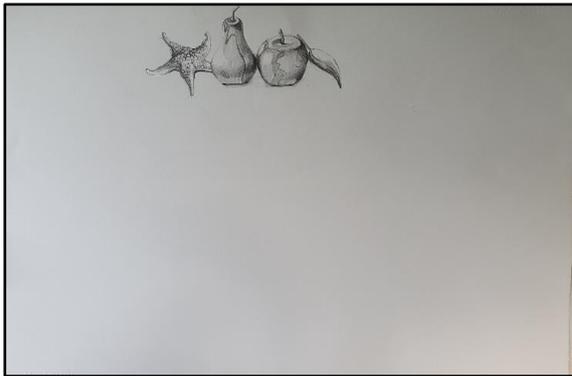
I study their forms, animals, family, friends, gardens, house

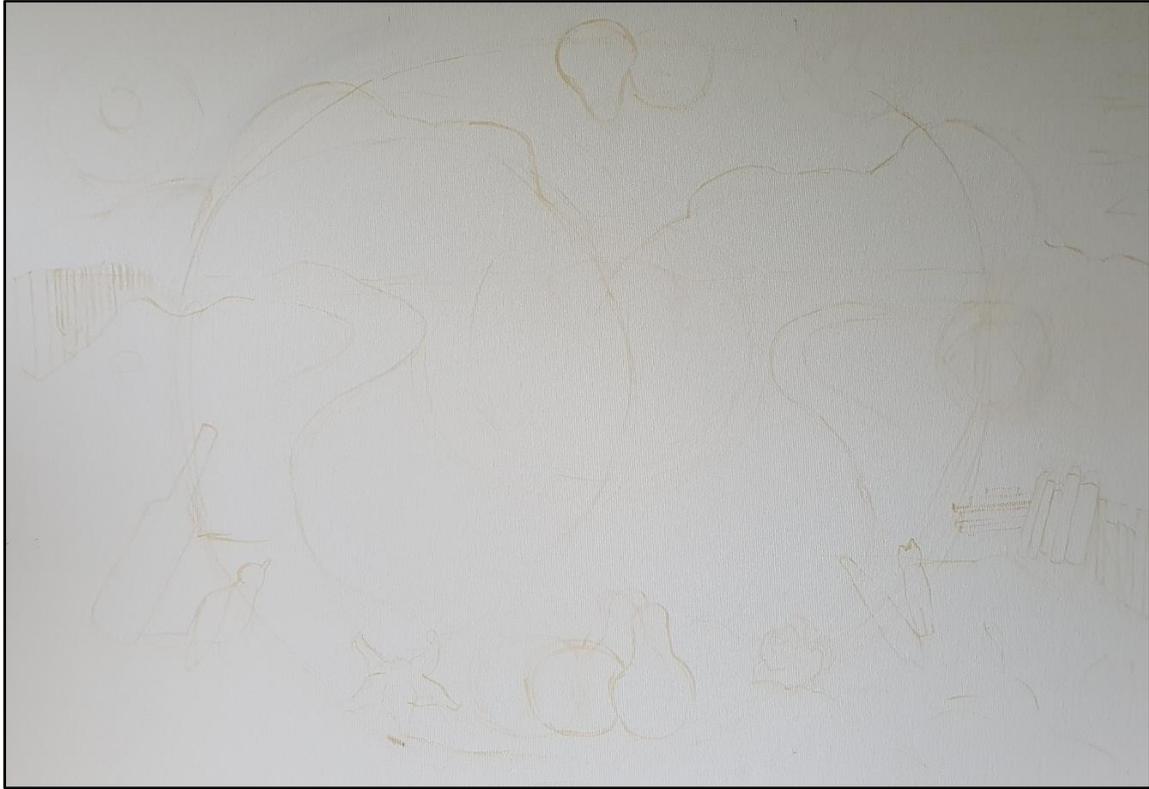
Over the years.

Print out photos

Waiting for the merge

I practice still life drawings of their objects on one sheet.





Then I see it! - the three circles

Larger with two intercepting within and without.

Yin and Yang

They form figures - yours

They form light

They form landscapes

Objects become like angels reaching

towards an Italian dome.

The canvas is placed on the easel.



Like any inspired piece of creation

I have the structure

Without the knowledge of where or what

It will be.

It is the adventure and my skill that leads.

I start with drawing in a raw white - the shapes

And fill with a wash of colour.

I am thinking impasto

But find glazes.

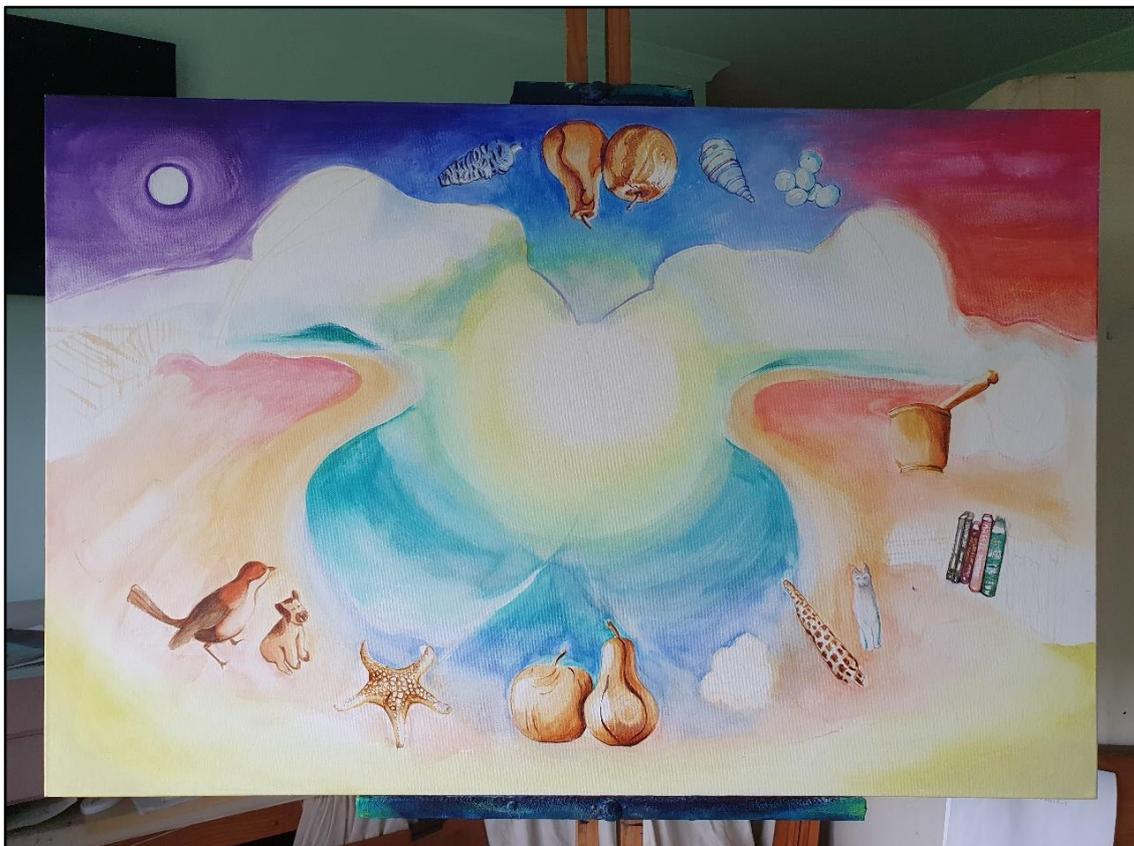
Yin and Yang

I go with it.

I break out my husband's box of brushes
The ones that he wouldn't let me use,
Because I was careless with their cleaning!
The fine 1-point sable brush becomes my pencil

And he is once again my muse,
Even though he is longer on this earth.

I illustrate the objects, the angels, the symbols,
The things that sprung out to me.
Around the outer circle looking in or up to the dome.
The apple and pear, Phyllis and Francesca
At the top and bottom
Leaning towards each other and opposite.



Objects from the house

Juxtaposing their interests.

I couldn't resist the bird eggs.

I wash the brushes before I leave the studio

Each session!

I take photographs in the same light each afternoon.

It becomes a process

Working five afternoons each week.





The animals appear

Books from each's shelves

The mortar and pestle

Good cheer and social times.

All the way through I listen to classical radio

Breathing in the Baroque and Opera

I key in with the play of the piano.



Socialising with an old bottle and a hat.

The purple rose of feminism.



I see in the third week of painting, that the circles

Foil for the distance of years.

I incorporate in the internal landscape,

Full moon, shape summer sunset and dawn.

Foreground to back.

The landscape of their lives.

I dance in the foamy sea.

Tighten up the composition and technical elements

And bring the landscape into being.



Right at the end

The Olives.



Finally, I am surprised at the lightness of the brush

Stunned by the colours

Grateful for the learning of glazes

I am blind to the message

But happy with the result.

Thankyou Francesca and Phyllis

For having the faith in me.

I loved creating...

“The Landscape of our Lives – Francesca and Phyllis”

Acrylic on canvas 61 x 91cm

Josephine Allen
4 September 2020

About the Artist

Josephine is a figurative artist who has a passion for drawing the patterns in nature and allegory. Josephine has been exhibiting since 1985. Josephine also writes and has prizes in short story and poetry.

Josephine says: “I have always loved drawing the figure and have been doing life drawing since I was 16 years old, I also have a great love for nature and have spent many hours doing plein air works in various mediums.

However, the greater love for me is drawing from the mind, from inspiration, following the thread and watching the stories unfold, this makes me a figurative artist. It is not important to me that the works are realistic, but that they are emotive.”

Exhibition highlights include exhibiting with Phillip Island artists and artisans in *Postcards and Souvenirs* at the National Gallery of Victoria, Access Gallery in 1995, Convent Gallery, Daylesford. *In the Study* 1994. Solo shows include, *Moons and Moonahs* 2004, *Accord* 2011 and *The Activists* 2013. *Stories, Scapes and Sojourns* 2016 and *Figurescapes* 2018.

She is a regular exhibitor in group exhibitions.

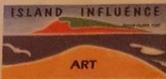
Josephine lives on Phillip Island.



www.islandinfluence.com.au



Josephine Allen with Phyllis and Francesca’s beloved Suzie Q
Rhyll, September 2020



Artist / Arts Consultant / Writer
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ABN 68 858 817 033
No GST registration

Certificate of Authenticity

3 September 2020

This certificate assures you that the artwork titled below is an original painted by Josephine Allen (Josephine Kent)

Title	Francesca and Phyllis <i>landscape of their lives</i>
Year produced	16 July to 2 September 2020
Size	61 x 91cm
Material	Stretched Canvas
Medium	Acrylic
Frame	No frame, painted sides and with hanging system
Signature	Yes - front left bottom and in pencil on the back of the canvas



This is a one of a kind original painting derived from a commissioned brief given to me by Phyllis Papps, my observation, imagination, drawings and photographs. All copyrights and reproduction rights are retained by the artist Josephine Allen. This painting may not be changed or reproduced without the written permission of the artist or the artists' estate.

To clean please use fibre cloth, as it is a water-based painting (glazes of acrylic).

Artist Signature: 

Date Authenticated: 2 September 2020