

Michele Owen  
Losing My Place

JANUARY 22 - 31, 2021

**‘This exhibition is a love letter to Victoria and a small tribute to the huge sacrifices that were made by Melburnians in 2020.’**

**Losing My Place** is a series of small oil paintings commenced during, and in response to, my experience of Melbourne’s strict stage 4 lockdown. For several months Melbourne and regional Victoria were separated by a ‘Ring of Steel’ and Melbourne residents were restricted to a 5km radius of their homes. In a time when issues of division, isolation, loss, grief and mental health prevailed in my city, I reflected on the importance of regional and rural places to reinvigorate us and restore our wellbeing.

These paintings are a recollection of memories of the places that enliven me. Places I love and longed to visit again at a time when no-one knew when that would be possible. A series of fleeting moments of picnic spots, country drives, holidays and day trips recalled from a lifetime of experiences in the Victorian countryside. These small works created a tiny lens to explore the spaciousness, glowing light and energetic hum of the Victorian landscape.



Oil on Australian hardwood  
Framed in triple coated white painted wood

Artwork 11cm w x 10cm h x 2cm d  
Frame 20cm w x 20cm h x 4cm d

## Hilly Around Here, Cottlesbridge

*Hilly Around Here, Cottlesbridge* was inspired by the charming hilly district of Cottlesbridge which is dotted with small farms and boutique wineries, not far from my home in Wattle Glen but beyond our 5km lockdown radius.

\$285



## Looking Towards Kinglake

*Looking Towards Kinglake* was inspired by memories of morning drives, not far from home, along the ridge between Hurstbridge and Yarrambat, looking towards Kinglake shrouded in mist.

\$285

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## By the River, Warburton

*By the River, Warburton* was inspired by memories of a family cycling trip along the Warburton rail trail with lovely views of the Yarra River and lots of stops for ice-cream so I could catch my breath.

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## Swimming Spot Near Mallacoota

*Swimming Spot Near Mallacoota* was inspired by memories of camping with the kids at Mallacoota, hiring a 'tinny' to go fishing, with much tangling of rods and lines, and discovering secluded spots for a cooling dip.

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## Canola Everywhere, Grampians

*Canola Everywhere, Grampians* was inspired by several trips to the spectacular Grampians National Park driving past dazzling fields of iridescent yellow canola.

\$285



## Way Out Past Hepburn

*Way Out Past Hepburn* was inspired by memories of weekends away with girlfriends, taking the road to the Lavandula lavender farm and passing old properties dotted with my favourite poplar trees.

\$285

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## On the Way to the High Country

*On the Way to the High Country*, was inspired by memories of winter holiday road trips heading towards the High Country where the air is crisp and countryside is dewy and green.

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## Second Home, Point Lonsdale

*Second Home, Point Lonsdale* was inspired by the glorious place on the Bellarine Peninsula where we are fortunate to have a holiday home and spend many hours at the foreshore looking across a dangerous stretch of water known as 'The Rip'.

\$285



## Around Halls Gap

*Around Halls Gap* was inspired by memories of family camping trips in Halls Gap with its wondrous escarpments, abundance of kangaroos and the 'best vanilla slice' in Victoria.

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## Beyond Malmsbury

From the 'Losing My Place' exhibition, *Beyond Malmsbury* was inspired by memories of my early teenage years, spending weekends at a friend's farm not far from Malmsbury, and riding my palomino pony along deserted back roads without a care in the world.

\$285



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### A Picnic Spot Near Macedon

*A Picnic Spot Near Macedon* was inspired by a distant memory of a picnic BBQ with our scallywag dog who stealthily nicked off with another family's string of sausages and led everyone on a merry dance refusing to be caught.

\$285



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### Out Woop-Woop, Western District

*Out Woop-Woop, Western District* was inspired by memories of driving to a vast sheep property out the back of beyond in the Western District to collect an enchanting spotted border collie puppy we named Joey, who stole our hearts for the next 15 years.

\$285



## Grand View, Grampians

*Grand View, Grampians*, was inspired by memories of family holidays in the Grampians, taking rambling bush walks, swatting flies and gazing in wonder at those grand views.

\$285

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## Out Back of Arthurs Creek

*Out Back of Arthurs Creek*, was inspired by driving through Strathewan and Arthurs Creek during the magical glow of sunrise when the sky blushes pink and spreads a golden light across the land.

\$285

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Frame 20cm w x 20cm h x 4cm d





## *A Day in the Vines, Yarra Valley*

*A Day in the Vines, Yarra Valley* was inspired by Sunday drives to the Yarra Valley in autumn, passing endless golden vineyards, stopping for lunch at the Healesville Hotel and a wine tasting at Yering Station.

\$285

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Thank you to my family and friends who assisted to bring this exhibition to life and whose encouragement and support has helped realise my dream of a creative path.