

**OFFICIAL OPENING OF MICHAYE BOULTER'S EXHIBITION,
'ATMOSPHERES'
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
FRIDAY 5 JULY 2024, BETT GALLERY, HOBART**

Good evening to you all. It is my very great pleasure to welcome you to this opening of Michaye Boulter's exquisite exhibition, 'Atmospheres', here at Bett Gallery.

May I begin by acknowledging the Muwinina people upon whose Country we gather. I acknowledge today's Tasmanian Aboriginal Community as ongoing custodians of Country. I recognise their enduring culture and continued connection to land, sea, and waters.

This evening, we are attending a very special art exhibition; we are stepping into a world crafted by Michaye's visionary talent, where every piece is a window into an ethereal world.

Michaye Boulter, a name synonymous with evocative and breathtaking land and seascapes, has once again invited us to traverse the delicate interplay between land, sea, and sky. Her works are more than just paintings; they are meditations on the natural beauty that surrounds us and remind us of our unique and rugged Tasmanian landscapes and seascapes.

The title of this exhibition, 'Atmospheres', is particularly fitting because Michaye not only depicts landscapes and seascapes. She gives life to them with subtle changes in light, and of movement of clouds and waves.

I was fortunate to be in Devonport a few weeks ago on a municipal council visit. A civic reception at the end of the visit was held in the paranapple centre. We were in the main reception room and serendipitously, we were thrilled to be surrounded by these works of Michaye, which evoked a sense of serenity and calm.

May I say a little about Michaye. As we all know, she is a renowned Tasmanian artist. She has a Bachelor of Fine Arts from our UTAS.

She has been exhibiting paintings in Australia since the 1990s and has works held in public and private collections around Australia, including our Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery and Parliament House in Canberra. Michaye has been a finalist in several prestigious art prizes, including the John Glover Art Prize seven times and the Wynne Prize in 2019. She was also a finalist in last year's Hadley's Art Prize.

At Government House, we are fortunate to have two of her works displayed in the main hallway, for our many visitors and guests to view and enjoy.

Michaye has connection with the sea and this stems from early childhood when she spent weeks sailing the ocean with her family.¹

Michaye explained to me that her paintings depict places where she has spent time. But she thinks more about depictions of time, the times of the day when she sees the light changing. She wants to slow time down and to create a cyclical loop connecting moments in time, using light and dark, and dark and light.

She explained that light can be a poignant way of finding inner expression. She wants us to see what is personal to us and what is inside us, as her depictions may be anywhere for us to imagine. They may evoke a memory of places and belonging. They may initiate a spiritual or emotional awakening.

My response to looking at her paintings was to experience a sense of peace, and to borrow the words of Joni Mitchell, a feeling of "captive on the carousel of time."

Michaye, thank you for sharing your visions with us. It is an honour to open your exhibition, and to celebrate your artistic achievements and our Tasmanian culture and creativity.

¹ Talking With Painters, 17/12/2018, Episode 61.

I would like to leave you all to your own experience of Michaye's work, and therefore, it is with great pleasure that I declare Michaye Boulter's exhibition, 'Atmospheres', officially open.

Thank you.