

# THE OLIVE BRANCH

**Emergence 2021 Brunswick Uniting Church Congregation Worship - 9:30 am**

## > Emergence - The Story

*Emergence - the BUC Arts bi-ennial exhibition was launched on **Friday 5th November** and concluded on Sunday 14th November. The launch event was held online hosted by Courtney Rohde, Exhibition Coordinator, and Ian Ferguson. [Watch here.](#)*

*Following the Welcome, Acknowledgement of Country and Blessing offered by Ian, Courtney shared the story of Emergence ...*

The BUC Arts team and I have been working over the course of the last several months, to bring you this exhibition that beautifully captures how we have collectively emerged over the course of the last 18 months, having encountered things like lockdown, not being able to connect with friends and family, but also the opportunity to explore new things and the opportunity for self-reflection.

With that in mind, I would like to share with you how we came to arrive at our theme of Emergence.

We first starting planning for this exhibition 6 months ago, when the situation was not too dissimilar to where we are now. We were coming out of lockdown, we were able to gather with friends in family, eat in restaurants, travel interstate. With that in mind, we wanted to choose a theme that had a shared thread, something that all of us had in common, something we had each experienced in some way or another.

Obviously, the elephant in the room both forward- and backwards-looking was COVID. We'd just spent 12 months in and out of snap lockdowns, missing out on critical events, putting lots of things on hold – but also with the opportunity to explore new things, to have quietness and reflection in our lives more than we had before. The busyness seemed to have gone away, at least temporarily.

So despite us having varied experience throughout that period, we thought that with all the “temporary-ness” it seemed apt that rather than only looking backwards, we should also be looking forwards. The theme we chose was emergence, as a reflection of the past and how we bring it forward into the future – emerging from lockdown (literally), but also from solitude, and parts of us emerging that we hadn't known before.

So now I'd like to share with you the story behind Emergence as we intended it and invite you to reflect on what these words mean to you, and how you respond.

### Story

As we reflect on a year passed, we look back at a year gone, but more pressingly: a present where we find ourselves anew, refreshed but wearied, learned but naïve, undisputedly different.

We have added phrases like “new normal” and “self-isolating” to our vocabulary. We have spent many more moments alone, and yet surrounded in our shared solitude. We have adapted and flexed with the ongoing uncertainty and change. We have navigated the landscape of online community faster than anybody could ever have anticipated.

So what has come of it? What can we take from this period of self-reflection and offer to our future selves – to bring forward and shape our paths? How can we take these unprecedented times and grow from them?

This year, BUC Arts invites you to reflect on the theme of Emergence for our upcoming exhibition.

How have we been inspired by adversity (hope in hard times?) or by the emergence from restrictions and the new life we feel, the freedoms?

What has awakened for us over the past 18 months?

What has this time unmasked or unveiled for us? What has been revealed?

What are we now inspired to share?



## > Editor & BUC Arts Co-convenor note

This special edition of the Olive Branch is offered as a celebration of Emergence. It includes stories about the opening night and performance evening, artist spotlights, worship services and the in person and virtual exhibitions.

The BUC Arts committee - Courtney Rohde (Exhibition Coordinator), Ann Soo (BUC Arts Creative Convenor), Saide Cameron (BUC Arts Administration Convenor), Bev Evans (Olive Arts Coordinator), Leanne Salau, Simone Alesich, Annie Quail and Ian Ferguson - joyfully and thoughtfully embraced the challenges of planning the exhibition, postponing from the original date to eventually celebrating the launch just as we finally emerged from lockdown.

We met regularly and increasingly often via Zoom on Sunday afternoons. We delighted in emerging stories of creativity and were amazed beyond our expectations at the sheer number of works offered and the abundant creativity explored and shared. We added in artist spotlights via Zoom, each of which offered powerful stories of artistic vision and experience. This was an exhibition like no other and we are so very grateful and humbled by the many ways in which people contributed to, participated in and supported Emergence. Thank you

Saide Cameron



From Little Things - Simone Alesich



Michael Rigby

## > Opening night

After sharing the story of Emergence on Opening Night, **Friday 5th November**, Courtney invited us to reflect on a small selection of the artworks from multiple different artists, multiple different mediums, from the over 120 different works that were submitted as part of the exhibition. We were encouraged to comment and share feedback. [Watch here](#) from 11:16.



From Behind Closed Doors

Gretta O'Mahoney

Life and lockdown looks different in every household.

From the healthy to the dangerous, this work attempts to appreciate the diversity of people's circumstances and evoke the spirit that may arise as we are more able to emerge from behind closed doors; reconnecting in person and in community.

Greta invited viewers to examine the different houses, to let our minds wander as we consider the title, and how locked down life is for others, how their own experience informs their thoughts and feelings and how it might be in the future as we gradually emerge and rediscover one another face to face.

*Feedback included appreciation for the detail, the greetings offered from people from their doors and footpaths.*



Between Shadow and Light

Soo Lai Yin (Ann Soo)

A selection from a series of five.

Drawing is everything to me during lockdown.

A focus, a meditation, a joy, a struggle some days and being totally in the moment feeling all emotions. I drew every day for over 18 months. Drawing was my companion and process through lockdown and here are some of the pieces from the practice.

Ann invited viewers find a word or words that resonated with the work and to offer alternative titles.

*Feedback included comments about the imaginative quality of the work, the way in which the butterflies appear to come out of the page, the sense of fresh air. Alternative titles included 'Serenity' and 'Spirit in Motion'.*

We watched 'Talking it Over', written and directed by Janet Watson Kruse. The film features some soup bubbling. Some gardeners discuss the merits of eating someone else's lunch. A mother talks things over – but who is she talking to and where? Based on oral tradition, this gentle film muses on enduring love as understanding slowly emerges. [Watch here](#) from 21:00. *Feedback included that it was intriguing, a sweet short film with an emotional twist, a sharing of humanity.*



#### The Birth of Jesus

Christina Berkman

New life, new hope. The humble place of Jesus' birth, vividly depicted; a baby surrounded by welcoming nature.

Christina hopes that viewers will enjoy the work and that it will make us smile.

*Feedback included that it is quirky and fun, definitely makes us smile, wondering about who is holding the book and appreciation for the gorgeous colour*

We watched 'Aces up my sleeve', written and directed by Rissa Bell. Rissa comments 'There has been nothing like forced isolation, restrictions from loved ones, curfews & sporadic visits to sacred places where I find spiritual connectivity, to get me to call on my Inner Resource & connect with the power within myself.' [Watch here](#) from 28:32. *Feedback included that it was uplifting, inspiring, that there is a story that we are not privy to.*



#### Packet, tangled.

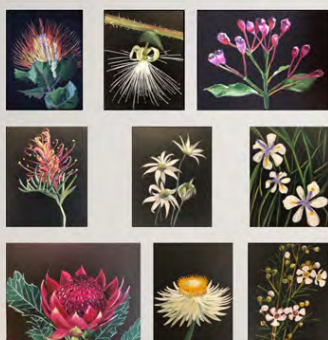
Joshua

Joshua has been creating art for 2 ½ years. Joshua enjoys painting, drawing and other mediums. His subjects include "mountains", "mushroom" and "tangled". In this work Joshua has drawn an everyday object, a packet of chips. Joshua is very proud to understand the concept of tangled.

He also likes chips.

Josh and his mother Steph invite viewers to speak with Josh if possible. Also that interpretive dance responses are also encouraged.

*Feedback included wonderings about the type of chips, appreciation for the balance of blue against the yellow and the minimalist approach.*



#### Wildflower Discovery

Nic Batch

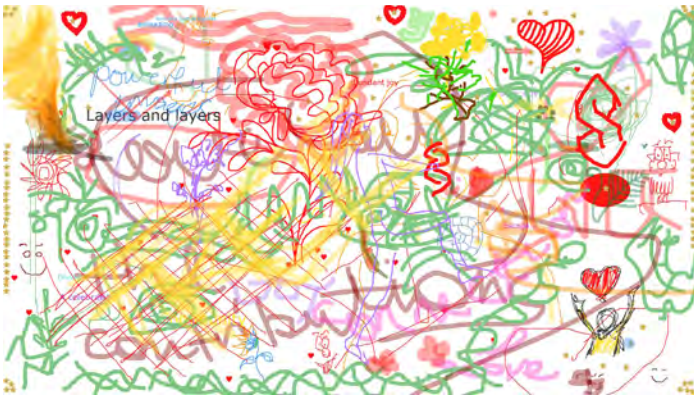
Since March 2020, my creative self that had been in hibernation for a couple of decades, unexpectedly re-emerged.

Through daily Instagram art lessons, the practice of looking and drawing has helped me discover many things, including the beauty of native Australian wildflowers, emerging out of our dark days

Nicole invited viewers to write on a notebook/paper/post it notes their favourite native Australian flower, or do a quick doodle/drawing on a shared poster sheet.

*Lots of wildflowers were offered - hibiscus grevillea, yellow bill buttons, bottle brush, stewart Desert pea, everlasting daisies.*





We then had a wonderful time creating our own collaborative artwork which features in the Virtual Exhibition.



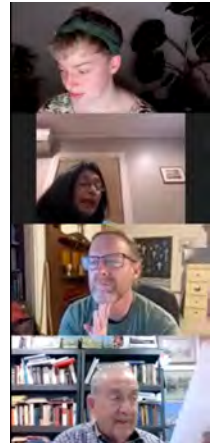
Courtney introduced Lesbia Centento, featured artist, in conversation with Phil Kreveld.

### A statement from Lesbia

My artistic work encourages observers to imaginatively visit my country Venezuela, in particular my hometown Zaraza. My artwork became increasingly suffused with light and color due to the vibrant nature of that region creating atmospheric and sometimes supernatural effects far removed from the quality of conventional landscapes. By representing rather than hinting, my watercolour paintings make viewers' minds work differently, and they are rewarded by having a sense of feeling and seeing the landscapes before them.

My passion is to paint not what I know but what I feel in my soul and see in my memories.

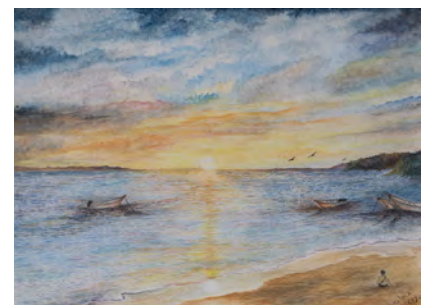
The pandemic aroused my sensibility for painting which has served:  
 As refuge in memories to recall and recreate happy and unforgettable moments.  
 As a searcher for new colours to face darkness.  
 As combatant to indoor isolation which produces irritability and listlessness.  
 As a finder of new friends to break this stormy silence.



Sunrise in Caracas



Royal Way (Real Camino)



Enchanted



Feel the Tempest



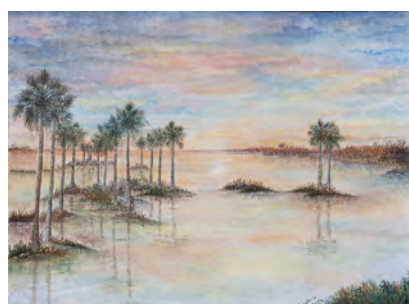
My North El Avila



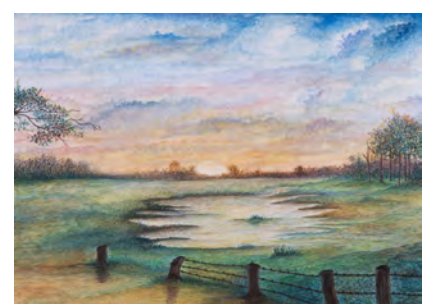
Policrome of Plain



The Flame of my Childhood



Treasure of my Memories



Way Home

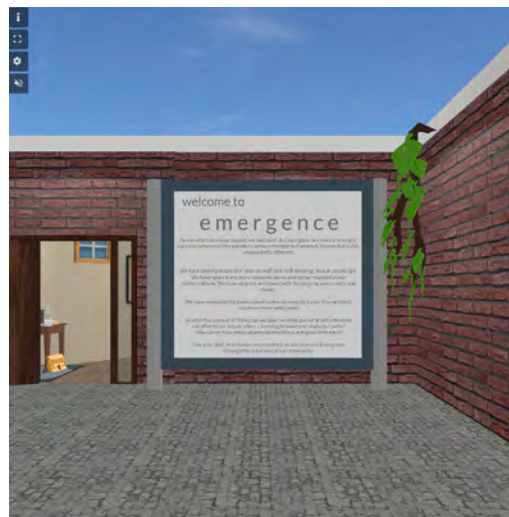


Lesbia shared stories about her artistic journey which were translated by Phil Kreveld and a friend of Lesbia's. We spent some time in Breakout rooms sharing our responses to Lesbia's works and story.

The evening concluded with an introduction to the [Emergence Virtual Exhibition](#). Courtney acknowledged the people who had contributed to exhibition: Ian Ferguson - photography, Amelia Ware - building the online space, Soo Lai Yin (Ann) and Graeme Lawrence for support in curating the space.

Ian closed the evening offering our thanks to Courtney for the extraordinary work that she has done as the coordinator, creating an exhibition in two places online and in the real world in the church. He also thanked the committee for all our work.

Ian prayed *'God's blessing upon you as you go from here, that you may be filled with the with that sense of divine creativity that has sustained these artists through lockdown and and may now feed your soul also through a sharing in this.'*



## > Liz Johnson - Artist Spotlight 1

Our first [Artist Spotlight](#) on **Saturday 6th November** featured Liz Johnson – a wonderful visual artist working with materials such as charcoal, pastel, watercolour, pen and ink. Liz works mainly outdoors and draws inspiration from nature. She has been exhibiting her landscapes and still life pictures since 2006.

Liz is also a friend to many of us at BUC and together with Beth Shelton reviewed the arts ministry at Brunswick Uniting in 2018. She was also the facilitator for our arts DREAMING day also in 2018 and brought energy and inspiration to our well attended event. She has been part of our creative journey so far!

Leanne Salau hosted our gathering welcoming Liz and everyone joining on Zoom. Liz offered her thanks for the invitation and commented 'It's such a gift to an artist to give them an opportunity to speak about their work and I hope to speak about my work and then have much time for conversation and questions.'

Liz's presentation '[Self Care through an Eclectic, Experimental, Intuitive Art Practice 2015-2021](#)' offered a richly textured journey through Liz's art practice. Liz spoke about her external process of art making and referred to some of the things that allowed her an internal process of thinking and of care for herself.

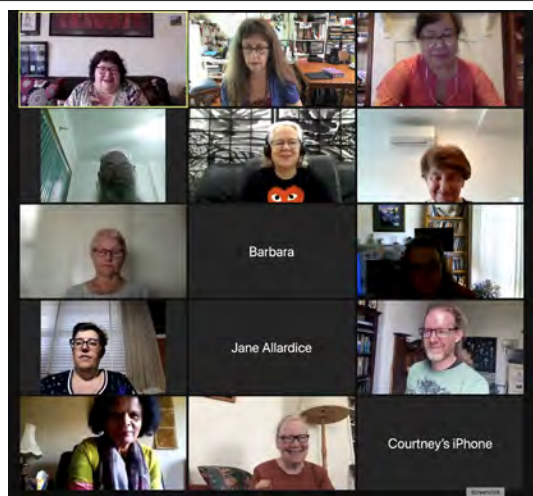
Liz's practice is to paint outdoors on large pieces of rice paper with her brush attached to polls. She loads her brushes with ink tries to capture the scene that she is painting in one or two movements, then repeats the process with different colours.

Liz shared her experience of having an art studio at Caritas Christi, a hospice and being drawn to draw what she saw outside her studio. Lockdown challenged Liz to work out how to be an indoor artist - this led to a practice of tearing up her works and creating new works as collages. Liz offered many other stories and examples of her art practice, of places she has worked, groups and people that she has worked with and been supported by in return.

Lots of comments were offered and questions asked following the formal presentation. People also shared their own artistic practice. Leanne thanked Liz for her amazing presentation and everyone for attending.



Visit the [recording for the full presentation](#) and examples of Liz's art practice.



## > Clementine Loynd and Colin Hunter - Artist Spotlight 2



Hands that help

Our second [Artist Spotlight](#) on **Tuesday 9th November** featured Clementine Loynd and Colin Hunter. Courtney welcomed us to the evening on Zoom and introduced Carlynn Nunn as our host, commenting that it was a Triple C event!!

Carlynn began by sharing photos of works from both Colin and Clem and invited them to speak about their art practice.

Clem started taking art classes in term 2, 2021 after telling her mother, Maxine, that she wanted



to be an artist. All of the works included in the exhibition were created during the mostly online classes.

Clem commented that she really likes having fun with different sorts of art and learning different techniques in the classes. She explained her practice and focus for each of her artworks in great detail.

Colin has always played around with wood but started doing wood carving about 15 years ago. He participated in a one day workshop where he learned about the tools needed for sculpting wood. Colin shared that it takes a long time to produce a piece and will often be working on two or three pieces at a time. He said that he waits to see what emerges from the piece of wood.



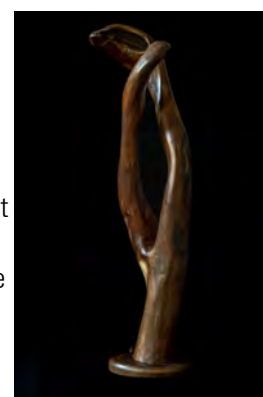
Returning to Clem Carlynn asked which of her works was her favourite which is the one of the girl looking out her bedroom window. Clem commented that she is proud of the sky and the shading and that the bed covers which she drew freehand were the hardest part. She also liked not having to draw the girl's face. Comments included that the work was spectacular, so dreamy, it offered an invitation to imagine what the girl was thinking about. Responding to Carlynn's question about which art practice has been the most difficult/challenging for her Clem replied 'the self-portrait' and went on to comment about skin tones and colours. She agreed that her inspiration for this work was Vincent van Gogh. Many people commented on how amazing the work is.



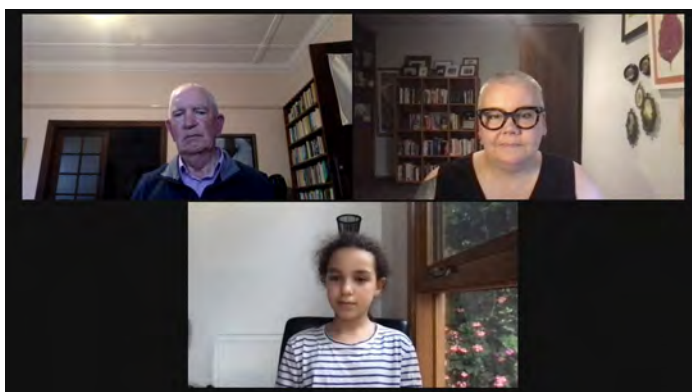
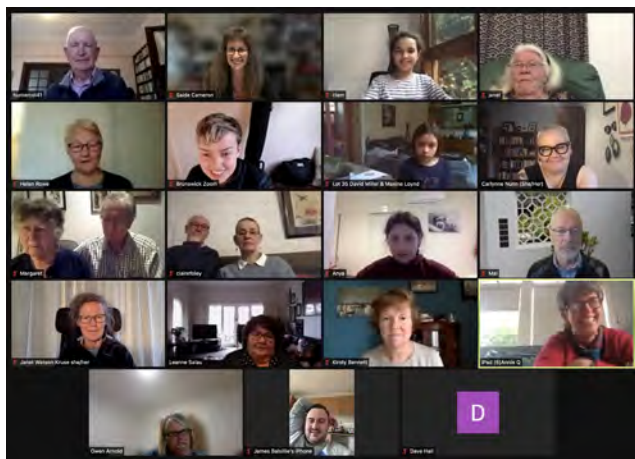
Carlynn then asked Colin which was his favourite piece in the show. He shared that the one he loves the most is the snake carving. Colin always starts with a piece of wood that says something to him - the wood offers up its own gift. Colin's wood carvings are made to be held, touched, offering a tactile experience. Colin and Carlynn talked about the tension in the work representing the tension in locking down and opening up, individual freedom and corporate responsibility. Colin's process is very much about what the wood offers - he starts by removing the rubbish from the piece and continues working to see what emerges. He showed us pieces that are works in progress including one called the Cracked Madonna and spoke about the spiritual aspect of his work - looking and seeing, being present. He also showed us a piece of wood that he had just started working on inviting us to share what we see when we look at it.

Carlynn continued speaking with Colin and Clem about their art and their practice with others of us in the session also asking questions and sharing comments. It was a wonderful evening.

If you missed it [you can watch here](#).



Dangerous Dance





## > Performance Event

Natalie Sims welcomed us, in person and online, to the [Performance Event](#) on Friday 12th November. Courtney [shared the story](#) of how we came to develop the theme in response to our experiences of the previous year. The



BUC Arts committee wanted to find a way bring the best of ourselves forward from our experiences, to capture our discovery of new things, new passions, our learnings, in a creative way which led to the theme of Emergence. Courtney affirmed the works offered in the exhibition and encouraged us all to engage with them, to formulate our own responses and to think about what Emergence means for ourselves, think about how we emerged over the last 18 months and what emerged for us.



Ian Ferguson offered a movement meditation called [Lockdown Release](#), using our hands and our muscles, inviting us to notice what we were feeling at each stage of the meditation.



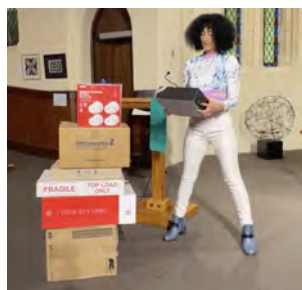
Courtney Rohde & James Balsillie shared [Elements](#) by A.R.D Fairburn - a reading of poetry set to James' original music, a collaboration that emerged during time spent together.



Tessa Robb offered [two original songs](#) - 'There will be a hill to climb' and 'Why's he making eyes at me'



Tim Hoffaman told a story celebrating his mother's life and experiences '[Dateline 6th of November 2021 Princes Pier Port Melbourne](#)'.



Rissa Belle's performance work drew us into the experience of '[Letting Go](#)'



The second half of the evening's program began with [four songs](#) from Phil Hudson & the Grand Companions. Phil shared that each of the songs have a sub theme around time and waiting.



Janet Reus-Smit offered a selection of [original poetry readings](#) shedding some light of the experience of lockdown.



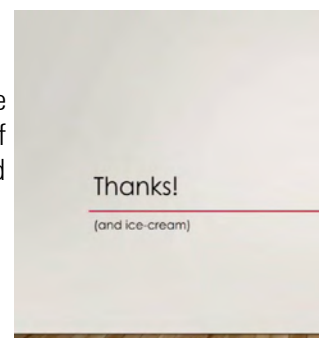
Frank Linehan sang his own composition '[Road Runner](#)'. Frank started writing songs and recorded his first album during lockdown in 2020.



Saide Cameron shared her story '[Gifts from the Pandemic](#)' telling of her family's co-generational share housing experience of living through lockdown.

Natalie closed the evening thank each of the performers by name for all that we had offered from our creativity, for standing up and being vulnerable, for sharing our stories in all the different forms offered.

She encouraged us to stay on for icecream from 'A Little Room for Icecream', to enjoy conversation and the artwork on display. A generous round of applause followed. Natalie also thanked the AV team - Ray Cameron, Michael Cameron and Ben Hon





## > Nasir Moradi

### - Artist Spotlight 3

Our third [Artist Spotlight](#) on **Saturday 13th November**

featured Nasir Moradi sharing his story and speaking about his art. Of this image used to promote the event Nasir says 'Our life is in transit, whether we want it or not, whether we are rich or poor, whether we are free or prisoners in a glass cage. It would be better to be like butterflies, able to fly away together.'



Abi Benham-Bannon hosted the gathering and welcomed Nasir and his friend and support person Sofia. Nasir is an asylum seeker and has been unjustly held in detention for seven years. He is a self-taught artist, his work has and continues to be shown in many exhibitions. Abi commented that for her Nasir's work captures *'heart and hope and pain and love all at once'*.

Nasir shared his appreciation for the encouragement and help that he receives from a lot of people, the hope that this gives him. Our congregation has been privileged to host some of Nasir's more than 300 paintings including four in the Emergence exhibition.

Sofia shared her story of how she came to be a support person for Nasir and the connections they have made. Nasir began painting while in detention with his first work created using coffee dregs. Sofia became passionate about sharing Nasir's work with schools and students initially. Nasir has no formal training and paints from his heart, of his dreams for life beyond detention, his longing for freedom, his hope that Australia might one day become his home and his gratitude for all the support that he receives.

In addition to paintings which are exhibited beyond the detention centre Nasir also seeks to bring hope to his fellow detainees by painting on walls and fences in the detention centre.

After the formal presentation we enjoyed further conversation with Nasir sharing our appreciation for his work and his generosity.

His bold colours and shapes, often set within detailed landscapes, convey deep feelings of the human experience. And it's impossible to view his work without understanding his yearning for freedom, for the chance to be treated like a normal human being once more.

#### The Karawan of Hope

My friends are far off in the distance in their karawan. Karawan is the Afghani word meaning group travelling with their camels. I am still chained to the tree. I wish to join my friends. I wish to have freedom and remember what it feels like. All I have left is hope.



#### A place to call home – Dreams of life beyond detention

I look up through the window of this Broadmeadows detention centre and see a dream of Melbourne City just down the road. I wonder from behind the razor wire fences, are the gardens so green, is the city so tall, are the streets busy with life, and is it everything I dream it to be? Can I contribute something beautiful to this place that might be my home one day? As time goes by this dream fades, yet I hang onto it, grasping it with both hands. I hope and pray that this dream lives.



#### Devotion Radiation Equation



The entire painting radiates from the purity of the Sun which represents the self. We all have the capacity within ourselves to be a reflection of God. Every element in the painting derives a radiance from this energy. The energy of life, of existence of healing of LOVE...which in itself contains it all. The knowledge and commitment form actions. Actions based on this radiant love becomes devotional. In the vocation of the Doctors and Nurses it engages their actions, knowledge and love to heal and requires that they do not harm. They tackle the greatest of threats in spite of the potential of harm to themselves. They elevate their existence. They too become centres from which love radiates. The equation is the combination of energy, commitment, knowledge, and action results in the potential to heal. They transcend the mortal realm and become radiant and angelic.





## > Worship



### Prayers of Adoration & Confession

A [meditation on 4 artworks](#) leading us through praise and confession and reconciliation. Between each work we offered our meditations to God in song, 'O Lord hear my prayer'.



Artworks from Emergence shaped our worship in various ways during November and December.

On **Sunday 14th November, Pentecost 25**. We explored themes of breaking down and rebuilding, locking down and opening up, going in and re-emerging. Our bible readings spoke of destruction and rebuilding, of loss and new life, of death and resurrection – of God turning the world as we know it upside-down. Ian affirmed that we are emerging from a time of loss when so much about our lives has been broken down and disrupted. What new life is now emerging? We focused on some of the many artworks in our Emergence exhibition – works made during lockdown, in response to lockdown, often as a way of coping with lockdown. The liturgy including a meditation on four artworks, a journey with the children and a reflection with Matilda McClintock.



One perfect moment – Jessica Kvansakul



Royal Way (Camino Real) – Lesbia Centeno



A Glass Cage – Naser Moradi



Hopeful World - Naser Moradi

### Bible Reading with the Children

Ian and Dave explored various artworks with the children in response to selected verses from [Mark 13,14,15&16](#).



Simone Alesich – Constellation Obscure



Joy Barrett – Emergence

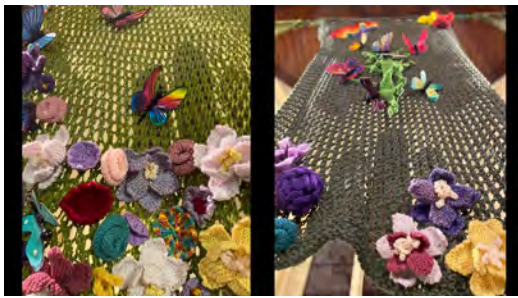


Colin Hunter – sculptures



Catherine Leslie – Cocoon





Natalie Papworth, Glenice Cook, Leanne Salau and Bev Evans – Spring Fever



Matilda McClintock – Soliloquy for a City



We sang '[Where were you?](#)' a song which emerged for Shawn Whelan during lockdown and in response to the Eco-theology conversations series.



### Reflection - Soliloquy for a City ([Watch here](#))

Matilda reflected on her artwork in response to questions and prompts posed by Ian. Matilda lives in our Student Houses and moved to Melbourne from Tasmania at the start of 2021.

1. Tell us about the inspiration for and process of creating your artwork.

Matilda's work was painted on a cardboard box, a nod to all the boxes involved in moving. She started with the idea of creating an artwork with the skyline as a centre piece with a number of smaller pieces. In getting to know her 5km bubble during lockdown she found a park where she could see the skyline stretched out and took a photo of it. Matilda explained that *soliloquy* is a monologue that's not directed towards any other characters in a play. It's intended for someone to be able to express their innermost thoughts or feelings to the audience directly and in. In naming this piece and locally for a city. She found lockdown offered her a chance to get to know Melbourne and herself more deeply.

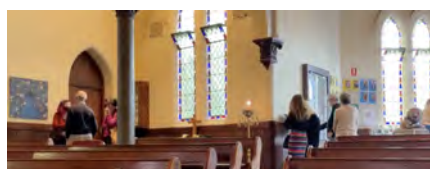
2. What do you mean by: "I have unfurled into her (the city's) chaos, beauty, and contradiction"

Matilda said that cities have always fascinated her mentioning that she lived in Dahka, Bangladesh, for four years. She spoke about getting to know Melbourne and creating a new community here. The statement she said is *'about how I have related to this space and how I have grown and developed as a person. Through making a new community and finding my feet in a new place.'*

3. Today our gospel theme is breaking down and rebuilding. How does this theme speak to your experience of art-making in the lockdown and the emergence?

Matilda commented on her experience of lockdown, of finding hidden gems and experiencing tough moments. She said *'I think in terms of kind of breaking down and rebuilding, this year has definitely been a process of unravelling and weaving together a new tapestry of different kind of threads in my life with different people and different experiences. And so for me in my art making during the lockdown and creating this piece I was definitely in the process of reflecting on my relationship to the city, my relationship to Melbourne and also to my community back home in Tasmania.'*

Ian invited the congregation to then move around the space, to find an artwork that really spoke to us and to spend some time reflecting on it asking *'What is the unravelling and the reweaving, that breaking down and the rebuilding in you and what speaks to you?'*



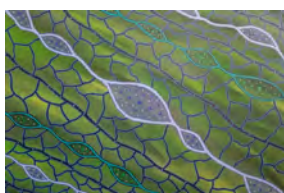




On **Sunday 21st November**, Reign of Christ, Nicole Batch's series 'Wildflower Discovery' featured on the Title Slides for worship.



On **Sunday 28th November**, Advent 1, Colin Hunter's 'Hands that help' and Catherine Leslie's Cocoon provided a starting point for the Prayers of Adoration and Confession. Bev Evan's new work 'Tranquility' was created for the cover of 'With Open Arms' the collection of Olive Way stories launched during the service.

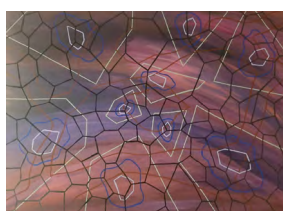


Amazonia



Crossroads

On **Sunday 12th December**, Advent 3, David Kerr's series featured on the Title Slides for worship.



Incantations



Deep calls to Deep II Cataracts



Wattles - New Creation

During our [Blue Christmas service](#) on **Wednesday 16th December** we focussed our reflections on 4 artworks from the Emergence exhibition. Each of these works spoke to an aspect of our spiritual journey through this season, especially in the light of our struggles with the pandemic.



Horizon – Michael Rigby



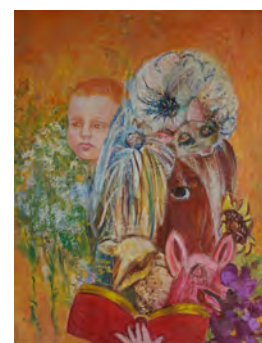
Affinity – Michael Rigby



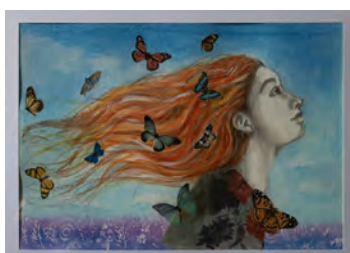
Alongside – Michael Rigby

See [Christmas Worship](#) for more

The Birth of Jesus – Christina Berkman



During our [Christmas Eve service](#) we reflected on and responded to Soo Lai Yin (Ann)'s series of paintings Between Shadow and Light by . This series offered us an invitation to enter into Mary's experience of Christmas. .





## > Art on display

Approximately 95 art works in many mediums were displayed throughout our buildings providing a joyful welcome as we returned from lockdown. We commissioned plinths from Clancy Moore of [Quailwood Designs](#) based on a design by Amelia Ware. The curation team (Simone, Courtney, Leanne and Bev) met on 2nd November and the Installation team (Courtney, Ann, Graeme, Ian, Bev and Steve) hung and placed everything on 4th November ready for the official Opening on 5th November. The BUC Arts committee is grateful to Graeme Lawrence for his expertise with the hanging system and Clancy for filling our order so efficiently.



You can view all the hung artworks in our [Virtual Exhibition space](#).



## > Thank you

### From Courtney

During worship on **14th November** Courtney encouraged us to take the opportunity to have one last look around while all the works on display. Many of the hung works remained on display through until January to provide a focus for worship and to allow more time for them to be viewed and appreciated.

Courtney offered a massive thanks to all of the artists and to the BUC Arts committee who helped pull the exhibition together. She said 'It's been a massive effort over multiple months. There's been a lot of uncertainty and it's just awesome to see that it's all come together, people coming to events and artists have the opportunity to share.



### To Courtney

Emergence has been an extraordinary experience for the BUC arts committee with monthly then fortnightly then weekly meetings. We worked through many layers of uncertainty all culminating in the artwork that has surrounded us this past week. As one of the convenors of the BUC Arts committee I want to take this moment to offer our thanks to Courtney. We invited Courtney to be the Exhibition Coordinator and she said yes without hesitation. Courtney has diligently kept us on track every step along the way. Adding in the Virtual exhibition was a wonderful bonus. Courtney the whole committee Annie, Leanne, Bev, Simone, Ian, Ann & myself

have greatly appreciated the enthusiasm, professionalism and creativity that you have brought to this role. It has been an absolute joy to work with you. Thank you from us and the whole BUC community for making Emergence a reality. Thank you also to the many volunteers who have supported the exhibition in many different ways. Courtney we hope that you and James enjoy this basket of goodies.



Saide Cameron, BUC Arts (Admin) Convenor

### To so many people

The BUC Arts committee is grateful to everyone who supported the exhibition ...

- Typing notes for the exhibition and producing the Artist Statement cards - **Mal Rowe**
- Receiving works - **Jane Allardice**
- Plinths - creating & painting: **Clancy Moore** ([Quailwood Designs](#)), designing: **Amelia Ware**, painting: **Annie Quail**
- COVIDSafe advice - **Helen Rowe**
- Curation Team - **Simone Alesich, Courtney Rohde, Leanne Salau, Bev Evans**
- Installation Team - **Courtney Rohde, Soo Lai Yin (Ann), Graeme Lawrence, Bev Evans, Steve Bainbridge**
- Lighting - **Wayne Matthews, Ray Cameron**
- Picture Rail investigation - **Dave Miller**
- Publicity & Communication: **Saide Cameron, Ian Ferguson, Courtney Rohde**, Video: **James Balsillie**, Images: **Simone Alesich, Michael Rigby**
- Framing (Lesbia's works) - **Rev Ray McInnes**
- Olive Arts Collective support - **Bev Evans, Leanne Salau**
- Virtual Exhibition - **Courtney Rohde, Amelia Ware, Soo Lai Yin (Ann), Graeme Lawrence**
- Opening Night - Hosts: **Courtney Rohde, Ian Ferguson**, Artist Spotlight: **Lesbia Centeno, Phil Kreveld**
- Hosting opening hours - **Helen Burnham, Gwen Arnold, Larissa Baglieri, Kirsty Bennett, Anne Ramsay**
- Artist Spotlights - **Liz Johnson, Clementine Loynd, Colin Hunter, Nasir Moradi**
- Artist Spotlight Hosts - **Leanne Salau, Carlynn Nunn, Abi Benham-Bannon and Sofia Pilar Walsh**
- Performance Event AV Team - **Ray Cameron, Michael Cameron and Ben Hon**
- Performance Event Host: **Natalie Sims**
- Performance Event Supper: **Alistair Hunter** ([A Little Room for Icecream](#))
- BUC Arts Administration Convenor - **Saide Cameron**
- Emergence Exhibition Co-ordinator - **Courtney Rohde**

## To the Artists & BUC Arts committee



Seeds of Hope - Jane Allardice



Bev Garside - Beauty Amongst Ashes



Graham Laming - Untitled



Marilyn Hall - Relief



Zia Tokhi - The Rock Fortress (Sigiriya), Sri Lanka



Phil Kreveld - Untitled

### Celebrating our artists

- Ann Soo
- Barbara Knowles
- Bev Evans
- Bev Garside
- Bridie Turner
- Catherine Leslie
- Clementine Loynd
- Colin Hunter
- David Jaboor
- David Kerr
- Elliot Chambers
- Frank Linehan
- Glenice Cook
- Graham Laming
- Gretta O'Mahoney
- Hamish Batch
- James Balsillie
- Jane Allardice
- Janet Alesich
- Janet Reus-Smit
- Janet Watson Kruse
- Jessica Kvensakul
- Joshua Whitty
- Joy Barret
- Leanne Salau
- Lesbia Centeno
- Liz Johnson
- Marilyn Hall
- Matilda McClintock
- Meredith Budge
- Michael Rigby
- Myrashel
- Nasir Moradi
- Nicole Batch
- Paul Henry
- Phil Hudson
- Phil Kreveld
- Richard Arnold
- Rissa Belle
- Rizana Dubair
- Saide Cameron
- Sam Sharp
- Simone Alesich
- SMP collage with Simone Alesich
- Steph Gesling
- Tessa Robb
- Tim Hoffman
- Zia Tokhi

### and from an email sent 7/1/21

I'm writing to you to share my very heartfelt thanks for your contributions to the Emergence Exhibition - to those who shared their inspiration and process through our Artist Spotlights, to those who contributed in the planning and logistics, and especially to yourselves who have given this exhibition life with your wonderful artworks and performances. Over the course of the exhibition, we had numerous visitors who all commented on the fantastic breadth of expression you have all brought to the table. The online exhibition has also seen more than 600 virtual visitors since first published and now features a collaborative artwork created on the opening night via zoom. The feedback has been overwhelmingly positive and I feel very privileged to have been a part of such a fantastic community of artists.

Special thanks also to our exhibition organising committee: **Saide Cameron, Ian Ferguson, Leanne Salau, Bev Evans, Simone Alesich, Annie Quail, Soo Lai Yin (Ann) and Graham Lawrence** who have worked tirelessly to make it happen.

Much love to all of you that have made this creative expedition a possibility and coincidentally, a celebration of emerging from a prolonged and sometimes difficult lockdown.

From your exhibition co-ordinator, and on behalf of the organising team, take care, and thanks again.

**Courtney Rohde**, Exhibition Coordinator



Beverly Evans - French Lavender



Barbara Knowles - My Kath Walker