

CAMILLA TADICH

Floriferous

9 May - 1 June 2024

[MARS]



Camilla Tadich is a Melbourne based painter who graduated Victorian College of the Arts in 2005. Tadich has held residencies at Bundanon, New South Wales, Centre Intermondes La Rochelle, France, and has been a finalist in numerous prizes, most recently the Nillumbik Prize 2019, Montsalvat, Bayside Acquisitive Art Prize, Bayside Arts Centre and a recipient of Ian Potter Cultural Trust Grant.

Tadich lives North east of Melbourne and works as an Associate Lecturer at Victorian College of the Arts, University of Melbourne.

This new series of paintings delves into the mysterious world of Australian native orchids. Using the local area north east of Melbourne including her own property, during periods of lockdown, Tadich explored and documented a variety of endemic orchids. Frequently unnoticed and occasionally elusive, Tadich captures their unique character, form and beauty.

Photography by Simon Strong

Floriferous - Camilla Tadich

Mars Gallery, May 8th - June 1st 2024

A confluence of unrelated events and experiences over many years led Camilla Tadich to explore the wonderful world of Australian native terrestrial orchids. Floriferous captures these enigmatic plants, absent of their surrounds, presented as intimate portraits.

Growing up on a bush block in Melbourne's outer north-east has given Tadich an enduring love for the Australian landscape – a recurring element in her work. Much of the 10-hectare property, where she still lives, features intact eucalyptus woodland with an understory of grasses and herbs.

Tadich is aware of how important her property is, in terms of its rich endemic and diverse orchid population, and it was during the COVID-19 lockdowns when seeking a new artistic subject, she realised what she was searching for was literally in her backyard. She admits the idea had been 'brewing' unconsciously for some time but – not seeing herself as a botanical artist – had grappled intellectually with giving herself permission to champion flora in her work.

A pivotal moment for Tadich was attending the GOMA exhibition of German visual artist Gerhard Richter in 2017. Among his artworks was a small oil painting, *Orchid 1997*. "I remember thinking how simple it was, yet so full of texture and such a compelling painting to look at. It sat with me for a while, and it wasn't until later that I realised it's impact - it was the beginning point to this work."

Tadich is thrilled by the hunt and 'capture' of these mysterious and sometimes elusive plants. Their zygomorphic flowers, insect pollinators, and ephemeral annual presence never cease to amaze her. "The bush palette is typically muted and when these orchids erupt from the ground their incredible jewel-like colours, shapes and textures are alien in the midst of their dull surroundings."

Tadich approached her subjects at night – a time of day she is particularly familiar with capturing the nuances of in her paintings – "without sunlight it allowed each plant to be the focal point and show off their incredibly vibrant colours."

Painting the orchids was technically challenging, but Tadich found the process peaceful. She describes the style as "sliding between still life and portraiture," painting each flower in portrait scale so viewers can engage with the 'facial' features of these tiny 'alien' creatures. By positioning each flower differently "as though they're having a secret conversation," Tadich has captured their unique character, form and beauty.

With 30,000 species (and 100,000+ hybrids), Orchidaceae is one of the largest plant families in the world. They're found on all continents bar Antarctica and in almost every type of habitat. Compared to most countries, Australia's approximately 200 genera and 1,500 species may seem relatively low, however we have the most diverse terrestrial species with 80 per cent found nowhere else on earth.

Australian terrestrial orchids are small, often ethereal and sometimes quirky. It's easy to miss them among the grasses and leaf litter of their natural environment. The subjects in Tadich's series have single to multiple flowers on wiry 6-35cm stems, with strappy, basal foliage.

Unfortunately, many Australian orchids are threatened with extinction due to urban development, agriculture and grazing of invasive species. The increased severity and prevalence of bushfires also negatively impacts orchids - even fire dependent species. Controlled burns can be useful but are usually conducted in cool seasons for 'safety' - when terrestrial orchids are actively growing.

AB Bishop

Journalist, Horticulturalist

@thehabitatguru



Wax-Lip Orchid, Pale form I (Caladenia Major)
2023
Oil on linen (framed)
56 x 41 cm



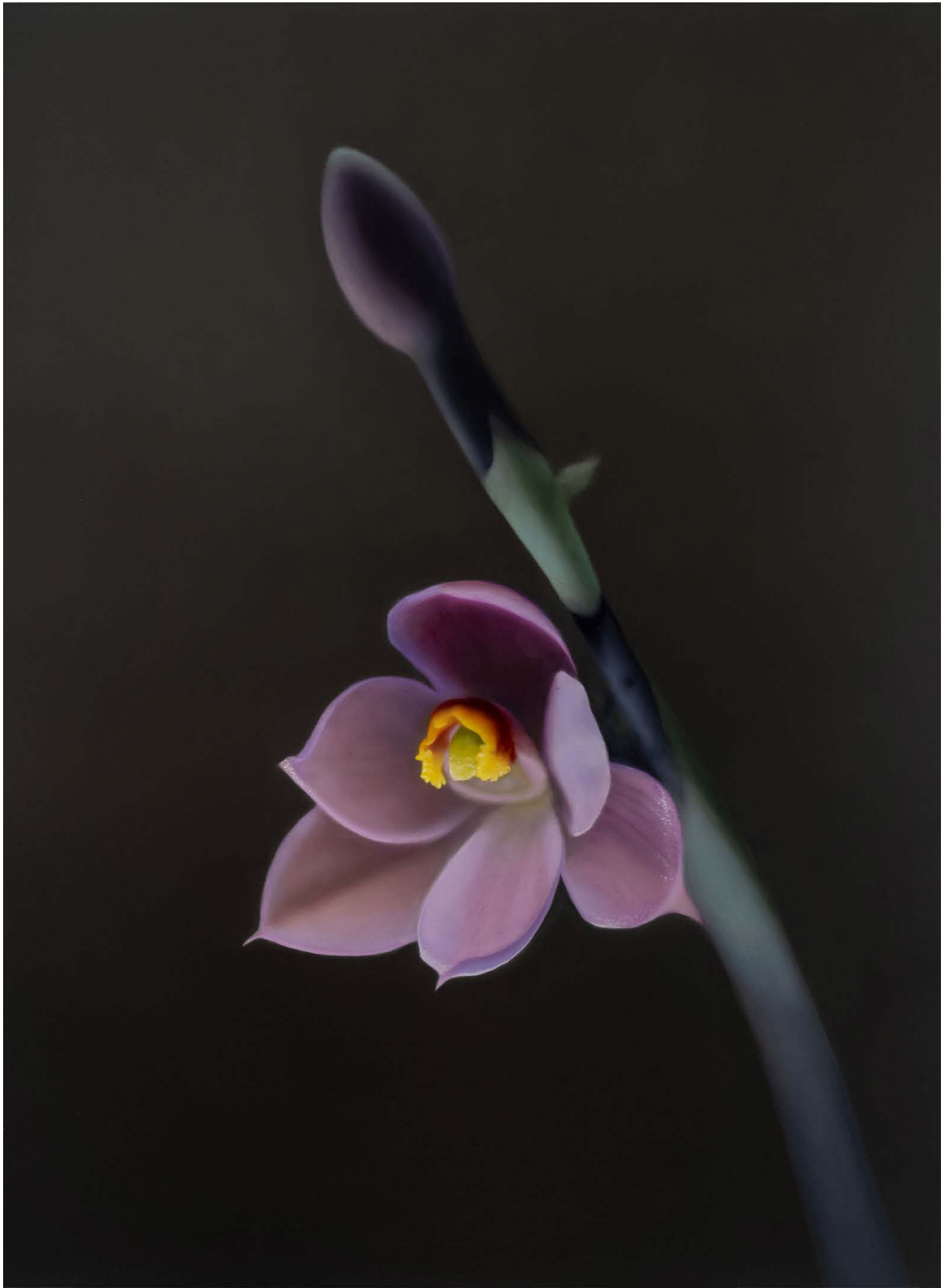
Wax-Lip Orchid, Pale form II (Caladenia Major)
2023
Oil on linen (framed)
56 x 41 cm



Eastern Donkey Orchid (*Diuris orientis*)
2023
Oil on linen (framed)
56 x 41 cm



Early Caps (*Caladenia Praecox*)
2024
Oil on linen (framed)
56 x 41 cm
SOLD



Salmon Sun Orchid (Thelymitra Rubra)
2024
Oil on linen (framed)
56 x 41 cm
SOLD



Brown-Clubbed Spider Orchid (*Caladenia parva*)
2024
Oil on linen (framed)
56 x 41 cm
SOLD



Eastern Blue Fairies (*Caladenia caerulea*)
2024
Oil on linen (framed)
41 x 56 cm



Red Beard Orchid (*Calochilus paludosus*)
2024
Oil on linen (framed)
41 x 56 cm
SOLD



Large Duck Orchid (*Caleana major*)
2024
Oil on linen (framed)
56 x 41 cm
SOLD



Hare Orchid (*Leptoceras menziesii*)
2024
Oil on linen (framed)
56 x 41 cm

CV

Camilla Tadich, born 1982, Melbourne, Australia

EDUCATION

2003- 2006 Bachelor of Fine Art (Painting) Victorian College of the Arts, Melbourne.

2001-2002 Diploma of Arts (Visual Arts) Northern Metropolitan Institute of TAFE, Melbourne.

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2018 Missing, MARS Gallery, Melbourne.

2016 Remnants, MARS Gallery, Melbourne.

2015 Noctambule, Alliance Francaise de Melbourne, St.Kilda

2015 Noctambule, Centre Intermondes, La Rochelle, France

2012 New paintings, Peter Walker Fine Art, Walkerville, Adelaide.

2012 In the Shadows, Dianne Tanzer & Projects gallery, Melbourne

2010 Slabalong, Sophie Gannon Gallery, Melbourne.

2007 New paintings, Flinders Lane Gallery, Melbourne.

2006 Silent Space, Alliance Francaise de Melbourne, St.Kilda.

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2021 Art in the Time of Covid, Montsalvat, Eltham.

2020 Art Aid 2020, Gippsland Art Gallery, Sale

2019 RM MCGivern Prize, Federation Estate Gallery, Ringwood

2019 Nillumbik Contemporary Art Prize, Montsalvat, Eltham

2018 Focal Point, Hill Smith Gallery, Adelaide

2017 VCA 150, Margaret Lawrence Gallery, Victorian College of the Arts, Southbank.

2017 Telethesia, Hill Smith Gallery, Adelaide

2017 Yulendj Art Exhibition, St.Catherines School, Toorak

2017 Nillumbik Art Prize, Montsalvat, Eltham

2016 The Ordinary Instant, Bayside Arts Centre, Brighton

2016 Bayside Acquisitive Art Prize, Bayside Arts Centre, Brighton

2016 Nillumbik Art Prize, Montsalvat, Eltham

2014 Nillumbik Art Prize, Montsalvat, Eltham

2013 Fleurieu Landscape Prize, McLaren Vale, South Australia.

2013 Westspace Annual Fundraiser, Westspace, Melbourne.

2012 John Leslie Landscape Prize, Gippsland Regional Art Gallery, Sale.

2012 Westspace Annual Fundraiser, Westspace, Melbourne.

2012 Nillumbik Prize, Montsalvat, Eltham.

2012 Put out the sun, C3 gallery, Abbotsford convent, Melbourne.

2011 New Romantics, Gippsland Regional Art Gallery, Sale.

2011 Fleurieu Landscape Prize, Mc Laren Vale, South Australia.

2011 Westspace Annual Fundraiser, Westspace, Melbourne.

2011 Waterhouse Natural History Prize, South Australian Museum, Adelaide.

2011 Painting 11, Lindberg Contemporary gallery, Melbourne.

2011 Nillumbik Art Prize, Montsalvat, Eltham

2011 New Romantics, MARS gallery, Port Melbourne

2011 Symbols of loss and recovery, Montsalvat, Eltham.

2010 Westspace Annual Fundraiser, Westspace, Melbourne.

2010 NOTFAIR, Satellite Art fair 2010, Richmond.

2010 Nillumbik Art Prize, Montsalvat, Eltham.

2010 Bushfire Australia, Tarrawarra Museum of Art, Healesville

2009 Westspace Annual A4 Fundraiser, Westspace, Melbourne.

2009 Royal Bank of Scotland (ABN AMRO) prize, Sydney.
 2009 Nillumbik Recent Acquisitions, Eltham Library, Eltham.
 2009 Nillumbik Art Prize, Montsalvat, Eltham.
 2008 Westspace Annual Fundraiser, Westspace, Melbourne.
 2008 Another Point of View, Sophie Gannon Gallery, Melbourne.
 2008 Fletcher Jones Prize, Geelong Gallery, Geelong.
 2008 The view from here III, Flinders Lane Gallery, Melbourne.
 2008 An Ideal for Living, Linden, St.Kilda Centre for Contemporary Art, Melbourne.
 2007 Westspace Annual Fundraiser, Westspace, Melbourne.
 2007 Studio Show, Flinders Lane Gallery, Melbourne
 2007 Eildon Premiere, Alliance Francaise de Melbourne, St.Kilda
 2007 The view from here II, Flinders Lane Gallery, Melbourne
 2006 Treasures, Flinders Lane Gallery, Melbourne
 2006 Exploration 6, Flinders Lane Gallery, Melbourne.
 2006 New Artists At Span, Span Galleries, Melbourne.
 2005 Victorian College of the Arts Graduate Show, VCA, Southbank.
 2005 Wallara Travelling Scholarship, Margaret Lawrence Gallery, Victorian College of the Arts.

GRANTS, AWARDS, RESIDENCIES

2019 RM McGivern Prize, Federation Estate Gallery, Ringwood
 2019 Nillumbik Contemporary Art Prize finalist, Montsalvat, Eltham
 2017 Nillumbik Art Prize finalist, Montsalvat, Eltham
 2016 Bayside Acquisitive Art Prize finalist, Bayside Arts Centre, Brighton
 2016 Nillumbik Art Prize finalist, Montsalvat, Eltham
 2015 Centre Intermondes Residency, La Rochelle, France.
 2015 Ian Potter Cultural Trust Grant
 2014 Nillumbik Prize Finalist, Montsalvat, Melbourne
 2013 Fleurieu Landscape prize finalist, McLarenVale, South Australia.
 2012 Nillumbik Prize 2012- Highly Commended
 2012 John Leslie Landscape Prize, Gippsland Art gallery, Sale
 2011 Fleurieu Landscape prize finalist, McLarenVale, South Australia.
 2011 Waterhouse Natural History prize finalist and winner of third Prize in the Painting section,
 2011 South Australian Museum, Adelaide.
 2011 Nillumbik Art prize Finalist
 2010 Nillumbik Art prize Finalist
 2009 Nillumbik Art prize, Finalist and peoples choice award winner, Montsalvat.
 2008 Australia Council for the Arts, New work emerging grant.
 2008 Fletcher Jones Prize finalist & Peoples choice award winner, Geelong Gallery, Geelong.
 2007 Bundanon Residency, New South Wales.
 2005 Fiona Myer Award
 2005 David Teleskivi Memorial Sculpture Prize
 2005 MARS(Melbourne Art Rooms) Award
 2005 Alliance Francaise Award
 2005 Ladies who lunch Art Award
 2005 Wallara Travelling Scholarship Shortlist

COLLECTIONS

Centre Intermondes, France
 Artbank
 Bundanon Trust
 City of Whitehorse
 Nillumbik Shire Council

SELECTED BIOGRAPHY

Art Nation, ABC TV, episode August 1st 2010

Dan Rule, 'Around the galleries', The Saturday Age A2 liftout, 17 July, 2010

Christopher Allen, 'Into the Inferno', The Weekend Australian Review, p11-12, 26-27 June 2010

Trent Walter, 'Bushfire Australia-Tarrawarra Museum of Art', Art Monthly Australia, June issue #230, p.18-20, 2010

Gabriella Coslovich, 'Brush with fire turns into brushstrokes of art', The Age, p.3, 27 March 2010

Art Nation, ABC TV, episode 23 May 2010

Amanda Smith, Artworks program, Radio National, April 2010

Dan Rule, 'Around the galleries', The Age, March 2010

Tony Lloyd, 'Opinion: Camila Tadich- SLABALONG', Artinfo.com.au, March 2010

[MARS]

All prices are in Australian dollars and inclusive of GST.

Delivery costs are not included - please contact the gallery for assistance with delivery.

Prices are correct at the time of publication but may be subject to change without notice. For sales enquiries please contact
andy@marsgallery.com.au

7 James Street, Windsor, Victoria Australia 3181
T: +61 3 9521 7517 E: andy@marsgallery.com.au

www.marsgallery.com.au