

My Emu Metaphor: A Refugee's Response to Her Australian Life

The Old Bakery on 8th Gallery is pleased to introduce artist Alisa Teletovic in a solo exhibition entitled *My Emu Metaphor*. Alisa's work is colourful, rich in detail, textured and intriguing in a refreshing, bold and naïve style.



The exhibition title refers to her personal connection with the landscape of Australia after settling here following her evacuation from her home in war-torn Bosnia. Emus are chosen as a metaphor in almost all her paintings, representing her family living and surviving in Australia.

She found direction for her work in the Australian outback: its colours, vast skies, trees and salt-bush, and especially its emus. Her abstracted, naïve and colourful work is a sensitive and honest response to this now familiar and cherished landscape.

Her paintings grew out of her travels through South Australia and Western Australia with images of emus, saltbushes, black trees and stars in the black sky crowding her memories. Some of her images are an amalgam of childhood memories blended, dreamlike with her more recent experiences of the Australian landscape, its people, its colour and lines and her place in it.



Alisa has a strong attachment to her new homeland but also ties to Bosnia that she had to leave as a teenager, leaving family members behind. She says 'Perhaps that is why I cherish this (Australian) landscape with such sensitivity and gather all important images of the land into my mind, and then freely show them in my paintings'.



Many of her paintings depict strong emotional responses and relationships to others.

In *Life Performance*, the artist is shown centred in the Australian landscape under starlit skies in her new life with her metaphorical emu family on the distant moon watching over her. She has covered herself in roses and seems to be celebrating her success in her current lifestyle.

At present Alisa is in Bosnia where her mother is ill. She is hoping to return for the opening of her exhibition.