

## Lizzie Cariss Review AMA Talk 3rd February



Murrey River Lizzie Cariss  
Photo: Sue Steward

I have long been an admirer of Lizzie's large atmospheric drawings inspired by the beautiful landscape that surrounds her house. She has lived for 32 years in this house and recorded the changing seasons of the view from her studio window in paintings and drawings. A few years ago she decided that she needed new subject matter and the introduction of more colour into her work. Her journey to achieve this was the basis of her fascinating talk.

Age and experience she felt sure would help her move on to new and exciting work. Lizzie began by painting small every day objects she had collected. "Empty Vessels" painted in 2011 shows a collection of vases silhouetted against a light textured background but with only a hint of colour and still very reminiscent of her earlier landscapes. Old written letters became her next inspiration and she began to use glue and plaster as well as paint. Lizzie only showed part of the letter covering the rest with strong texture to try to convey the idea of a secret being revealed or hidden.

Boats became her next subject matter. The first paintings were once again full of texture reminiscent of paintings by Turner but after a visit to Australia her work changed. The light, colours and space left a lasting impression on her and although she only made drawings and took photographs when there on her return she embarked on a new body of work.

Her painting "Adelaide" 2014 shows a shadowy form of a boat floating on a deep blue background with a small amount of textured pale colour at the base. This painting is far removed from her other work and she has produced several colourful paintings inspired by her 8 weeks in Australia. Lizzie then showed us her latest piece of work in which she is exploring mark making. Dark marks are placed on a light textured background giving the work a three dimensional feel full of movement.

This was a well prepared talk delivered in a very professional manner and prompted a lively discussion at the end.

Moira Lamont.



Adelaide Lizzie Cariss  
Photo: Sue Steward