

# Beaches, Boats & Bays: Jillian Corcoran

Strathfield Library & Innovation Hub

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Jillian Corcoran has had a love of painting and drawing from a very young age. She has had a successful career as a full-time graphic designer and has led a busy life raising two children on her own. Jillian is a self-taught artist who has always painted and drawn for her own enjoyment.

A trip to Italy in 2010 saw a distinctive shift in her approach to her artistic practice. She resided in the idyllic Italian countryside of Umbria in an “agri turismo” (countryside farmhouse) where she painted “en plein air” and took more than 1,700 photographs. These photographs, coupled with her visits to the spectacular art galleries of Rome, Venice and Florence, were a distinct influence on her own art making.

Encouraged by this initial artistic journey to Italy, Jillian has subsequently travelled to other parts of Italy and Australia taking numerous photographs and continues to paint landscapes mostly in acrylic, when time allows.

Jillian’s extensive photographic collection provides a rich source of inspiration for subject matter to be explored. Through each painting, Jillian experiments with different techniques and mediums such as oil, acrylic, watercolour and pen and ink with the aim to recreate what was once captured with a camera.

Her design experience and love of colour is characteristic of this body of work currently on display. There is a vibrancy, a celebration of our natural environments, a unique moment captured in time in a somewhat loose and painterly fashion.

*“We are surrounded by water and an amazing coastline, full of inlets and bays not forgetting our beautiful Sydney Harbour, Botany Bay which always inspires me to paint. I never tire of looking at cloud formations and sunsets and continually take photos for painting reference especially when I am on the harbour in a ferry or walking alongside the shore. “Aussie” water views have a “freshness” about them which captures my imagination to emphasise the colours and hues and sometimes the sheer brilliant light of our glistening beaches, boats, and bays.” Jillian Corcoran*