

Primarily, my practice examines perceptual awareness: I respond to a site – its scale, topography, light and spatial orientation with illusions that aim to activate a chasm between what you think you know and what you perceive. When this discombobulation occurs, it then activates a heightened awareness, due to the chasm between ‘thinking’ and ‘perceiving’. In other words, when your body feels a sensation, but your mind deems it ‘impossible’ a kind of ‘fight or flight’ is activated, putting the viewer on higher alert in an interesting (not negative) way.

The Police Point Artist Residency offered a new and rich source of inspirational space through its unique blend of coastline, native bushland, and historical landmarks, and the ever-changing light, textures, and colours of the park. One particular morning, from the Cottage 5 porch, the uninterrupted vista offered more colours in the sky than I think I have ever seen. Further to this, the historical layers and narratives associated with the park also provided a new context for me to engage, through photographic exploration, the extraordinary structural relics of the military fort and preserved quarantine station.

On another level, I benefited from the sense of seclusion and focus: away from the distractions of my ordinary routine, the residency offered me a rare opportunity to immerse myself fully in my art practice with intense concentration, enhanced by the peaceful surroundings.

Art is important because it serves as a powerful catalyst for expanding our awareness. Through artistic expression, we gain insights into different perspectives, emotions, and experiences, ultimately broadening our understanding of the world and ourselves. It encourages connection to the universal human condition and provokes critical thinking, and encourages introspection.

My experience at Police Point Residency will continue to ricochet in my art practice. During the residency I developed the seeds of entirely new artworks, and acknowledge the residency as the starting point for these new ideas. Ultimately, through these artworks I hope to expand awareness about the sacred and special space: by spending a unique type of special attention- just as important as a scientific study- an artist study from heart, and by adding to the complex fabric that will help to keep The Point Nepean National Park preserved and protected for future generations to enjoy.