

Monica Rohan

Mind how you go

16 March - 10 April 2021

We are delighted to present *Mind how you go*, Monica Rohan's fifth solo exhibition at Jan Murphy Gallery.

This collection of paintings is equally inspired by familiar interior spaces and the possibilities of the wide unknown. Embracing the traditional notion of negative space as a compositional device, like that found between the limbs akimbo of a tree, Rohan creates mysterious portals within the landscape. By contrast, there is a sense of vertigo in the highly patterned interior spaces, many of which were painted during the 2020 pandemic.

*"The title for this show, *Mind how you go*, expresses an awareness of ones self and ones environment. The pandemic made me particularly mindful of my relationship to my surroundings, through both the restrictions placed on movement and the need to be conscious of our interactions with others. Painting, more than ever felt like a way to escape to other places, allowing me to revisit landscapes such as my parents' property in the Scenic Rim or explore environments new to me such as Girraween National Park. These travels are contrasted with a number of images focusing on feet firmly planted in domestic interiors. Here the figures are anxious about where they stand, caught within intensely patterned textile traps. These paintings hint at the kind of rabbit-holes we can fall into when confined to our homes. Finally, a group of smaller works break from my normal practice to offer images from the figure's point of view. These works don't so much distort reality, instead presenting a more earnest depiction of things that feel at ease where they are, that don't need to 'mind how they go.'"*

Monica Rohan, 2021

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Since graduating from the Queensland College of Art with Honours in 2011, Rohan's work has attracted considerable interest. She has been a finalist in numerous major prizes including the Archibald Prize (2020 and 2016), the Dobell Drawing Prize (2019), Sunshine Coast Art Prize (2018) and the Sulman Prize (2017). In 2015, Rohan's work was curated into a significant survey show of Queensland artists, Goma Q at QAGOMA. Her work is held in a number of private and public collections, including Artbank, University of Queensland Art Museum, QAGOMA, Museum of Brisbane, Tweed Regional Gallery and the Griffith University Art Museum.