

MY SECRET URBAN SANCTUARY

GIL FARLA



MARSDEN GALLERY
18 NOVEMBER 2020 - 17 JANUARY 2021

CASULA
POWERHOUSE
ARTS CENTRE

Introduction to My Secret Urban Sanctuary From Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre

As part of the 2019 Liverpool Arts Society Annual Exhibition and Awards, The Casula Powerhouse Scholarship was awarded to Gil Farla for her work titled 'Past, Present, Future?'

Better known for well executed and detailed watercolours, 'Past, Present, Future?', was unusual for Gil. It was chosen by the 2019 judge, Phillip George, as a work with something to say about the local area and with the potential for further exploration of the ideas in a solo exhibition. He was right.

Gil enthusiastically (and nervously) took to the challenge of presenting her solo exhibition, booking an appointment with me on the day of the awards as well as a couple of subsequent meetings. We talked through the ideas from the winning work and some of the personally meaningful themes that she explored in her other artwork — her garden, nature, the environment, town planning and the future. She had worked in town planning and worried about the city scape creeping towards her suburban home, her oasis in Voyager Point.

Gil wrote the text and title for the exhibition. The unedited words perfectly express the ideas that she had discussed and wanted to capture in her exhibition.

The winning work was sold during the exhibition (as was her other entry) and we thank Stephen Dobell-Brown for the loan of the work so that it could be included in this exhibition. Most of the artworks presented in the exhibition were created in 2020 for the exhibition as well as some works selected from Gil's portfolio.

Gil's passing in July, after a short illness was a shock to all. It is with thanks to her family, members of the Liverpool Art Society committee and the staff at Casula Powerhouse that we are able to present her exhibition as intended, as discussed and in her own words.

Rest in peace Gil Farla. Your exhibition is a legacy that will make your family, friends and community proud.

Jenny Cheeseman
Head of Curatorial
Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre

My Secret Urban Sanctuary

By Gil Farla

“My Secret Urban Sanctuary” is an Exhibition of a body of works inspired by my garden, its surrounds, and its many creatures. Following recent events worldwide and nationally we are reminded how unpredictable and fragile our lives can become and how important it is to take care of our Planet.

Nature and my garden provide me with a refuge to escape the harsh urban jungle and the pressures it brings. It is often a safe haven for wildlife and a sanctuary where I retreat to a tranquil solace. I have come to accept our Environment at both its most beautiful and sometimes at its most destructive.

Until you become connected with nature only then can you truly be connected to Life on this Planet. When you take time to stop and absorb what is around you it is amazing to see the unanticipated beauty of your surroundings. Even just watching a butterfly sit on a flower, opening and closing its wings while absorbing the morning’s sunshine rays is a magical moment.

My garden was a blank canvas that I had the fortunate opportunity to design and nurture. Now after nearly 20 years at this residence I always find new inspirations for me to paint and create. There is nothing better than digging into the soil and having that connection with nature. It is that very essence of being that helps me create and keep a balance in my life. In return I am blessed to have nature’s creatures and landscape surround me in the process.



**LIVERPOOL
CITY
COUNCIL**

**CASULA
POWERHOUSE
ARTS CENTRE**

1 Powerhouse Rd, Casula NSW 2170

Tel 02 8711 7123

reception@casulapowerhouse.com

www.casulapowerhouse.com