

Matt O'Brien

What if the wind
could speak

Lismore Regional Gallery



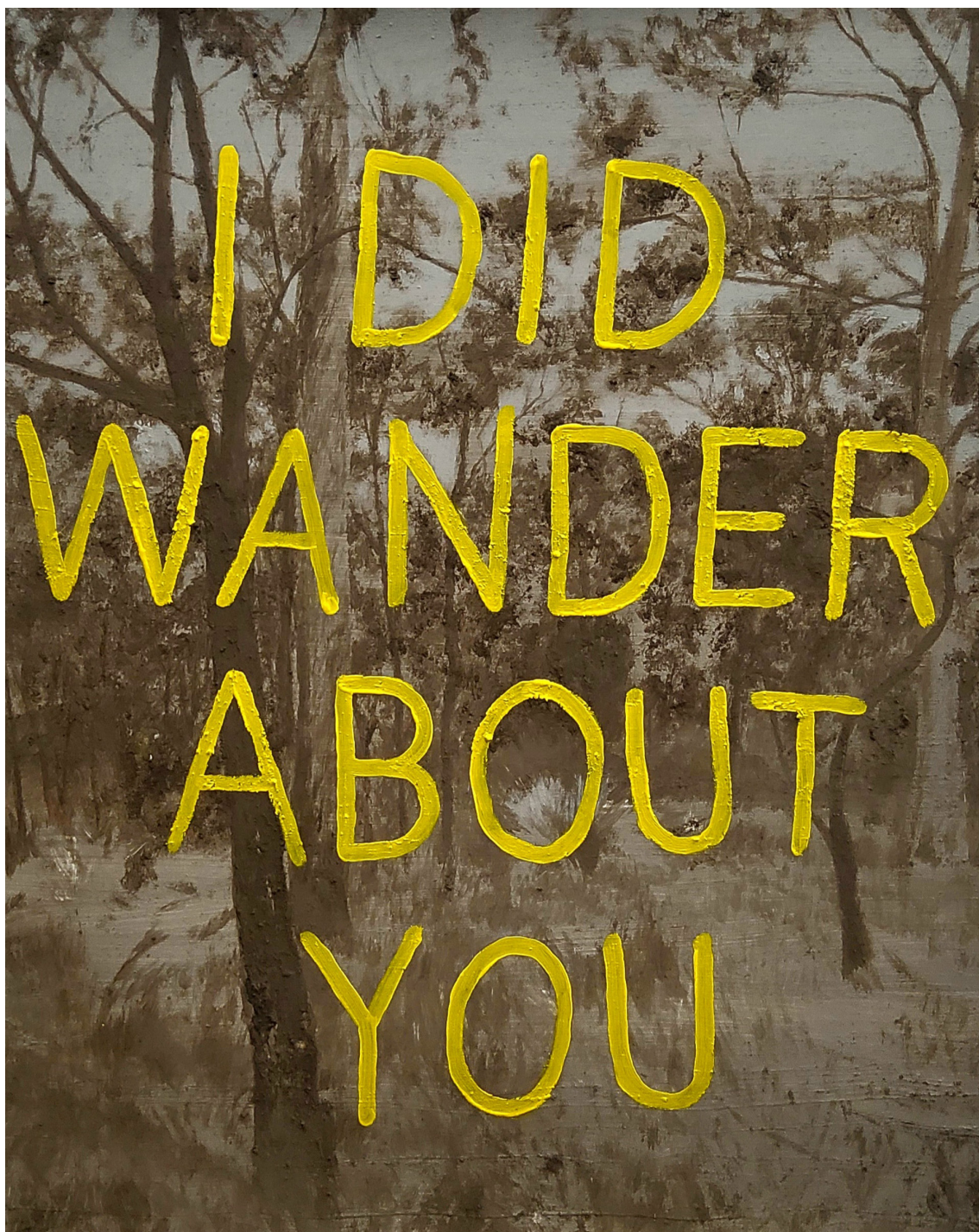
11 Rural Street
Lismore, NSW 2480

Open hours
Wednesday to Sunday, 10am – 4pm
Thursdays until 6pm
Closed on public holidays

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@ [LismoreRegionalGallery](https://www.facebook.com/LismoreRegionalGallery)

Lismore Regional Gallery is a creative initiative of the Lismore City Council supported by the New South Wales Government through Create NSW and the Friends of the Gallery. The Gallery acknowledges the Widjabul Wia-bal people of the Bundjalung Nation as the traditional owners of the land upon which the gallery stands. We pay respects to elders past, present and emerging and extend that respect to all First Nations cultures and their contributing connection to land, waters, community and the arts.

2 MAY –
22 JUNE 2025



I did wander about you 2024
ash, oxidised sandstone, tree sap, acrylic on yupo paper
120 x 100 cm



Seen 2024
oxidised sandstone, plant matter, acrylic, collage on yupo paper
120 x 100 cm

Matt O'Brien is a multi-disciplinary artist working on Bundjalung Country of the Widjabul Wia-bal peoples in northern New South Wales.

His experimentation with drawings, paintings and technology enable him to examine new ways of responding to the Australian landscape.

Informed by grand narratives passed on through generations, and by colonial depictions of the iconic Australian bush, O'Brien co-mingles his own experiences to create artworks that are intimate and surreal. Often using materials found on fieldtrips, O'Brien tangibly folds the natural phenomena of wind, earth and plants into his practice with the aim to create new bonds between the individual and country.

This intimacy is felt across his paintings through which he interacts with the elements and grasses. Similarly, O'Brien's video work in AI and AR technologies aim to provide unique experiences to contribute to critical dialogues. The symbiotic relationship he translates between digital and traditional arts unhinges fixed points and perception, channelling viewers instead towards morphed (un)realities. Cumulatively his site-responsive process aims to connect artist, work, and environment together.

What if the wind could speak is a new body of work inspired by O'Brien's period on residency at the Bundanon Trust.



Portrait of artist working in the Freedman Studio at Bundanon Trust, NSW, July 2024

list of works

Matt O’Brien
born 1973 Tamworth, Australia
lives/works on Bundjalung
Country, Whian Whian, Australia

I did wander about you 2024
oxidised sandstone, tree sap, plant
matter on yupo paper
120 x 100 cm
\$2,570

In memory of a debt 2024
ochre, carbonised plant matter,
banksia robur, bloodwood sap,
found objects on OSB board
90 x 70 cm
\$2,860

***On the nature of change – and
the change of the nature 2022***
ochre on yupo paper
170 x150 cm
\$3,430

***Reveal / hide – familiar /
unfamiliar, radio murmur,
drumming rain 2024***
ash, ochre, carbonised plant matter,
acrylic on OSB board
120 x 100 cm
\$2,860

***Rhythm, wombats, Boyd,
reflections, shadows, affirm, fore
and aft 2024***
oxidised sandstone, acacia sap,
chalk on poly-cotton
170 x 125 cm
\$3,150

Seen 2024
oxidised sandstone, tree sap, plant
matter on yupo paper
120 x 100 cm
\$2,570

***Sorry I didn’t notice you there
2024***
acrylic, acacia sap, on found object
65 x 45 cm
\$1,290

***Subtle incongruences – gentle
warnings 2024***
AI and AR generated video
sequences, digital projection
6:26 minutes
nfs

***Termite nest, breeze, grasses,
movement, earbuds, fearless
flyers 2024***
fallen timber particles, ochre,
acrylic spray, tree sap, plant matter
on OSB board
90 x 70 cm
\$2,290

***The connection of things:
meander, discovery, re-
territorialisation, rainfall, animal
tracks 2024***
oxidised sandstone, carbonised
material, plant matter on yupo
paper
120 x 100 cm
\$2,860

***The connection of things: micro,
macro, attuned, coincidental,
movement 2024***
oxidised sandstone, carbonised
material, plant matter on yupo
paper
120 x 100 cm
\$2,860

***Two conversations: the trail at
Bundanon, the ravaged waterway
near home 2024***
ochre, acrylic, plant matter,
chinagraph on yupo paper
45 x 35 cm
nfs

***Wind, noticing, talk, listen,
witness, travel, podcasts, coffee,
reflection 2024***
oxidised sandstone, acacia,
bloodwood saps, plant matter on
OSB board
120 x 100 cm
\$2,860

all works courtesy the artist