



GALLERY 5

Sonka Pietrek

Memory of motion

5 DECEMBER 2025 –
1 FEBRUARY 2026

Lismore Regional Gallery



11 Rural Street
Lismore, NSW 2480

Open hours

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

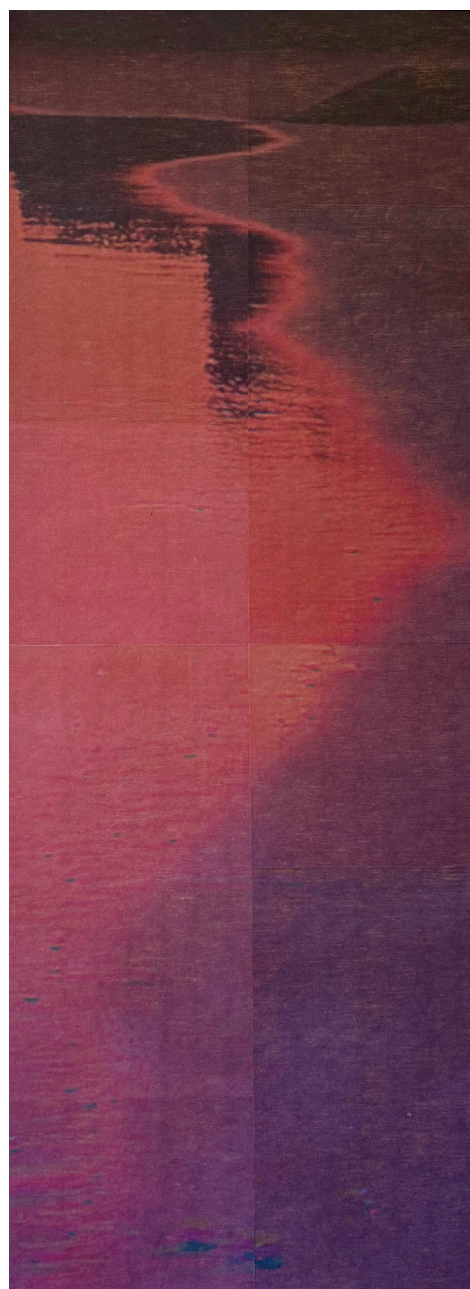
W lismoregallery.org

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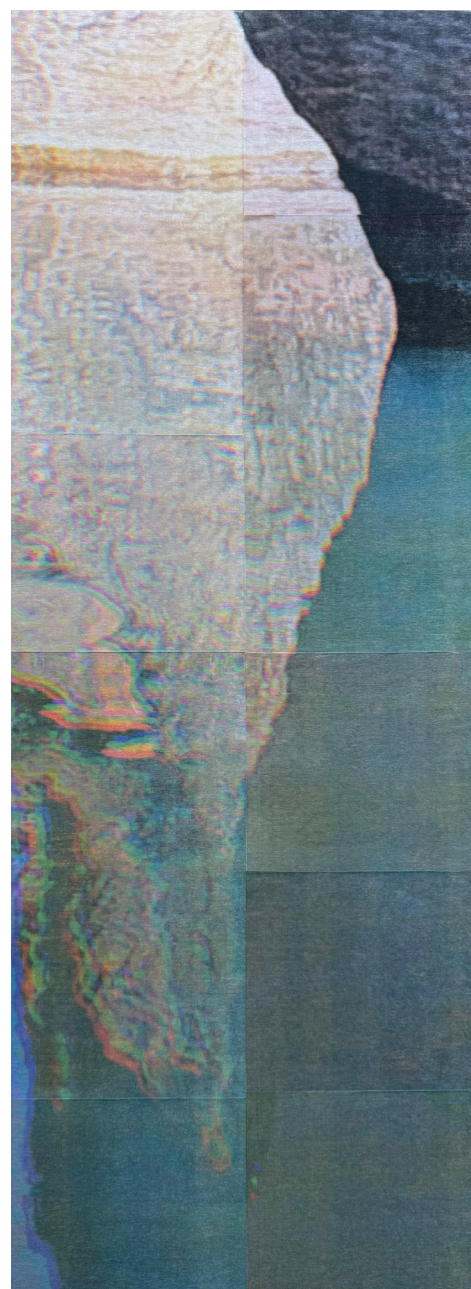
E art.gallery@lismore.nsw.gov.au

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

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.



Daybreak / sediment deposition 2025
 découpage on board
 diptych, each panel 122.5 x 47 cm



Memory of motion explores a year of intimate observation in which Sonka Pietrek paid close attention to the subtle details in the world around her. Pietrek's process often begins with the camera: capturing photographs and examining them carefully to find fragments that might otherwise go unnoticed. These details are isolated and enlarged before being reworked digitally. The resulting images are segmented into tiles and printed onto thin fabric, which Pietrek applies to board using a *découpage* technique, creating a physical form that mirrors the transformation and reconstruction inherent in her process.

Several pieces emerged during Pietrek's first year of motherhood, focusing on quiet gestures and moments that often escape attention in the rhythm of everyday life. They serve as a reminder to slow down amidst the fast pace and constant activity that comes with caring for a young child. In this way, the works are both an observation and a record of time—and how it sometimes slips away almost imperceptibly.

Other works were produced during Pietrek's 2025 travels through the Queensland outback. These pieces respond to different landscapes, from beaches to gorges, and focus on light, reflection, and spatial relationships. While the locations vary greatly, the works share similar qualities, and the scenes emphasise the scale and power of the natural world, making visible the magnitude and impact of the terrains they depict.

Cumulatively, the body of work encompasses experiences that are larger than the artist herself—both the early, intimate moments of motherhood and the vastness of the natural world she encountered during her travels—each acting as a point of convergence between perception and change.

Sonka Pietrek, born 1989 in the region of northern Bavaria in Germany, now lives and practices on Bundjalung Country in the Northern Rivers of New South Wales. In 2024, after a decade in the tattoo industry, she completed her Bachelor of Art and Design at Southern Cross University, Lismore, where she shifted her focus from the illustrative art of tattooing to more abstract and experimental techniques.

Sonka's practice is a dynamic synthesis of digital and analogue techniques and explores the fluid and malleable boundaries between the two. Her work translates digital images into analogue forms (sometimes through multiple iterations) to investigate the transformation and evolution of images.

Her research is driven by an interest in print media, employing a variety of techniques as a matrix to explore how different processes can modify and reshape visual content in order to create a continuous and evolving dialogue between the digital and the physical.



Noctis 2024
découpage on board
49.5 x 38 cm



Regolith 2024
découpage on board
49.5 x 38 cm

list of works

Sonka Pietrek
born 1986 Bavaria, Germany
lives/works Northern Rivers,
Australia

Bloom 2024
découpage on board
49.5 x 38 cm
\$200

Daybreak / sediment deposition 2025
découpage on board
diptych, each panel 122.5 x 47 cm
\$1,000

Elephant skin 2024
découpage on board
49.5 x 38 cm
\$200

Folded arc 2024
Découpage on board
119.5 x 95 cm
\$950

Golden boy 2025
découpage on board
88 x 63 cm
\$640

Noctis 2024
découpage on board
49.5 x 38 cm
\$200

Not a painting 2024
découpage on board
49.5 x 38 cm
\$200

Pout 2025
découpage on board
85.5 x 85 cm
\$1,200

Regolith 2024
découpage on board
49.5 x 38 cm
\$200

Surface tension 2024
Découpage on board
119 x 32.3 cm
\$550

Threshold 2024
découpage on board
49.5 x 38 cm
\$200

Wearable 2024
découpage on board
49.5 x 38 cm
\$200

Yin yang 2024
découpage on board
49.5 x 38 cm
\$200

all works courtesy the artist



Golden boy 2025
découpage on board
88 x 63 cm