



Ocean Grove Impressions Jo Reitze

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Artist's statement

The invigorating and restorative qualities of the beautiful coastal environment of Ocean Grove have been an ongoing source of inspiration for me.

This exhibition presents atmospheric impressions in gouache and oils of four specific locations in Ocean Grove; the Barwon River, the river flats, the gnarled windswept trees by the beach and glimpses of our coastal bush garden. All of these works have been completed on location, 'en plein air'. Many display vibrant colours with strong tonal contrasts while others reveal subtle nuances to evoke the essence of the scene. The paintings in a range of sizes have been inspired by direct observation and capture the place with lyrical mark making. The 9x5 inch paintings pay homage to the Australian Impressionists who, like me returned to the same spot in different weather and seasons. My painterly works record the mood and atmospheric conditions of Ocean Grove and celebrate nature.

For more than forty years I have been motivated to paint at Ocean Grove in school holidays. Until recently, this has enabled me to pursue my practice in conjunction with a full time art teaching career. Originally from Ballarat, I am now based in Surrey Hills but my association with Ocean Grove has continued throughout my life.

I am delighted to exhibit my paintings close to where they were created in the beautifully designed Ocean Grove Uniting Church Hall. I am also thrilled that Ray Reardon, a practising artist, writer and former lecturer at Deakin University will open my show. The proceeds of this event; the donated painting, 50c per card sale and fairtrade coffee sales will be given to provide scholarships supporting the education of the families of coffee growers in East Timor. I greatly appreciate the support of The Ocean Grove Uniting Church for catering and giving me the opportunity to support this worthy cause.

*Jo Reitze is a Fellow of Victorian Artist's Society and President of Melbourne Society of Women Painters and Sculptors. She has won over thirty awards. Last year she received The Gordon Moffatt Award for the work gaining most votes from other finalists in the VAS Artist of the Year exhibition. In 2012 she was awarded Best Work, Ocean Grove Rotary Art Show and The Kenneth Jack Award - Flowers/Gardens. Last year she was the invited artist for Whitehorse Artspace. 'The Artist's Garden', presented a selection of paintings of her Surrey Hills garden completed over twenty five years. This exhibition was opened by Sophie Matthiesson, Curator 'Monet's Garden' NGV. In 2013, Reitze was also a finalist in both the Queenscliffe 150th Award and The Len Fox Award at Castlemaine Gallery. Jo Reitze (Mrs. de Carteret) coordinated Art at Canterbury Girls' Secondary College for over twenty years. In 2005 she established **Jo Reitze paints your gardens**, undertaking numerous commissions since then. In 2008 she painted twenty Boroondara gardens for The 'Beyond the Garden Wall' project for Surrey Hills Neighborhood Centre and from 2009 was Artist in Residence at Cloudehill Gardens, Olinda. Reitze is represented in civic collections in Victoria and private collections in Australia and overseas.*

What: OCEAN GROVE IMPRESSIONS Jo Reitze
Exhibition opening: 16 April - 21 April 2014 **Opener:** Ray Reardon, a practising artist, writer and former lecturer, Deakin University
Where: Ocean Grove Uniting Church Hall, Corner The Parade and Eggleston St Ocean Grove
Opening Hours: Thursday and Saturday 10am -5pm, Good Friday and Easter Sunday 1pm - 5pm, Easter Monday 10am -3pm