

Jo Reitze 'GARDEN DELIGHTS'

Art of St Francis'

Contemporary Art Space

326 Lonsdale Street Melbourne

8 February – 14 March 2023

Weekdays: 10am – 4pm Sunday 10am – 2pm

Opening by Jeremy Francis of Cloudehill on Sunday, 12 February at 2.30pm

Ph: 03 9663 2495 Email: bmremmen@bigpond.net.au

Artist Statement

For many years, gardens have been the impetus for my joyous paintings.

'Garden Delights' celebrates the beauty of nature and the restorative qualities of gardens.

Included in this exhibition are several gouache impressions of Cloudehill, one of Australia's finest gardens. Designed by Jeremy Francis, its numerous garden rooms provide unending subject matter, with man-made features complementing the vast array of flowers and foliage. As Artist in Residence, I painted on location, to capture the essence of this magnificent cool climate, hill-side garden in Olinda. Viewed mostly from close vantage points, clearly recognizable plants and features contrast with the glimpses of the vistas beyond and create the illusion of space. This suggests the vastness of these gardens and identifies the specific location. Seasonal differences are apparent and immortalized. I learned to paint bricks at Cloudehill.

I am delighted that Jeremy has agreed to Open this Exhibition on Sunday, 12 February at 2.30pm and I would be delighted if you can join us.

Other gouache paintings will be on show too, including a selection of small flower studies or garden glimpses. All works are freely executed with lyrical, almost calligraphic mark-making. Their vibrant colours are enhanced by strong tonal contrasts and as in nature unified by the green hues.

I thank Brigitte Remmen, Curator of Art at St Francis' for inviting me to show these paintings and I hope viewers will enjoy being surrounded by a garden oasis in the city.

Jo Reitze

Jo Reitze (Mrs de Carteret) is a Fellow of The Victorian Artists' Society, Past President of Melbourne Society of Women Painters and Sculptors and an Award- Winning Artist. Formerly Art Coordinator, Canterbury Girls' Secondary College, she now focusses on her own work and paints gardens on commission. In 2015, Jo was filmed painting at Cloudehill for 'Put Colour in Your Life'. Her episode with Graeme Stevenson OAM can be viewed on www.joreitzeartist.com.au In 2016, this painting, 'Cloudehill, January' was awarded MSWPS 'Annie Davison Oliver Award', judged by Cathy Leahy, Senior Curator of Prints and Drawing NGV.