

## Jo Reitze Celebrating Life in Gouache, Oil & Pen

Fifty years ago, Jo Reitze (Mrs de Carteret) joined the Victorian Artists Society. 'Celebrating Life' references this milestone as well as the joy and beauty in all she sees and conveys through her expressive paintings and drawings.

This retrospective exhibition shows mainly large works of the subjects that have inspired her artistic vision. These include her garden, public and private gardens, flower studies and recently several conservatory paintings. Ocean Grove landscapes and river views have also been a major part of her oeuvre throughout her life. Last year the 'Windswept Trees' at Ocean Grove beach became her ISO Project. Their resilience as they bend to survive the gales and sea breezes became a metaphor for our times. Far from the beach Jo used her iPad photographs to capture them in a wide range of media and scale. Whereas the colour in garden excites her, it is the movement in the coastal scenes that inspires. Experience the evolution of her distinctive style over the decades.

Most of her works were completed 'en plein air' and like the Impressionists she often returned to the same subject in different seasons and conditions. This exhibition shows works in her three preferred media. She studied using oils with (Bill) A W Harding at Melbourne State College and in 1988 commenced using gouache on her travels. As her work became more detailed, in 2010 she started drawing her garden in markers and fine liners and in 2019 her favourite windswept trees. She now works in all media concurrently.

Jo Reitze is an award-winning artist, VAS Fellow and Tutor after a long Art teaching career, culminating in twenty years Coordinating Art at Canterbury Girls' Secondary College. This year, Jo is delighted to be a Finalist in the prestigious Geelong Contemporary Art Prize 2021. Her oil painting of 'Geelong Conservatory' was selected as one of the twenty-eight works from over six hundred applicants. Jo was filmed painting at Cloudehill for Put colour in your Life. Her Cloudehill Series has recently been on show in 'Garden Delights' at The Hive Gallery, Ocean Grove. You can view her episode of CIYL on [www.joreitzeartist.com.au](http://www.joreitzeartist.com.au) and follow her artistic journey on Instagram @JOREITZEartist.

Jo hopes you will be able to view her big exhibition in the beautifully restored three upstairs galleries of the historic Victorian Artists Society. She thanks all at VAS and others who have been supportive of her artistic endeavours over the decades.