

Exhibition Title: **RESILIENCE Revisited**
Artist: **Jo Reitze**
Dates: 9 September -19 October 2025
Hours: Weekdays 10 – 4pm, Sunday 10 - 3pm
Opening Event: Sunday 14 September 4- 5.30pm
Venue: **Art of St Francis'**
326 Lonsdale Street Melbourne

The gnarled, windswept trees at Ocean Grove beach epitomize RESILIENCE.

Bending to survive gales, their resilience would inspire my resilience. After the initial shock of our world changing, I resolved that this was my time to paint. I had found a project that would obsess and entertain me, for two years, generating an Iso series in oils, gouache, and pen.

Prior to COVID, I had almost exclusively painted 'en plein air.' Far from the sea I required secondary sources. I found the back lighting of my iPad and the ability to crop my photographs to create new compositions, made this project possible. I did not grid so had to learn to work small to big rather than condensing what I saw. Now I could capture the movement and dynamism of the tousled long grasses of exposed viewpoints, evoking the rejuvenating sea air that I greatly missed. In all mediums, I have worked freely with lyrical, expressive mark-making.

Lockdown provided me uninterrupted time to paint. While others struggled, I felt blessed to be an artist with lots that motivated and nourished.

I am delighted to show a selection of oil and gouache paintings from this series in Melbourne for the first time after a successful show at Hat Rock Contemporary at Lethbridge Winery at Bellarine last year. Thanks to Brigitte Remmen for inviting me to exhibit at Art at St Francis' again. I would be thrilled if you and your friends can attend the Opening event or view at other times and see a little of what I did during lockdown.

Thanks Jo