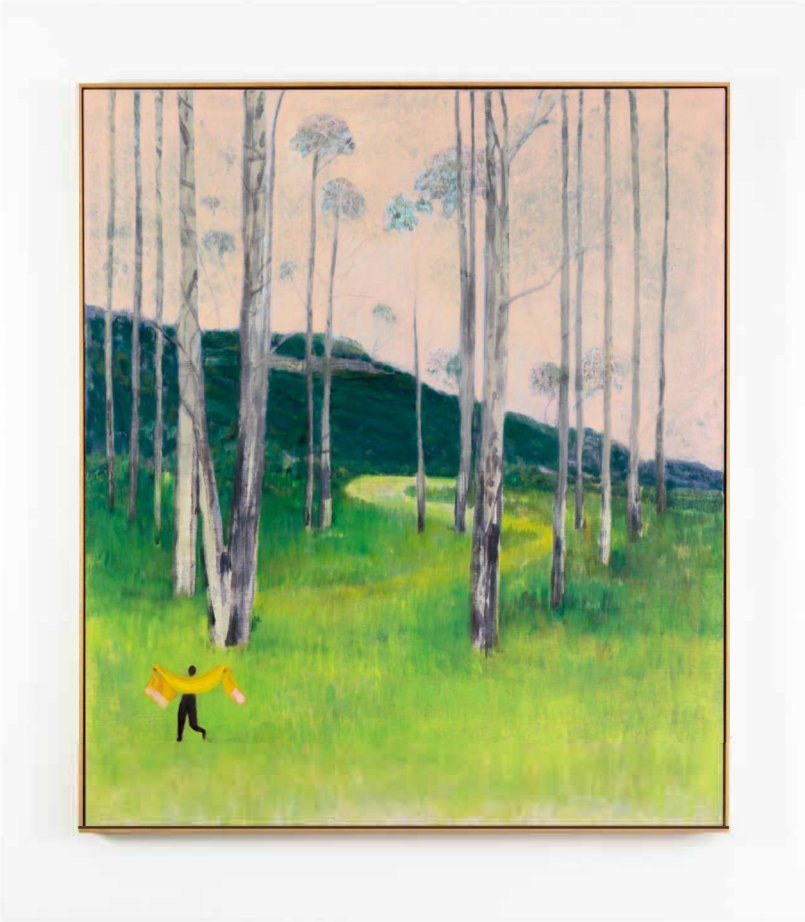
BETRA FRAVAL



WANDER FORMS

NICHOLAS
THOMPSON
GALLERY

11 TO 28 NOVEMBER 2026

Betra Fraval describes her latest body of work as having begun "with a suitcase full of saris inherited from my family, which has travelled around the world for over 30 years." Taking these as a starting point, the artist used the saris to assemble colourful fence-like structures, which she installed in the Australian bush. These ephemeral installations then became the inspiration for a series of paintings.

Fraval has always been fascinated by the idea of "places that are woven into our identity", and this latest body of work, Wander Forms, is the culmination of a year of adventures and geographical wanderings. Presented at Nicholas Thompson Gallery in Melbourne, the exhibition brings together paintings inspired by places that have filled Fraval with "a sense of awe, curiosity and connection. She is interested in "the way particular landscapes stay with us long after we have left them, shaping our memories, perspectives and sense of identity."

Drawing on recently visited locations, including residencies in Bundanon and Kangaroo Valley in NSW, Fraval moves between two approaches to capturing the landscape of the Australian bush, from loose, expressive acrylic paintings, to more tightly painted naturalistic works in oil.

The acrylic works are vivid-almost intensely Fauvist in palette. There is an immediacy to her mark-making. the result of an intentional shift towards "loosening up and being more free with my paintings". These works capture a moment in time as fleeting as the brushstrokes with which it was recorded. Sitting alongside them are more representational depictions of the Australian bush, which hum and vibrate with intricate detailing.

As Fraval explains: "I don't want to make works that look like photographs. I want them to do what paint can do." Although anchored in the landscape, Fraval's paintings also wander into the possibilities of paint, giving form to the lingering impressions, memories and sensations that particular places leave behind.

Rhianna Melhem, from exhibition preview in ***Art Guide Australia***, November/December 2026

NICHOLAS
THOMPSON
GALLERY



BETRA FRAVAL

Stepping into

2026

synthetic polymer and oil on linen, framed

150 x 130 cm

$12,500

NICHOLAS
THOMPSON
GALLERY



BETRA FRAVAL

At the water's edge

2026

synthetic polymer on linen, framed

138 x 112 cm

$11,000

NICHOLAS
THOMPSON
GALLERY



BETRA FRAVAL

Following the water

2026

synthetic polymer on linen, framed

138 x 112 cm

$11,000

NICHOLAS
THOMPSON
GALLERY



BETRA FRAVAL

Gestural landscape

2026

synthetic polymer on linen, unframed

138 x 112 cm

$10,500

NICHOLAS
THOMPSON
GALLERY



BETRA FRAVAL

Graphic landscape with palm

2026

synthetic polymer on linen, unframed

138 x 112 cm

$10,500

NICHOLAS
THOMPSON
GALLERY



BETRA FRAVAL

Stay open/stay light

2026

synthetic polymer on linen, unframed

138 x 112 cm

$10,500

NICHOLAS
THOMPSON
GALLERY



BETRA FRAVAL

To belong

2026

synthetic polymer and oil on linen, unframed

138 x 112 cm

$10,500

NICHOLAS
THOMPSON
GALLERY



BETRA FRAVAL

Heavy things feel lighter in water

2026

synthetic polymer and oil on linen, framed

92 x 82 cm

$6,500

NICHOLAS
THOMPSON
GALLERY



BETRA FRAVAL

Coastal (after Separation Creek)

2026

synthetic polymer on linen, framed

60 x 50 cm

$3,300

NICHOLAS
THOMPSON
GALLERY



BETRA FRAVAL

Blue passage

2026

synthetic polymer on linen, unframed

60 x 50 cm

$2,900

NICHOLAS
THOMPSON
GALLERY



BETRA FRAVAL

Imprint

2026

synthetic polymer and oil on linen, unframed

60 x 50 cm

$2,900

NICHOLAS
THOMPSON
GALLERY



BETRA FRAVAL

Sink or swim

2026

synthetic polymer on linen, unframed

60 x 50 cm

$2,900

NICHOLAS
THOMPSON
GALLERY



BETRA FRAVAL

Through the trees

2026

synthetic polymer on linen, unframed

60 x 50 cm

$2,900

NICHOLAS
THOMPSON
GALLERY



BETRA FRAVAL

To belong II

2026

synthetic polymer on linen, unframed

60 x 50 cm

$2,900

NICHOLAS
THOMPSON
GALLERY



BETRA FRAVAL

Sari fences I

2026

oil on board, framed

30 x 25 cm

$1,900

NICHOLAS
THOMPSON
GALLERY



BETRA FRAVAL

Sari fences II

2026

oil on board, framed

30 x 25 cm

$1,900

NICHOLAS
THOMPSON
GALLERY



BETRA FRAVAL

Into the trees

2026

oil on board, framed

30 x 25 cm

$1,900

NICHOLAS
THOMPSON
GALLERY



BETRA FRAVAL

Never give up

2026

gouache on paper

42 x 30 cm

$1,100

NICHOLAS
THOMPSON
GALLERY



BETRA FRAVAL

Keep swimming

2026

gouache on paper

20 x 29 cm

$900



Betra Fraval has a Bachelor of Fine Arts (Honours) from the Victoria College of the Arts and has held solo exhibitions in Melbourne since 2008 at institutions including Linden Centre for Contemporary Arts, C3 Contemporary Art Space and Res Artis, Glasshouse Studios. Her work has been included in group exhibitions since 2007 in Victoria and New South Wales and internationally in Finland, Peru and France at institutions including Gippsland Art Gallery, The Dax Centre, Bayside Gallery, Bus Projects, Bundoora Homestead, Victorian College of the Arts and Seventh Gallery.

Betra has undertaken residencies at Karuizawa Mokuhanga School, Karuizawa, Japan (2026), Artist in Residence - Shark Island, Kangaroo Valley, NSW (2026), Bundanon, NSW (2025), Sanskriti Kendra in India (2009), Sachaqa Centro De Arte in the Amazon Rainforest, Peru (2018), Hôtel Sainte Valière in France (2019) and the Helsinki International Artist Programme in Finland (2019). She has been awarded the 2026 Beckett Local Prize at the Bayside Painting Prize and been a finalist in the Bayside Painting Prize 2022), the John Leslie Art Prize (2024, 2020, 2016) and the R&M McGivern Prize (2019). Betra's work is held in the collection of Artbank as well as regional and private collections in Australia and internationally.

Artist portrait Alice Hutchison

Artwork photographs Tim Gresham

BETRA FRAVAL

EDUCATION

2014 Bachelor of Fine Arts (Honours), Victorian College of the Arts

2005 Bachelor of Fine Arts (Painting), Victorian College of the Arts

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2026 *Wander Forms*, Nicholas Thompson Gallery, Melbourne

2026 *Wading*, Michael Reid Northern Beaches, Sydney

2025 *Holding Things Lightly*, Nicholas Thompson Gallery, Melbourne

2024 *Mountains of the Mind*, James Makin Gallery, Melbourne

2022 *Melbourne Art Fair*, James Makin Gallery, Melbourne

2020 *State of Slow Shift*, James Makin Gallery, Melbourne

The Twelve Winds, Res Artis, Glasshouse Studio, Melbourne

2019 *Wanderer*, James Makin Gallery, Melbourne

2017 *Moving Mountains*, James Makin Gallery, Melbourne

2015 *Falling into the Sky*, Anna Pappas Gallery, Melbourne

The Rope Doesn't Hang...the Earth Pulls, Five Walls Projects, Melbourne

2013 *Still Remains*, C3 Contemporary Art Space, Melbourne

2012 *The Dead Tree Gives No Shelter*, Linden Centre for Contemporary Arts, Melbourne

2011 *A Time of Disappearances*, Dianne Tanzer Gallery, Melbourne

2010 *Captured Traces*, Carbon Black Gallery, Melbourne

2008 *Unstable Ground*, Victoria Park Gallery, Melbourne

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2026 *Tidal Wave*, Pieces of Eight Gallery, Melbourne

Linden Postcard Show, Linden New Art, Melbourne

Bayside Painting Prize, Bayside Gallery, Melbourne

Autumn 2026, Nicholas Thompson Gallery, Melbourne

2025 *Seventh Turns 25! Fundrasier + Art Auction,* Seventh Gallery, Melbourne

Summer 2025, Nicholas Thompson Gallery, Melbourne

2024 *Melbourne Art Fair*, James Makin Gallery, Melbourne

2022 *Bayside Acquisitive Art Prize*, Finalist Exhibition, Bayside Gallery, Melbourne

2022 *Spring: Group Exhibition*, James Makin Gallery, Melbourne

2021	*A Journey Around My Room*, Bus Projects, Melbourne
	Summer New, James Makin Gallery, Melbourne
2020	*Melbourne Art Fair*, Melbourne
	John Leslie Art Prize, Gippsland Art Gallery, Sale
2019	*Summer New*, James Makin Gallery, Melbourne
2019	*The Utopian Object*, C3 Contemporary Art Space, Melbourne
2018	*Sydney Contemporary Art Fair*, James Makin Gallery, Melbourne
2016	*Stratum*, C3 Contemporary Art Space, Melbourne
	Expanded Gaze, Bundoora Homestead Melbourne
	The Agency of Things (Curated by Kent Wilson) Anna Pappas Gallery, Melbourne
2014	*VCA Graduate Exhibition*, Victorian College of the Arts, Melbourne
2013	*Wish You Were Here (SWARM*), Linden Centre for Contemporary Art, Melbourne
2011	*Disappear*, Kings ARI, Melbourne
	A4 Art, Westspace Gallery, Melbourne
2010	*Forged*, Trocadero Gallery, Melbourne
2009	*Keith and Elisabeth Murdoch Travelling Fellowship*, VCA Margaret Lawrence Gallery, Melbourne
2007	*In the Shadows of Opulence*, Seventh Gallery, Melbourne

AWARDS / GRANTS / RESIDENCIES

2026	Karuizawa Mokuhanga School Residency, Karuizawa, Japan
	Artist in Residence - Shark Island, Kangaroo Valley
	Bayside Painting Prize, Beckett Local Prize, Bayside Gallery, VIC (Winner)
2025	Bundanon Artist in Residence Program, Bundanon NSW
2022	Bayside Acquisitive Art Prize (finalist), Melbourne
2020	John Leslie Art Prize (finalist), Gippsland Art Gallery, VIC
2019	Helsinki International Artist Programme, Finland
	Hôtel Sainte Valière, France
	R&M McGivern Prize (Finalist), Melbourne
2018	Sachaqa Centro De Arte Artists Residency, Peru
	BigCi Artists Residency, Blue Mountains, NSW
2016	John Leslie Art Prize (finalist), Gippsland Art Gallery, VIC
	Cowwarr Art Residency, VIC
2015	Banyule Award Works on Paper (finalist), Hatch Contemporary Arts Space, Melbourne
2014	McClelland Sculpture Award (finalist), McClelland Gallery & Sculpture Park, Melbourne
	Galloway Lawson Award , Victorian College of the Arts, Melbourne

2011	Janet Holmes à Court Artists' Grant, National Association for the Visual Arts, Melbourne
	Works on Paper Prize (finalist), Hazelhurst Regional Gallery, Sydney
2009	Keith and Elisabeth Murdoch Travelling Fellowship (finalist), VCA Margaret Lawrence Gallery, Melbourne
	Sankriti Kendra Art Residency, New Delhi, India
2006	Seventh Exhibition Grant, Seventh Gallery, Making Space ARI Festival, Melbourne
2005	Maude Glover Fleay Award, Victorian College of the Arts, Melbourne
	Tolarno Hotel VCA Annual Art Award, Victorian College of the Arts, Melbourne

WORKSHOPS / TALKS

2014	NMIT Artist Talk - Creative Forum, Northern Melbourne Institute of TAFE, Melbourne
2011	Inspiration Day Public Talk and Workshop, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne

COLLABORATIONS / EVENTS

2005	*Unconditional Regard* – (with A Constructed World), Gertrude Contemporary Art Spaces, Melbourne

COLLECTIONS

Artbank

Gippsland Art Gallery

Private collections across Australia, USA and Europe.