

Boonwurrung Country
5 Malakoff Street, North Caulfield, Vic, 3161
Telephone: (+61 3) 9509 9855 Email: ausart@diggins.com.au
Website: www.diggins.com.au ABN: 19006 457 101

LAURINE · DIGGINS · FINE · ART

A Closer Look At...

HORACE HURTLE TRENERRY (1899 – 1958)

“This Tate exhibition brings into prominence a rival school. This reverts to the European stream. In the earlier adherents **we see a first-rate off-shoot of French Impressionism in the person of Horace Trevenny** [sic] ... besides highly accomplished artists like Fairweather, de Maistre and Godfrey Miller, who are absorbed in purely pictorial problems.” Nigel Gosling review in the London Observer 27 Jan 1963

Despite such international recognition praising Trenerry as following in the footsteps of French Impressionism, many of us are unaware of this talented artist and his unique portrayal of the Australian landscape. Although he never travelled overseas, Trenerry was aware of artists whose influence can be seen in his painting, such as Whistler and Van Gogh, and Trenerry's work is recognised for his use of textured brushstrokes and his ability to use colour to create atmosphere. He was familiar with the ideas of modernism, particularly through artist friends, especially Kathleen Sauerbier following her studies in London in the 1920s. On her return to Australia, Sauerbier was drawn to the Fleurieu Peninsula where she crossed paths with Trenerry, who regularly captured this beautiful landscape of both pastoral and coastal appeal.

Trenerry may not be as well known as other Australian modernist artists, partly due to his life primarily being limited to South Australia, where he is more acclaimed, and also because his career was tragically cut due to a degenerative illness.

Trenerry did travel briefly to Sydney and attended the Julian Ashton School in 1922, where he was influenced by Elioth Gruner. This phase is captured in the delightful *Sydney Harbour* painting (c.1922, oil on canvasboard, 16 x 22.5 cm)



Boonwurrung Country
5 Malakoff Street, North Caulfield, Vic, 3161
Telephone: (+61 3) 9509 9855 Email: ausart@diggins.com.au
Website: www.diggins.com.au ABN: 19006 457 101

LAURINE · DIGGINS · FINE · ART

Another important influence was Hans Heysen, Trenerry's neighbour in the Adelaide Hills and it is clear that Trenerry had a connection with this landscape and its towering gums. His paintings show his close observation of nature, capturing changes with a fresh spontaneity and bold design. *Back Road New Habndorf, S.A.* (1937, oil on canvas laid on cardboard, 57 x 50 cm) is a muted palette of undulating hills to the horizon, the foreground dominated by a majestic tree we must crane our necks to see, its magnanimity enjoyed by the sheep resting in its shade. The unique sense of colour combined with the enlivened brushstrokes and the modernist handling of form, especially the shapes created through light and shadow, are all characteristic of Trenerry.



Boonwurrung Country
5 Malakoff Street, North Caulfield, Vic, 3161
Telephone: (+61 3) 9509 9855 Email: ausart@diggins.com.au
Website: www.diggins.com.au ABN: 19006 457 101

LAURINE · DIGGINS · FINE · ART



Woodside Pastoral 1930
oil on canvas, 35.6 x 41.2 cm



The Homestead, Lower Flinders Ranges c.1932
oil on canvas, 34.5 x 39.5 cm

Trenerry's use of colour to create atmosphere is clear in his painting of Flinders Ranges, a trip he was likely encouraged to take by Hans Heysen, in 1930. There is an intensity and glow to the red earth, the stark trees a haze against the bright sky. The composition is evocative of the expansive nature of the environment, the viewer encouraged into the painting through the lively brushwork in the foreground, pulled wide by the distant hills and refocussed through the upright trees, against the wide sky moving through the golden light to dusk, delineated in textured brushstrokes.



Evening Light, Flinders Ranges 1930 oil on wooden board 40 x 47.5 cm

Boonwurrung Country
5 Malakoff Street, North Caulfield, Vic, 3161
Telephone: (+61 3) 9509 9855 Email: ausart@diggins.com.au
Website: www.diggins.com.au ABN: 19006 457 101

LAURINE · DIGGINS · FINE · ART

Another area key to Trenerry's career was the Fleurieu Peninsula, especially around Aldinga and Port Willunga on the edge of the McLaren Vale, which has inspired many artists including Kathleen Sauerbier, Dorrit Black, Ivor Hele, and Jeffrey Smart. Trenerry truly captured the essence of this beautiful coastline, a sense of peacefulness emanating from his soft palette.



Port Willunga c.1935

oil on canvas laid on board, 58.6 x 50 cm



(Early Morning, Willunga) 1935

oil on canvas on marine ply, 40 x 50 cm

Horace Hurtle Trenerry: Painting The Earth
showing at Lauraine Diggins Fine Art until 10 March 2023

To read further and view the paintings on our website and download the illustrated catalogue, please visit our website www.diggins.com.au

Collections:

National Gallery of Australia
Art Gallery of New South Wales
Art Gallery of South Australia
Queensland Art Gallery

Literature:

Horace Trenerry Memorial Exhibition, South Australian School of Art, 1964
Lou Klepac, *Horace Trenerry*, The Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide, 1970
A Tribute to Horace Trenerry, Carrick Hill, Adelaide, 1988
Betty Snowden, *A Fleurieu Heritage, Kathleen Sauerbier and Horace Trenerry*, Adelaide, 1998
Klepac, *Horace Trenerry*, The Beagle Press, Sydney, 2009

5 Malakoff Street North Caulfield VIC 3161
Gallery Hours : Tues – Fri 10am – 6pm or by appointment
Tel: 03 9509 9855 Email: ausart@diggins.com.au Web: www.diggins.com.au