



onespace

**Paula Payne**

***Shifting Sands of Land and Memory***

11 April – 10 May 2025

# *Shifting Sands of Land and Memory*

11 April - 10 May 2025

## ABOUT THE EXHIBITION

Exhibition Dates | 11 April - 10 May 2025

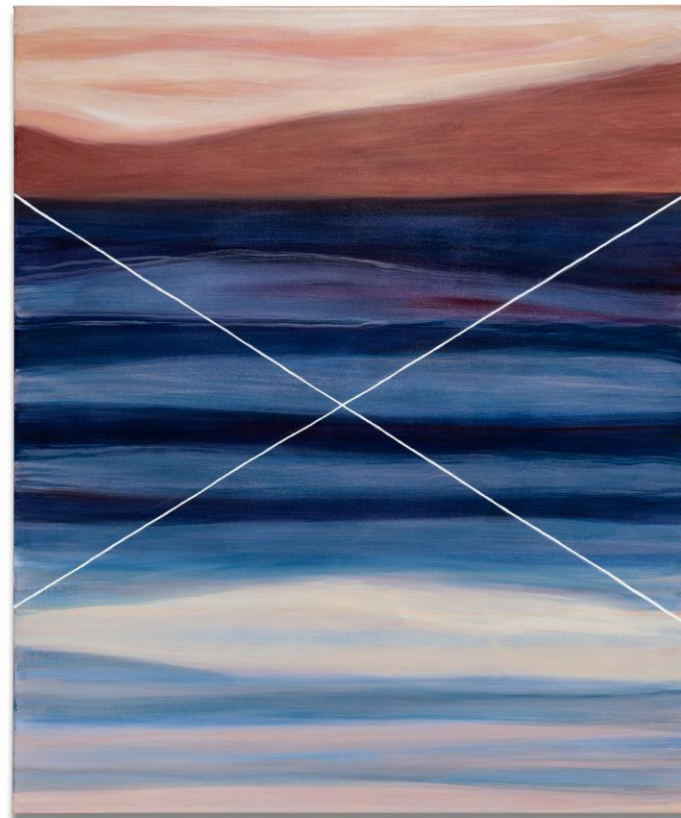
Opening Event | Saturday 12 April, 5pm – 7pm

Onespace Gallery Hours | Tuesday to Friday 10am – 5pm, Saturday 12pm – 5pm

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*Shifting Sands of Land and Memory* features a new series of acrylic paintings by Meanjin/Brisbane-based artist Paula Payne. Drawing inspiration from recent time spent as Artist in Residence at the Broken Hill Art Exchange—located on Wilyakali Country in far-west New South Wales—this new series captures the emotive resonance of the surrounding landscapes. Payne’s abstracted recollections reflect her extensive travels through the Menindee Lakes in Kinchega National Park and the long drive through the desert from Mildura to Adelaide.

The notion of time is posited through multiple lenses within this body of work through subtle nuances of colour, incongruous structures and abstracted forms. These elements provide a framework that reflect Payne’s ongoing exploration of the land’s essence and its relationship to time within an historical, colonial, and archaeological context. She suggests that her practice is “to listen to and observe the land, to sense the echoes of deep time that exist in open spaces and littoral zones, and [to] consider the notion that land is deeply rooted in time and archaeological and human history”.



Paula Payne, *Latitude*, 2025, Acrylic on Canvas, 120 x 100cm.  
Photo: Louis Lim. Courtesy of the artist and Onespace.



Photo: Louis Lim. Courtesy of the artist and Onespace.

For over three decades, alongside a career in arts education and exhibition development, Paula Payne has been expanding her painting and drawing practice. In 2021, this journey culminated in the completion of a Doctorate of Visual Arts, with a focus on history and environmental themes, specifically semi-abstract landscapes.

Payne's fascination with these themes can be traced back to her childhood, when she embarked on long sea journeys with her mother to and from England, visiting lands she had only imagined. These experiences continued to shape her artistic vision, manifesting as memory-maps that trace the contours of global environmental anxiety. She is particularly drawn to expansive views of land and water, as well as the infinity of the night sky.

Her father's engineering works also played a significant role in shaping her artistic perspective. Regular exposure to hand-rendered technical drawings led her to study technical drawing herself, and fine-line graphic renderings have become integral to many of her landscape works. Payne sees these linear components as a dialogue with historical methods of capturing landscapes and as a contemporary form of mapping that reflects humanity's growing environmental anxieties. Her work incorporates cartographic elements, including lines of latitude and longitude, exploring how humans have named, claimed, and defined the land, sea, and sky through exploration and expansive ways of viewing the world.

# Shifting Sands of Land and Memory

11 April - 10 May 2025

*Shifting Sands of Land and Memory* features a new series of acrylic paintings by Magan-djin/Brisbane-based artist Paula Payne. Drawing inspiration from recent time spent as Artist in Residence at the Broken Hill Art Exchange—located on Wilyakali Country in far-west New South Wales—this new series captures the emotive resonance of the surrounding landscapes. Payne’s abstracted recollections reflect her travels through the Menindee Lakes in Kinchega National Park and the long drive through the desert from Mildura to Adelaide.

Undoubtedly, the notion of time is posited through multiple lenses within this body of work through subtle nuances of colour, incongruous structures and abstracted forms. These elements provide a framework that reflect Payne’s ongoing exploration of the land’s essence and its relationship to time within an historical, colonial, and archaeological context. She suggests that her practice is “to listen to and observe the land, to sense the echoes of deep time that exist in open spaces and littoral zones, and [to] consider the notion that land is deeply rooted in time and archaeological and human history”. The artist’s deep engagement with observing and listening to the landscape fosters a mood of melancholy, rooted in her awareness of Australia’s colonial history and her reverence for the natural world.

This disruptive colonial presence is most evident in *Shaft* and *Remnant*, where abandoned power lines serve as stark reminders of human intervention and traces of a colonial past that continue to linger in the landscapes of Wilyakali Country. Payne’s depiction of these structures is perhaps suggestive of the indelible nature of history, while also providing viewers with an opportunity to contemplate their place within it.

Using multiple layering techniques, washes, and colour, the surfaces of the paintings emphasise light, movement, and mood, shifting and hovering. *Shifting Sands 1* and *Shifting Sands 2* reflect the quiet, contemplative and fleeting moments of dusk and dawn, drawing on philosophical themes such as time, transience, and the human condition. Or perhaps dusk and dawn are suggestive of the boundary between light and darkness and dualities, such as the impermanence of existence or ephemeral beauty.

Explorations of time reemerge in *Time Trace* and *On the Road*, where landscapes are viewed through the window of a moving car. Asymmetrical, gestural, and horizontal brushstrokes merge into a blurred haze, conveying the immediacy of both witnessing and losing a moment in motion. These works explore the fleeting nature of time and perception, emphasising the urgency of our rapidly shifting environment and the heightened anxiety that arises from our inability to fully grasp the changes unfolding around us.

*Shifting Sands of Land and Memory* invites us to consider the landscape as a living archive—one that holds the weight of history while remaining in constant flux. Through Payne’s use of abstraction, light, and movement, these luminous spatial fields capture the tension between presence and absence, permanence and transience. *Shifting Sands of Land and Memory* reflects not just a mode of artistic expression but an ongoing way of life that is deeply rooted in observation, reflection, and an enduring dialogue with the ever-changing landscape.

- Demi Conrad

Demi holds a Bachelor of Creative Industries, majoring in Art History and Fashion Communication from the Queensland University of Technology. Her keen interest in contemporary art and curatorial studies has led her to pursue postgraduate studies in Art History at the University of Queensland. She is passionate about writing on contemporary Australian art through an art historical lens, that aims to engage audiences and foster inspiring spaces.



Paula Payne

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Paula Payne

*Time Trace, 2025*

Acrylic on Canvas, 120 x 100 cm

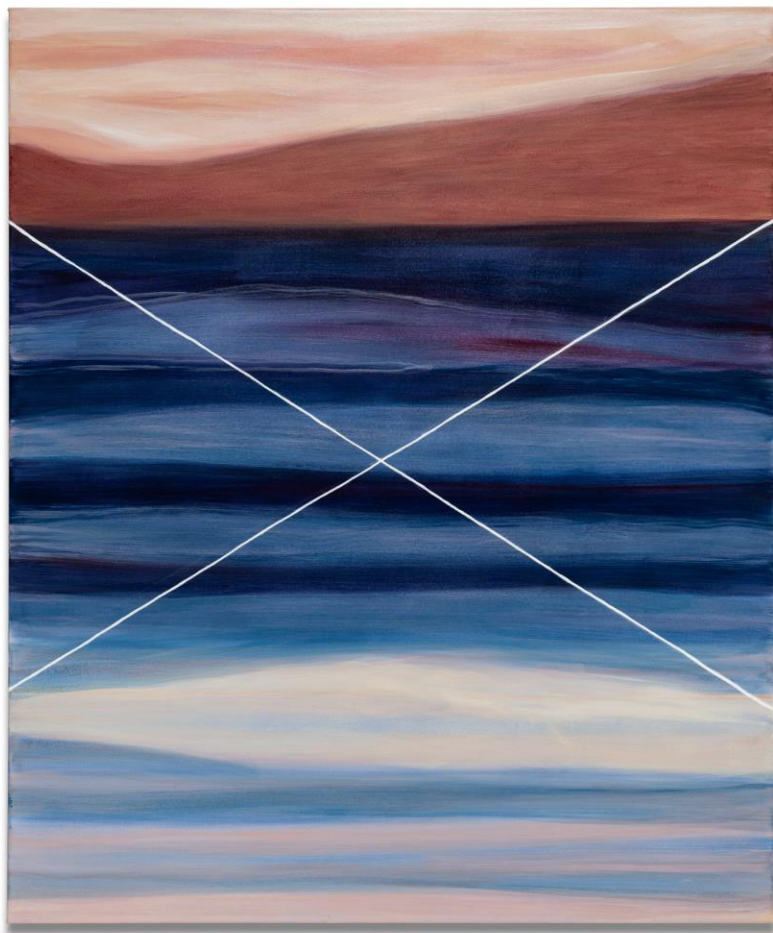
\$3,750

Photo: Louis Lim. Courtesy of the artist and Onespace.

Paula Payne

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Paula Payne

*Latitude, 2025*

Acrylic on Canvas, 120 x 100 cm

\$3,750

Photo: Louis Lim. Courtesy of the artist and Onespace.

Paula Payne

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Paula Payne

*Vanishing Point, 2025*

Acrylic on Canvas, 120 x 120 cm

\$3,750

Photo: Louis Lim. Courtesy of the artist and Onespace.

**Paula Payne**

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**Paula Payne**  
***Shifting Sands 1, 2025***  
Acrylic on Canvas, 91 x 91 cm

\$3,250

Photo: Louis Lim. Courtesy of the artist and Onespace.



**Paula Payne**  
***Shifting Sands 2, 2025***  
Acrylic on Canvas, 91 x 91 cm

\$3,250

Photo: Louis Lim. Courtesy of the artist and Onespace.



**Paula Payne**

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**Paula Payne**  
***Remnant*, 2025**

Acrylic on Canvas, 50 x 50 cm

\$1,100

Photo: Louis Lim. Courtesy of the artist and Onespace.



**Paula Payne**  
***Shaft*, 2025**

Acrylic on Canvas, 50 x 50 cm

\$1,100

Photo: Louis Lim. Courtesy of the artist and Onespace.



**Paula Payne**  
***Making Tracks*, 2025**

Acrylic on Canvas, 50 x 50 cm

\$1,100

Photo: Louis Lim. Courtesy of the artist and Onespace.

# STOCKROOM WORKS

Paula Payne

*Shifting Sands of Land and Memory*

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Paula Payne

*The Neck, 2025*

Acrylic on Canvas, 120 x 100 cm

\$3,750

Photo: Louis Lim. Courtesy of the artist and Onespace.

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Paula Payne

*Body of Water*, 2025

Acrylic on Canvas, 100 x 100 cm

\$3,750

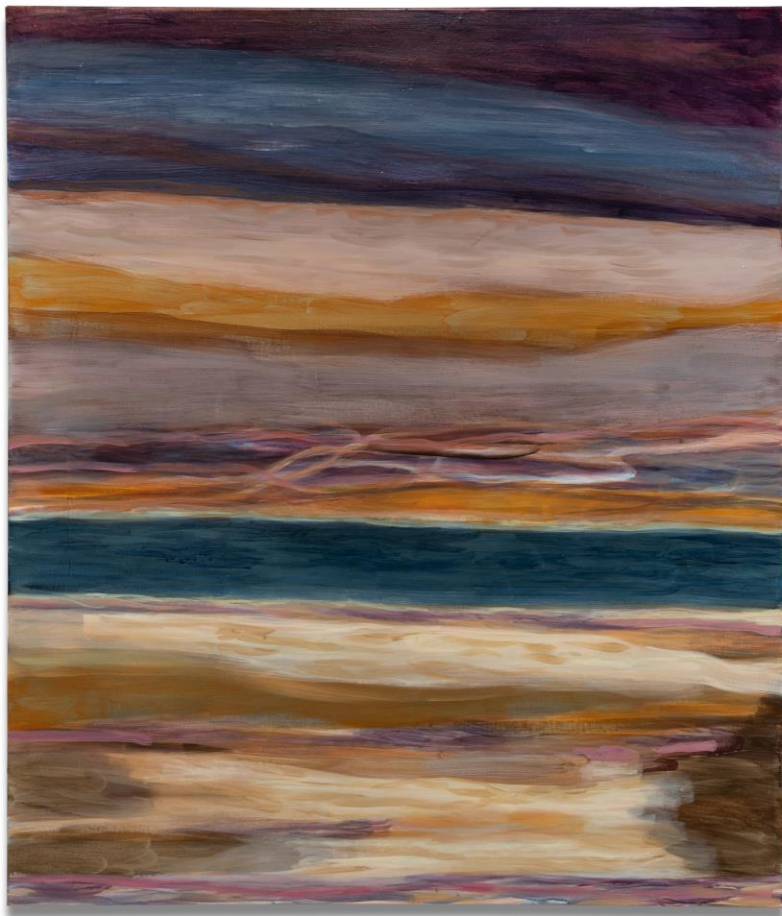
Photo: Louis Lim. Courtesy of the artist and Onespace.



Paula Payne

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Paula Payne

*On the Road, 2025*

Acrylic on Canvas, 100 x 100 cm

\$3,750

Photo: Louis Lim. Courtesy of the artist and Onespace.

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Paula Payne

*X marks the spot*, 2025

Acrylic on Canvas, 91 x 91 cm

\$3,250

Photo: Louis Lim. Courtesy of the artist and Onespace.

Onespace is a Brisbane-based gallery that presents and sells contemporary art, including work by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists.

We curate an exhibition program exploring diverse themes and media, showcasing emerging, mid-career and established artists whose works inform, stimulate and challenge. Onespace welcomes you to engage with the artists and artworks we exhibit.

Onespace is uniquely located adjacent to Maiwar (Brisbane river) beneath the Spice Apartments near the Go Between Bridge in South Brisbane. We are proudly surrounded by the dynamic buzz of the Queensland cultural precinct that is significant to this area of Brisbane.

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**Director, John Stafford:** [john@onespace.com.au](mailto:john@onespace.com.au)

**Director, Jodie Cox:** [jodie@onespace.com.au](mailto:jodie@onespace.com.au)

**Exhibitions Manager, Demi Conrad:** [demi@onespace.com.au](mailto:demi@onespace.com.au)

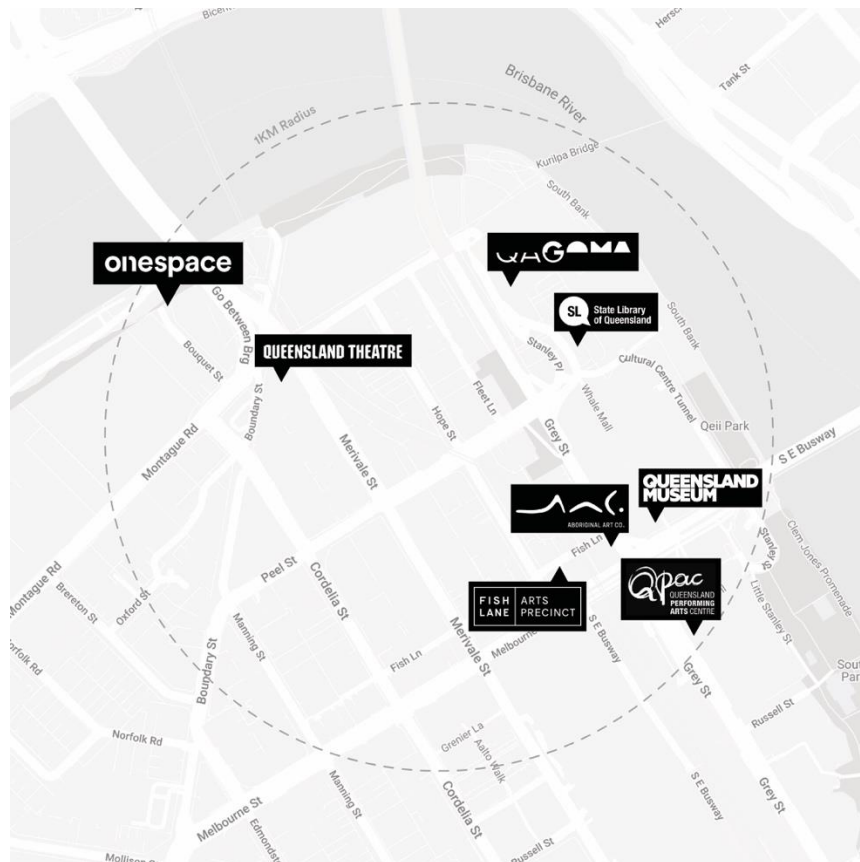
[onespace.com.au](http://onespace.com.au)

[@onespace.au](https://www.instagram.com/onespace.au)

Onespace Gallery Hours:

Wednesday to Friday 10am – 5pm, Saturday 12pm – 5pm

25A Bouquet Street, South Brisbane Q 4101 Australia



Onespace acknowledges the traditional custodians of Country throughout Australia and their continuing connection to the land, waters, culture and community. We pay our respects to elders past and present.