

# Lands' End

## BEN SAUNDERS

22 NOVEMBER 2024 - 4 JANUARY 2025

01. *Intertidal* 900  
Acrylic and mixed media on canvas  
66 x 66cm, framed in natural Tasmanian Oak

The constant ebb and flow of the tide leaves its indelible mark on the weathered rocks of the intertidal zone, where pools form and algae takes root, adapting to the ever-changing environment. This dynamic space, shaped by the rhythms of the sea, is a testament to resilience and transformation. Life here is in constant flux, responding to shifting tides, fluctuating temperatures, and the harsh forces of nature. The intertidal zone is a place of adaptation, where only the strongest and versatile forms of life thrive, enduring the relentless cycles of change that define this unique and vital ecosystem.

02. *Verdant Earth 1* 800  
Acrylic and mixed media on canvas  
60 x 60cm, framed in natural Tasmanian Oak

This evocative semi-abstract landscape series immerses viewers in a moody, atmospheric world where lush, deep green tones dominate the canvas, underscoring the vitality of the natural world. Unexpected bursts of vibrant orange and purple punctuate the compositions, introducing an element of surprise and energy that contrasts with the serene, earthy palette. These works explore the mystical and elusive spaces where the earth meets the sky—those quiet, liminal places that feel both grounded and infinite. Through bold colour contrasts and fluid forms, the series invites reflection on the dynamic interplay between nature's tranquility and its untamed power, capturing the essence of a landscape both familiar and otherworldly.

03. *Verdant Earth 2* 800  
Acrylic and mixed media on canvas  
60 x 60cm, framed in natural Tasmanian Oak

This evocative semi-abstract landscape series immerses viewers in a moody, atmospheric world where lush, deep green tones dominate the canvas, underscoring the vitality of the natural world. Unexpected bursts of vibrant orange and purple punctuate the compositions, introducing an element of surprise and energy that contrasts with the serene, earthy palette. These works explore the mystical and elusive spaces where the earth meets the sky—those quiet, liminal places that feel both grounded and infinite. Through bold colour contrasts and fluid forms, the series invites reflection on the dynamic interplay between nature's tranquility and its untamed power, capturing the essence of a landscape both familiar and otherworldly.

04. *Verdant Earth 3* 800  
Acrylic and mixed media on canvas  
60 x 60cm, framed in natural Tasmanian Oak

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05. *Winds of Change* 1300  
Acrylic and mixed media on canvas  
91 x 91cm, framed in natural Tasmanian Oak

This dreamlike, semi-abstract landscape is rendered in soft, muted pastel hues, gently suggesting the contours of coastal cliffs, rugged outcrops, and windswept grasses. The subtle interplay of colours evokes a serene, tranquil atmosphere, where the elements of nature—earth, air, and sea—blend seamlessly. The delicate forms and soothing palette invite the viewer to experience a sense of quiet reflection, as if glimpsing a distant, idealised landscape caught between memory and imagination.

06. *Against the Elements* 1300  
Acrylic and mixed media on canvas  
91 x 91cm, framed in natural Tasmanian Oak

The relentless force of pounding surf and howling winds are captured in this semi-abstract work, where the coastline stands resilient against the constant barrage of nature's power. The dynamic movement of crashing waves and swirling gusts are conveyed through bold expressive brushwork and gestural mark-making, emphasising the dramatic, ever-present tension between the forces of nature and the land's steadfast endurance.

07. *Drift* 1300  
Acrylic and mixed media on canvas  
91 x 91cm, framed in natural Tasmanian Oak

Inspired by the rugged beauty of South Australia's 'west coast', this piece transports viewers to a place of wild, untamed beauty—a landscape that invites escape and reflection. The raw, dramatic cliffs evoke the feeling of being immersed in nature's grandeur, offering a serene yet powerful vision of a place you'll long to be. With its striking forms and evocative atmosphere, the artwork captures the essence of a coastal haven where time seems to slow, and the pull of the horizon beckons!

08. *From the Shadows* 1600  
Acrylic and mixed media on canvas  
120 x 90cm, framed in natural Tasmanian Oak

The deep shadows cast by the dunes offer a welcome respite from the intense summer sun, creating a tranquil contrast with the sunlit beach and dunes beyond. Inspired by the rich, nuanced colours of the sand in shadow, this piece captures the striking interplay between light and darkness. The brilliant highlights of the sun-drenched dunes stand in sharp relief to the cool, muted tones of the shaded sand, reminding us that in order to truly appreciate the warmth of the light, we must also embrace the quiet depth of the shadows.

09. *Zepher* 900  
Acrylic and mixed media on canvas  
66 x 66cm, framed in natural Tasmanian Oak

Feel the gentle breeze and the warmth of the sun on your face as you step into this tranquil, impressionistic scene, inspired by the stunning Adelaide coastline. With soft, organic mark-making and a delicate use of light, the piece evokes the serene beauty of the shore, where land meets sea in a quiet harmony. The warm, sunlit hues and subtle textures transport you to a peaceful moment by the water, capturing the essence of the coastline's natural beauty and the soothing rhythms of the ocean.

10. *Through the Hourglass* 1600  
Acrylic and mixed media on canvas  
90 x 120cm, framed in natural Tasmanian Oak

I am continually captivated by the coastal dune systems along our metropolitan coastline—the ever-shifting sand formations, the rich palette of colours, and the rugged, resilient vegetation that thrives in this dynamic environment. The dunes, constantly reshaped by the wind and tides, reveal a striking interplay of texture and form, while the hardy plants that call this place home offer a testament to nature's ability to adapt and endure. This landscape, both fragile and enduring, is a constant source of inspiration, inviting exploration of its raw beauty and the subtle complexity of life that flourishes in such an ever-changing terrain.

11. *As the Tide Turned* 980  
Acrylic, collage and mixed media on cradled birch panel  
61 x 76cm

This piece explores the striking granite formations of the Bay of Fires, where ancient rocks stand resilient against the ever-changing tides. The movement of the sea around these formations is both mesmerising and humbling, as the rocks, timeless yet transient, shift and weather under the constant forces of nature. Fascinated by the way these structures mark the transition between land, sea, and sky, this work reflects on the tension between solidity and impermanence, inviting the viewer to contemplate the enduring power and fragility of the natural world.

12. *Ebb and Flow* 980  
Acrylic, collage and mixed media on cradled birch panel  
61 x 76

The Bay of Fires, Tasmania, with its crystal-clear turquoise waters and vibrant rock pools, provided the inspiration for this piece. The stunning orange-tinged granite formations, weathered by time and tide, anchor the composition, while the gentle movement of the water around them evokes a sense of tranquility and rhythm. This work captures the unique beauty of Binalong Bay, where the elements meet in a delicate balance, and the natural world is in a constant state of flux.

13. *Of Wind and Wave* 1500  
Acrylic and mixed media on canvas  
81 x 81cm, framed in natural Tasmanian Oak

This work, awarded First Prize in the Mark Butler Art Award 2024, is the fourth in a series inspired by the stunning Bay of Fires, Tasmania. It delves into the dramatic effects of constant tidal movement on the region's iconic granite outcrops, capturing the interplay of water, wind, and time. The piece reflects the way the relentless ebb and flow of the tide reshapes and erodes these ancient formations, imbuing them with a sense of both permanence and fluidity. Through dynamic composition and texture, the work invites the viewer to contemplate the ever-changing yet enduring beauty of this rugged coastal landscape.

For sales and information contact Ben Saunders | [benjamin025@bigpond.com](mailto:benjamin025@bigpond.com)