

## Alison Percy Exhibition Review (Extract) by Tracie MacVean

GIGS Art Gallery is situated at Gateway Village arts and cultural precinct and is a prime venue for artists. Open since 2009, exhibitions are held monthly featuring local and regional artists.

FROM LIFE: *the figure* showcases a striking body of artwork featuring the nude figure by artist and designer Alison Percy. Held at GIGS Art Gallery, Lincoln Causeway, Wodonga, from 21<sup>st</sup> May until 14<sup>th</sup> June, this show is highly recommended. These works range from paintings using ink, acrylic and watercolour to drawings with charcoal and pastel on canvas or paper. This body of 41 works demonstrates that Percy understands the mediums of choice and uses them to interpret the beauty of the human form.

The hanging starts clockwise from the entrance. A freestanding wall in the centre of the room displays 7 artworks. Each work has been uniformly framed and matted in white, with plenty of space between the works. There is clarity in the hanging as each work is led into the next. One becomes aware of how the artist has responded to each different medium to capture the nude figure.

Upon entrance to the gallery space, the viewer is immediately drawn towards the opposite wall which displays an ink painting, which was used on the flyer. The only piece in the body of work that has been done on canvas is an exquisite horizontal painting portrays an elegant reclining nude titled "*Nudescape I*". An effective range of opacities of ink washes suggest the subtle curves. Alison has used the marks made by the dripping of the ink to her advantage. There is a melancholy feeling about the position of the figure, a dribble of ink runs across her face which suggests a tear.

In the wall text provided the artist mentions how 'dagger brushes were most frequently used' (Percy, A. 2015) which is illustrated in the traditional Japanese calligraphy influence of using precise and fluid marks.

The catalogue provided is clear and displays all necessary information including the exhibition running dates and listing of the titles, mediums and price of each piece. The artist has also provided the option of buying an original with or without a frame.

This collection of harmonious artworks uses a mode of expression which is striking and elegant. Alison Percy (2015) has a passion for life drawing which 'inspires endless exploration into the nuances of the human figure' that is evident in each mark.

### References

Percy, A. (2015) *Alison Percy Designer*. Retrieved from <http://www.alisonpercydesigner.com.au/>

Percy, A. (2015) FROM LIFE: *the figure*. Exhibition wall text, GIGS Art Gallery