

WATERLINE

ARTIST STATEMENT – BARBIE KJAR 2014

BRYRON , “ROLL ON, THOU DEEP AND DARK BLUE OCEAN-ROLL UNCONTROLLED, UN RAVAGED, UNBUILT OVER.....”

IT IS THIS SEA THAT TURNER PAINTED, A SEA OF PURE, UNPENT NATURE AT ITS WILDEST AND SYMBOLIC OF A FREE SPIRIT.

THIS WORK HAS BEEN INFLUENCED BY STORIES OF THE SEA, SOURCED FROM WRITERS AS DIVERSE AS MELVILLE, HEMINGWAY, BORGES, RADCLIFFE, DICKENSON, AND MORE CONTEMPORARY WRITERS, ADRIENNE EBERHARD, PHILIP HOAR AND MANY MORE.

MY HERITAGE IS SEAFARING, ON MY FATHER’S SIDE A DANISH SEA CAPTAIN FROM DENMARK, ON MY MOTHER’S, CORNISH BLOOD WITH LINKS TO THE SEAFARING SPANISH.

I LIVE NEXT TO A BEACH, KINGSTON BEACH, TASMANIA AND FOR SIX MONTHS OF THE YEAR I SWIM IN THE OCEAN.

THIS EXHIBITION ‘WATERLINE’ IS DIVIDED BY THE WATERLINE, ABOVE AND BELOW.

UNDER THE WATERLINE THERE ARE MANY UNKNOWNNS, IN FACT IN SOME AREAS OF THE WORLD THE DEPTH HAVE NOT BEEN CALCULATED UNDER THE SEA, THERE ARE A MYRIAD OF LIVING CREATURES AND DUE TO GLOBAL WARMING THERE APPEAR TO BE LARGER NUMBERS OF JELLYFISH. ALSO IN SOUTH TASMANIA THIS YEAR A JELLYFISH OF GIGANTIC PROPORTION WAS WASHED UP ON THR BEACH.

THE FRIEZE OF UNDERWATER CREATURES, TITLED AQUARIUM INCLUDES JELLYFISH, SHRIMP WHICH APPEAR TO BE FROM DR WHO (WITH EYES ON ANTENNNAE AND LASSO LIKE LEGS) AND OTHER ORGANISMS.

UNDER THE WATERLINE IS SYNONYMOUS WITH THE SUBCONSCIUOS, THE IMAGINARY AND THE DREAM STATE.

IN MY RESEARCH I DISCOVERED THE SPANISH LEGEND OF THE FISH MAN OF LIERGANES. (SPANISH TRANSLATION HOMBRE PEZ)

It is a story about a man who disappears from the North of Spain while he was swimming in the sea and reappears five years later in Cadiz(S. Spain).

He still looked like the same young man but had developed some fish like signs such as a strip of scales that went down from his throat to his stomach, another that covered his spine and also guts around his neck. The Spanish writer, Feijos claimed this story was true in 1679.

ABOVE THE WATERLINE DEALS WITH JOURNEYS, SAILORS,
VOYAGES OF EXPLORATION.

ELIAS CANETTI WRITES IN HIS BOOK, CROWDS AND POWER, THAT EVERY PERSON IS PRONE TO SEE HIM/HERSELF AS CAPTAIN OF A SHIP AT SEA.

THE IMAGE LULU AT THE HELM REFLECTS THE IDEA OF STEERING, DIRECTION, POWER AND NAVIGATION, ALSO CONCEPT OF BEING IN CHARGE OF ONE'S DESTINY BUT ALSO AT THE WHIM OF THE FORCE OF THE UNKNOWN WILD SEAS.

Borges, The SEA

'BEFORE OUR HUMAN DREAM (or terror)WOVE
MYTHOLOGIES, COSMOLOGIES, AND LOVE,
BEFORE TIME COINED ITS SUBSTANCE INTO DAYS,
THE SEA, THE ALWAYS SEA, EXISTED;WAS.
WHO IS THE SEA? WHO IS THAT VIOLENT EING,
VIOLENT AND ANCIENT, WHO GNAWS THE FOUNDATIONS
OF EARTH ? HE IS BOTH ONE AND MANY OCEANS;
HE IS ABYSS AND SPLENDOR, CHANCE AND WIND.
WHO LOOK AT THE SEA, SEES IT FOR THE FIRST TIME,
EVERY TIME ,WITH THE WONDER DISTILLED
FROM ELEMENTARY THINGS-FROM BEAUTIFUL
EVENINGS, THE MOON, THE LEAP OF A BONFIRE.
WHO IS THE SEA? AND WHO AM I? THE DAY
THAT FOLLOWS MY LAST AGONY SHALL SAY