

Ken Done

Ken Done 87

We seem to know so many of Ken Done's artistic achievements: his iconic Australian fashion designs and the colourful, intuitive mark making paintings championing nature. He has rarely been out of the public eye for forty years.

Having worked in London and New York, Done returned to Sydney in 1969. In the mid-1970s, he gave up a successful advertising career, daring to take seriously the idea of becoming an artist.

Done was born in 1940 in the inner suburbs of Sydney, where he grew up until the family moved to Maclean, a small regional town in NSW. He recently said to artist Steve Lopes, "We were poor, but I had no idea we were..." His parents encouraged boyish play and to pursue his creativity. In Maclean Done recalls the Clarence River floods and observing the river's khaki colours, realising: "The influence of colour came through seeing things.". They returned to Sydney and he was given a special exemption to leave school at fourteen and a half to become the youngest student at what is now The National Art School.

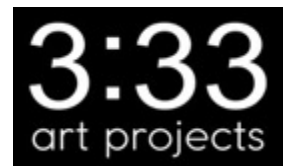
His apprenticeship was long; Done was forty when he produced his first solo exhibition at the established Holdsworth Galleries in Sydney. The Holdsworth exhibition indicated his true vision and won him praise. But unlike many of his peers, Done did not join Holdsworth or any other gallery. Instead he established his own gallery to present his own works; as he says, "I see no difference from a chef owning a restaurant." At one stage he had fifteen shops. Today, so he can devote more time to painting, he has only one gallery in Sydney's historical The Rocks.

A contemporary of the Australian Expressionist painters such as Elisabeth Cummings and Kevin Connor, Done has contributed actively in many artistic communities and curated events, locally and internationally. He has earned accolades including an Order of Australia medal. Like any authentic artist, he was both acutely aware of artistic developments and reluctant merely to accept them.

The paintings in this exhibition aren't just expressions of Australia's bright skies, the sunny ocean beaches, flowers and trees. They refer to an existence that provides plenty of room for both nature and humanity. Done's philosophy is to protect nature. This old notion of nature remains deeply new in his paintings; revealing nature's beauty to neutralise damaging human designs. Just as in his earlier Barrier Reef paintings, the artist captures a confidence in the ability of the natural world to renew itself.

The Sydney Opera House has been a constant source of inspiration since its opening for Done. Done reflects: "I've drawn it straight. I've painted it in white, yellow, blue, pink, magenta, emerald, turquoise, purple and black. I've painted it soft, hard edged, ethereal, misty, blatant and bold. Upside-down, sideways and inside out." His paintings make the point that it is one thing to discuss harmful human designs, yet quite another to achieve a revolution for nature.

- Kon Gouriotis OAM



Available works are subject to change, including prices and availability. All prices include GST.

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Cobalt reef

2019

Oil and acrylic on linen

183 x 246 cm

\$60,000



Heron Island dive

2020

Oil and acrylic on linen

183 x 244 cm

\$50,000



No. 7
2020
Oil on linen
183 x 244 cm
\$50,000



Vase
1983
Oil on canvas
80 x 100 cm
\$35,000



Boats and palm tree

1981

Oil and acrylic on board

45 x 60 cm

\$17,500



Magenta afternoon

2017

Oil on linen

100 x 140 cm

\$16,000



Sydney dreaming II

2007

Acrylic on canvas

150 x 122 cm

\$28,000



*Opera House, city,
harbour III*

1998

Acrylic on canvas

168 x 183cm

\$30,000



Christmas tree reef II

2014

Oil on linen

183 x 152 cm

\$30,000



Studio view, orange trees

2021

Oil and acrylic on linen

102 x 82 cm

\$12,500



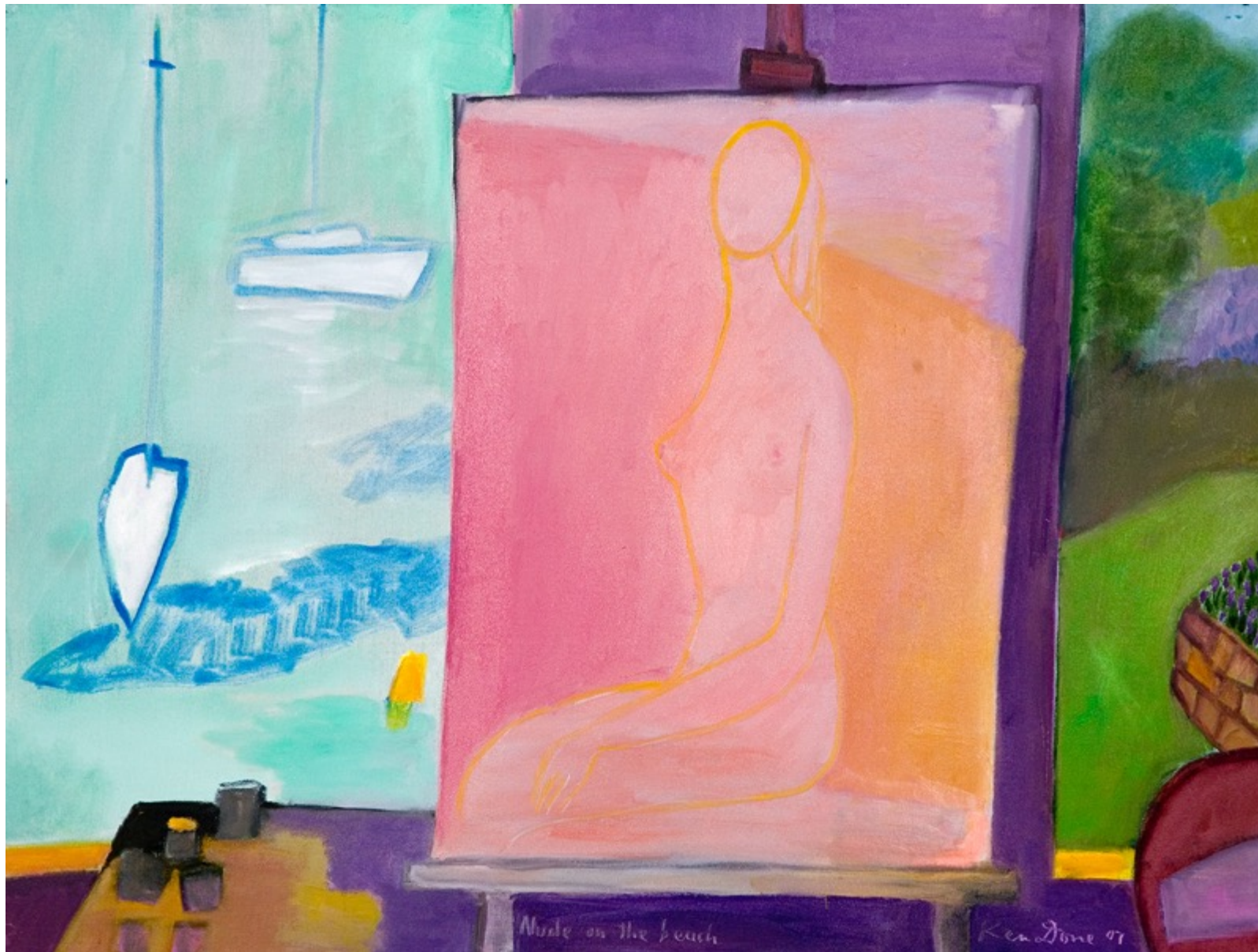
Nude blue border

2021

Acrylic on canvas

102 x 82 cm

\$12,500



Nude on the beach

2007

Oil and acrylic on canvas

76 x 101 cm

\$9,500



Gazebo and garden

1997

Ink on paper

50 x 66 cm

\$3,250

Palms



Palms
2017
Oil crayon on paper
20.5 x 29 cm
\$2,000



Big
orange
Coralhead
Fiji

Big orange coral head Fiji
2018
Oil crayon and coloured
pencil on paper
28 x 37 cm
\$2,000



Rowley Shoals I

2014

Gouache, oil crayon and
coloured pencil on paper

21 x 29 cm

\$2,250



Thinking about Toberua
2002
Ink on paper
22 x 28 cm
\$1,600



Bure
1991
Ink on paper
30 x 22 cm
\$1,500



Keri Dore
Jacaranda hillside (c)
Nov 98

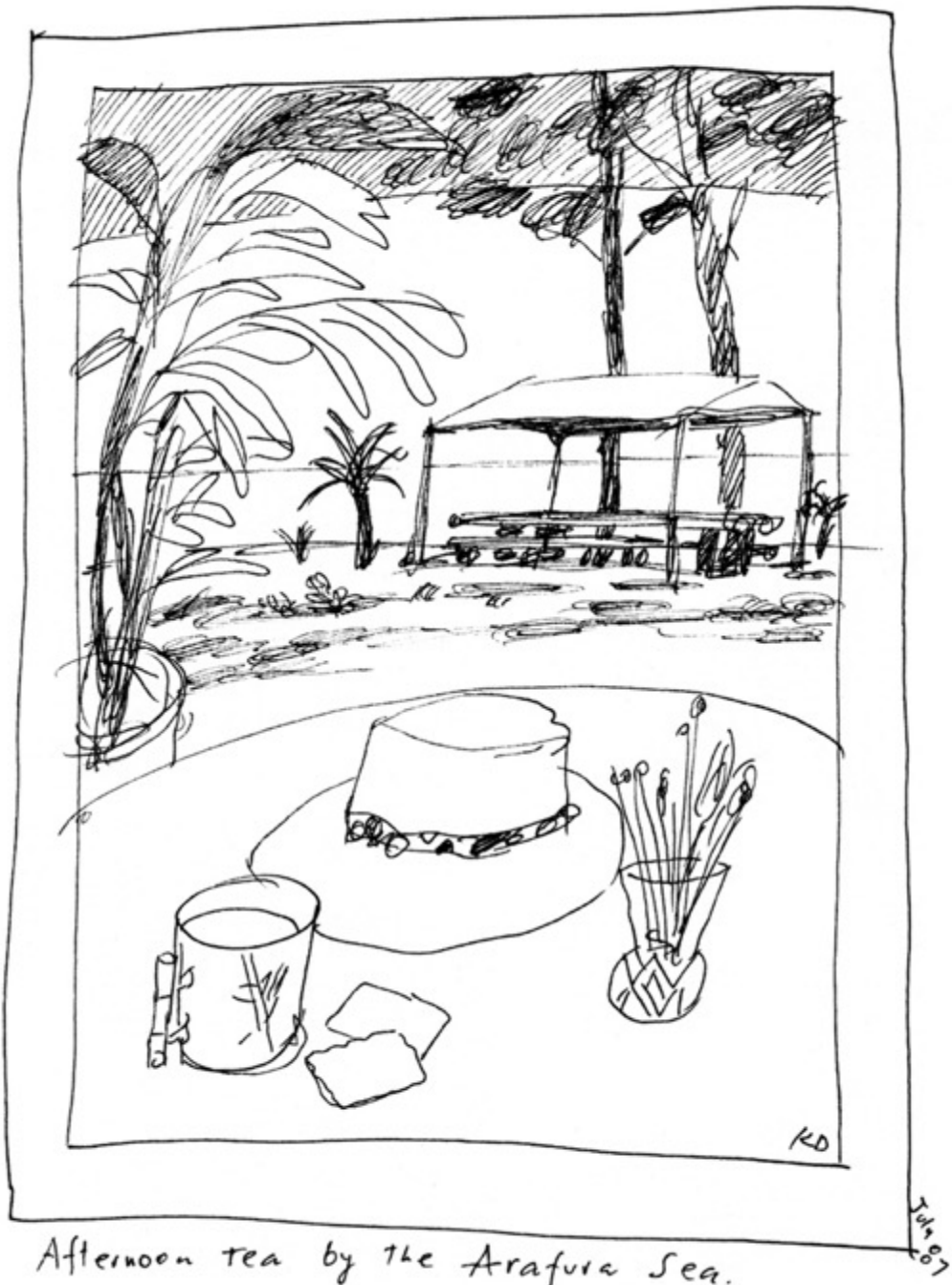
Jacaranda hillside

1998

Oil crayon and coloured pencil on
paper

18 x 12 cm

\$1,200



Afternoon tea by the Arafura Sea.

Afternoon tea by the Arafura sea

1997

Ink on paper

21 x 14 cm

\$1,400



Chinamans in summer
1987
Oil on canvas
104 x 182 cm
NFS - Print available



Sunday
1982
Oil on canvas
102 x 82 cm
NFS - Print available



The cabin studio

1980

Oil on canvas

76 x 289 cm

NFS - Print available

