

**Ella Dunn**  
*Girl from the North  
Country*

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11.4.18–05.05.18

Condensed and abstracted, this collection of recent painted work amalgamates memories of regional, remote and romantic experience with coastal plains. Dunn captures the rural through platitudes of quiet dwelling; a figure stretching free on an ambiguous mattress-pool plain drifting into the night sky, a sunflower-picker bathing under warm light and hose-shower, blue-jean arms outstretched to mount a red ochre boulder. A speedo-donning flipper-wearer propels themselves up and outward into deep blue sea-sky.

On charmingly mismatched and found boards, Dunn explores the nature of place-specific language in the shaping of memory in compositions which slowly unravel, giving subtle clues but maintaining ambiguity. Borrowing the titular of Dian Thomas' 1974 New York Times Best Selling 'Roughing It Easy', Dunn humorously critiques the inherent privilege within the idea of 'roughing it' as a lifestyle choice, re-painting the capitalised title on a sawed segment of an old painting attached to a cupboard door. Further indications of regional place are found in the corner of a green numbered road sign, a 'fragile' transportation box, a rusted tea-tin, breakfast fry-up of bacon and eggs sitting atop a camp table and a note for a particularly nicotine-happy pool-table patron.

Painted from sketches and memory, this body of work combines close-proximity portraiture and landscape, framing non-metropolitan imagery and country from a singular and abstracted perspective.

by Brigid Hansen



Ella Dunn's practice is focused on the exploration of the world of the 'everyday', paying homage to the 'everyday' man. Bringing to light the sometimes humorous, peculiar or absurd moments that can take place in mundane, familiar experiences. Dunn investigates connections of time, place and characters within her personal world.

Ella Dunn spent her formative years growing up in the mid-north coast of NSW and is currently living and working in Melbourne. Dunn completed her Bachelor of Fine Arts with an Honours year in 2017 and has been exhibiting since 2014. Dunn has exhibited in Sutton Project Space, Melbourne City library, Monsalvate Gallery, Forty Five Downstairs, Melbourne University House and most recently shown works in 'The Dirty Dozen' space in Flinders street's 'Campbell Arcade'. Dunn has been awarded the John Vickery Drawing Scholarship in 2015 and the National Gallery of Victoria Women's Association Award, VCA Graduate show 2016.

[ellardunn4@gmail.com](mailto:ellardunn4@gmail.com)

[elladunn.wordpress.com/](http://elladunn.wordpress.com/)

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Bus Projects  
25-31 Rokeby Street,  
Collingwood,  
VIC 3066 Australia.  
*[busprojects.org.au/](http://busprojects.org.au/)*

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