

Jenny Sages  
Transience of Time

King Street Gallery  
on William

10am – 6pm Tuesday – Saturday

177 William St Darlinghurst NSW 2010 Australia

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galleries association

Jenny Sages (born 1933, Shanghai; arrived Australia 1948; lives in Sydney)

Jenny Sages' understated paintings have a quiet, nuanced beauty. Her vision is abstract, organic, poetic and intuitive rather than rational and representational. It is both intimate and overarching, but never detached. Her abstraction is grounded in the small details of organic life - the shapes, the tones and textures of vegetation, the desiccated skins of animals, the weathered patina of abandoned things. Yet it is imbued also with a larger, more ineffable dimension. This may have something to do with a poetics of immanence, the apprehension of beauty and meaning that is encoded in the nature of things, and connecting the organic, mortal universe.

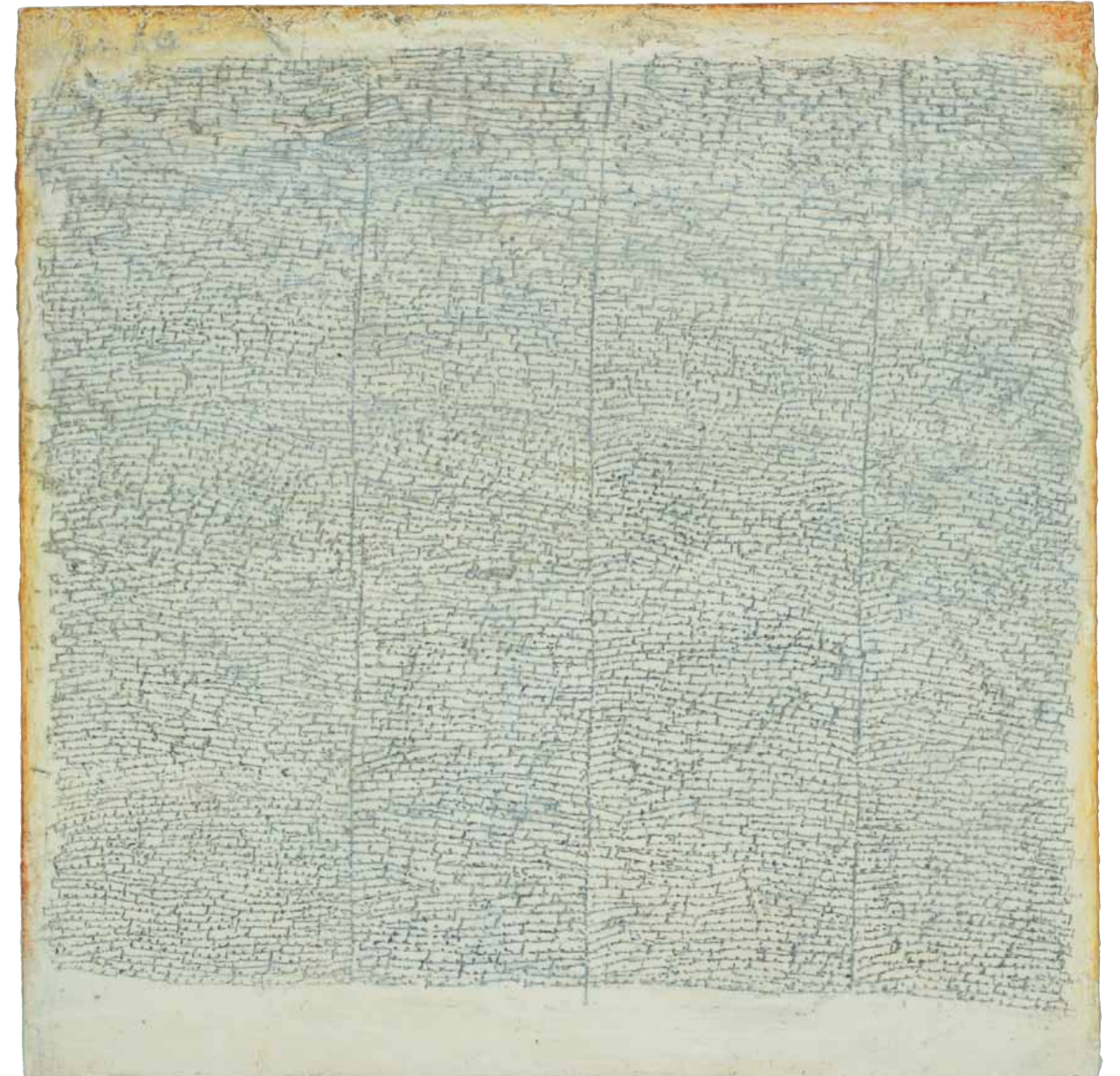
Her paintings are testaments to her sense of connection with the natural environment of the inland. For twenty four years from the mid 1980s until 2008 Sages made annual sojourns with groups of women friends to walk the land and paint the landscape. Over many years of trekking through the landscape of Central and Northern Australia she developed lasting friendships with local indigenous people, and has gained a partial insight into their traditional relationship with the land. Her approach to abstraction is not imitative of Aboriginal art but there are affinities evident in her repetitive organic rhythms and textures, and in the underlying allusions to nature as a well-spring of spiritual understanding. Rosalie Gascoigne's poetic assemblages of found, weathered things are another influence that resonates through her work.

Sages makes each painting by following an intuitive process, never quite knowing where she is going to end up. However she works within the parameters of an habitual approach. In 1991 she wrote, 'The creative process is a distillation of experiences which in turn beget a concept which is converted into a visual image captured in material form.' Starting with subtly textured, hand-made paper or with board, she applies encaustic, oils and pigment, impressing the soft waxy surface with delicate linear tracers and scratchy markings, into which she works earthy pigments. She eliminates nearly all but the most subtle colour to allow the luminosity of the encaustic to emit a quiet, meditative presence.

Jenny Sages is a graduate of the Franklin School of Art, New York. She did not turn to art full time until 1985, after a successful career as a freelance book and fashion illustrator.

In addition to her landscape paintings she is a highly regarded portrait artist. She has exhibited frequently in the Archibald and Wynne Prize Exhibitions, winning the Wynne Prize in 2005. She was awarded the Portia Geach Memorial Award for portraiture twice in 1994 and 1992. Her work has been acquired for many public collections including the National Portrait Gallery, Art Gallery of New South Wales, National Library of Australia and State Library of New South Wales.

Margot Osborne  
Curator and writer



*Calligraphy* 2011 Encaustic and pigment on board 30 x 30cm



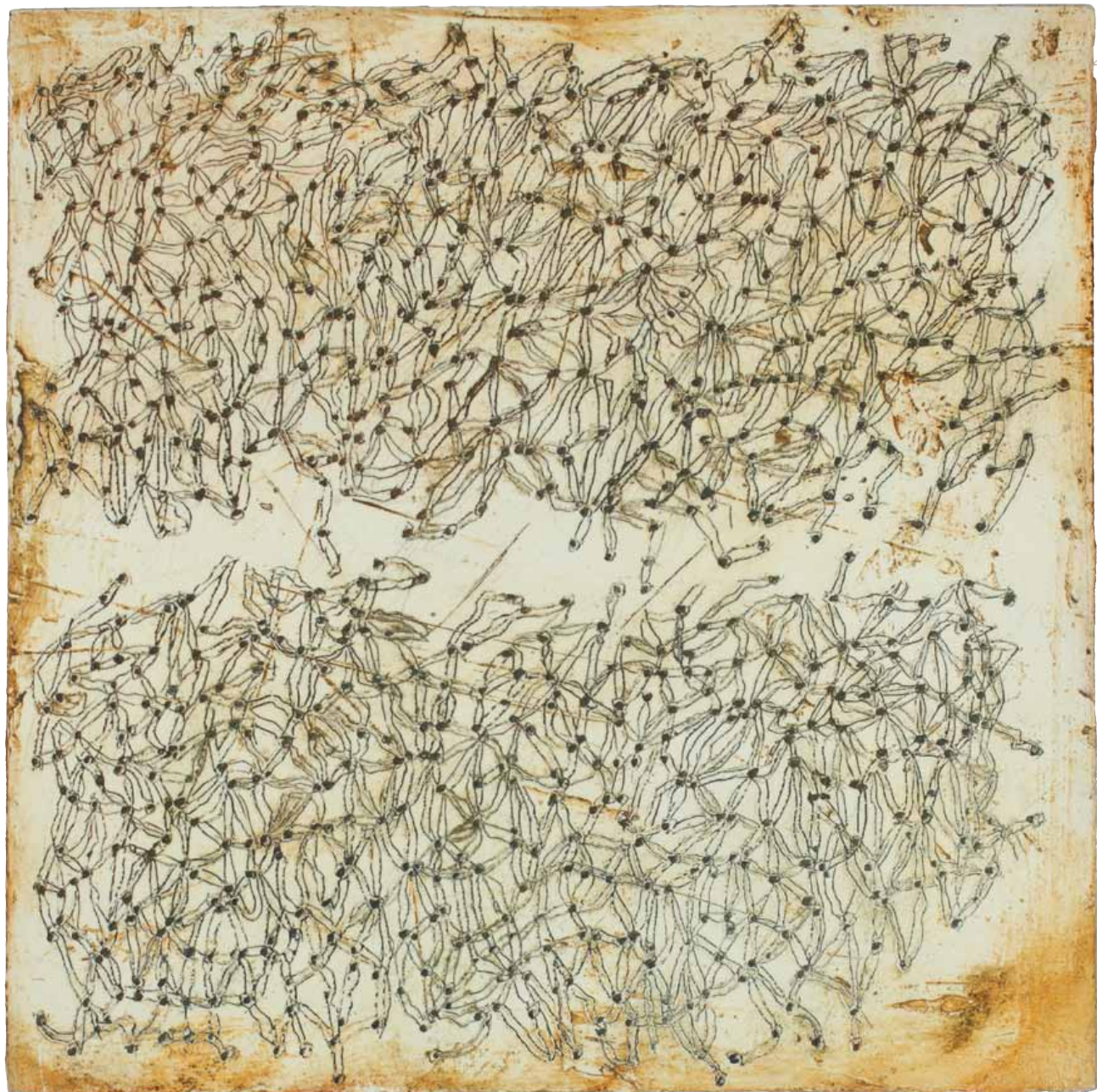
*Spinifex Country* 2011 Encaustic and pigment on board 108 x 120cm



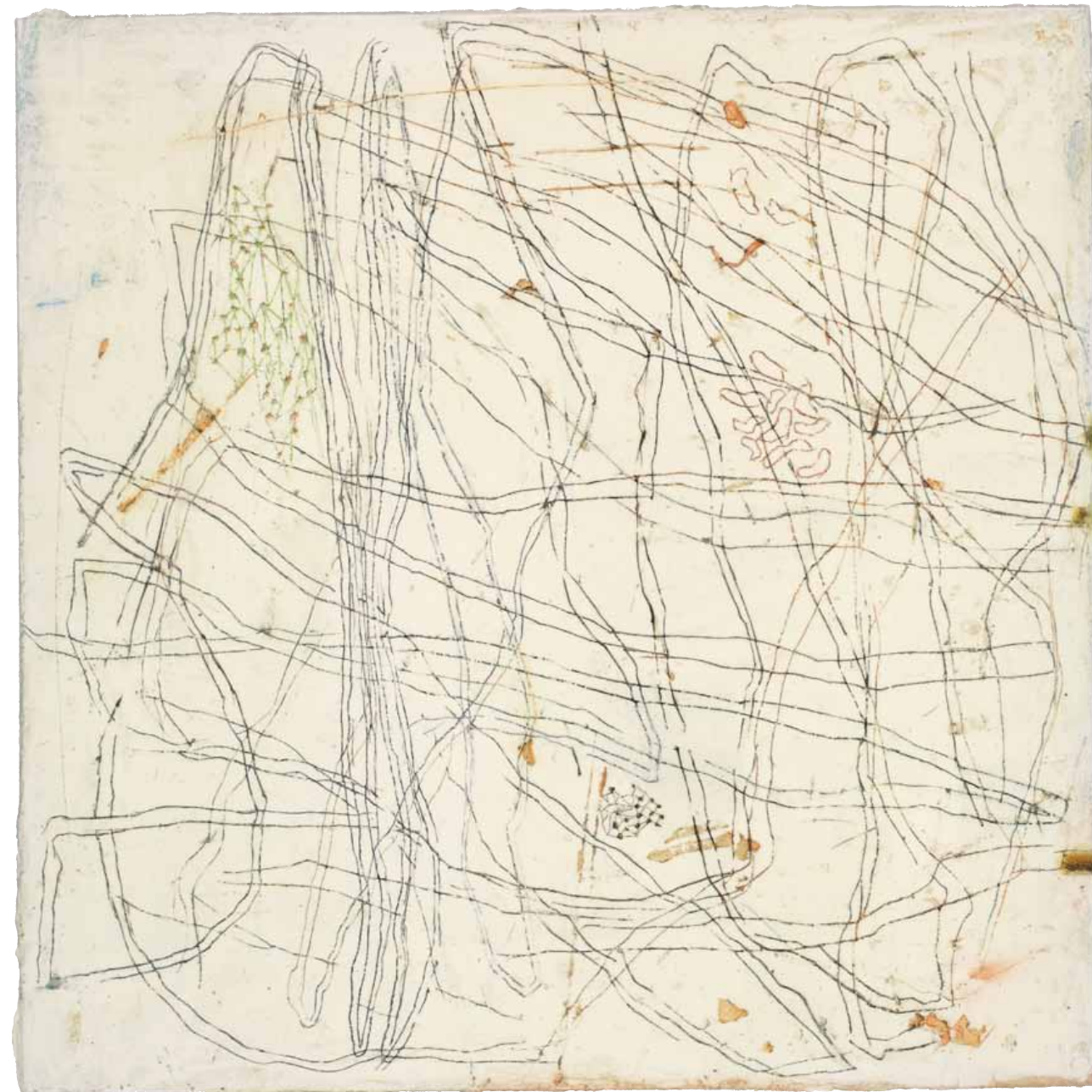
*After the Flood* 2011 Encaustic and pigment on board 100 x 75cm



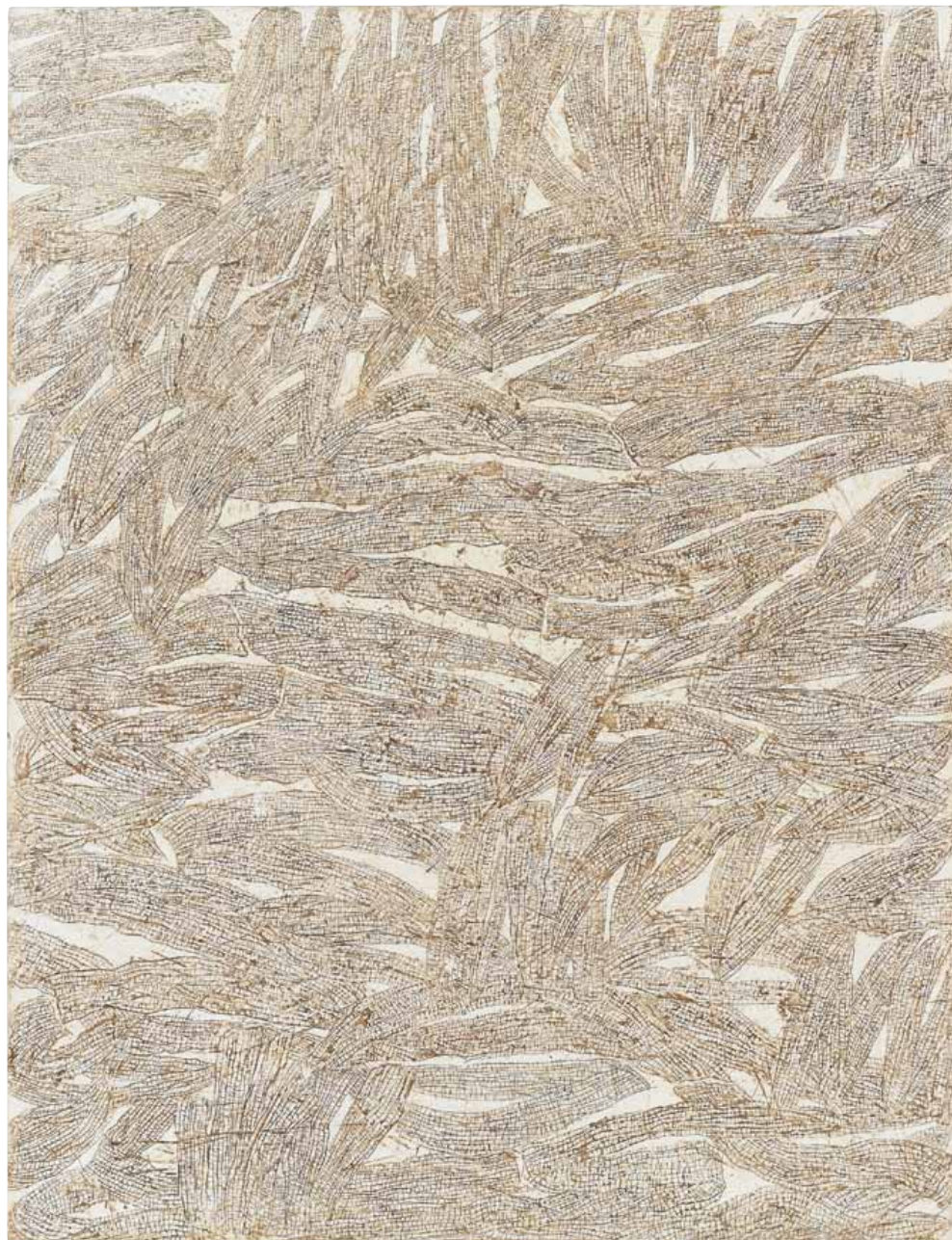
*Grid* 2011 Encaustic and pigment on board 52 x 32cm



*Underwater* 2011 Encaustic and pigment on board 30 x 30cm



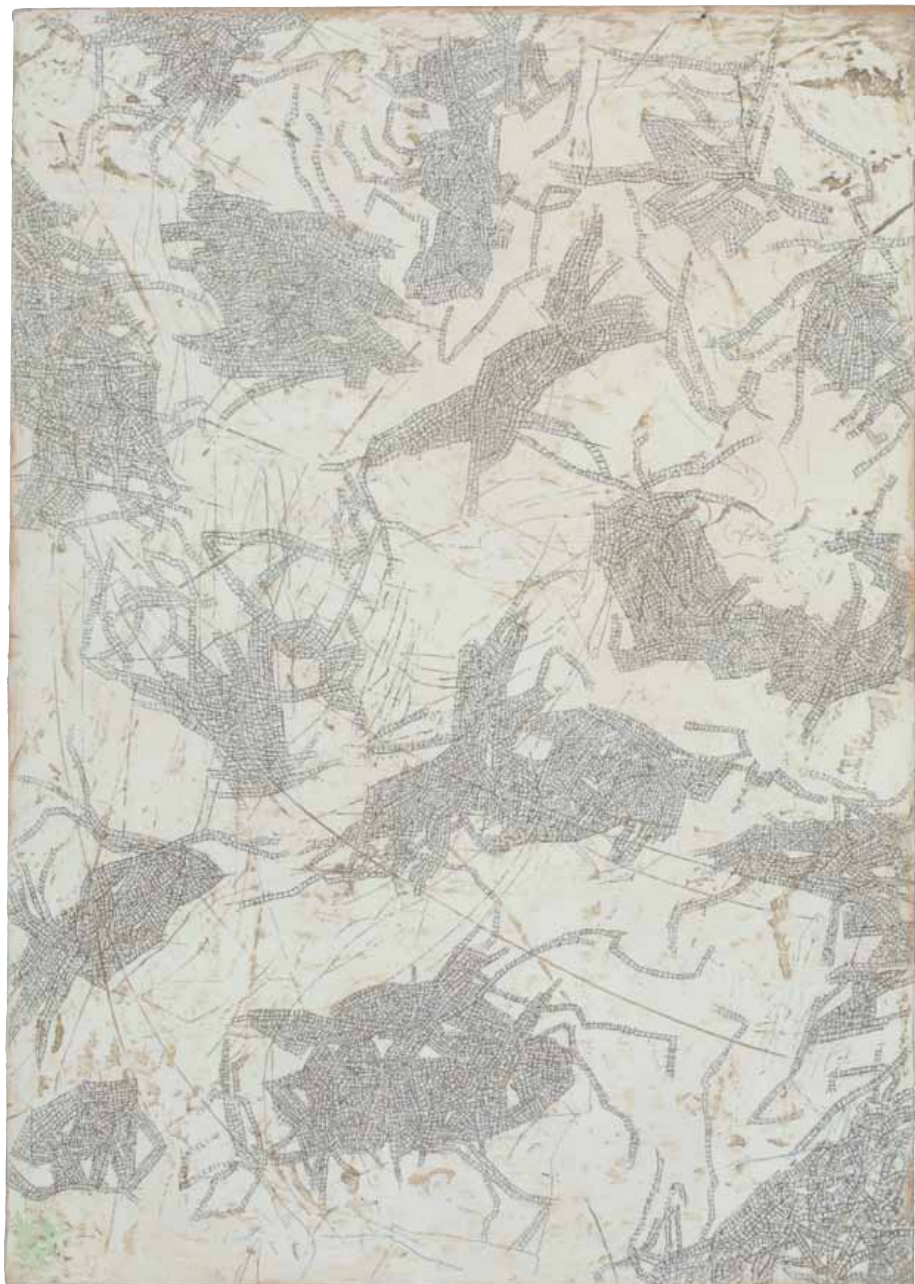
*Just Testing* 2011 Encaustic and pigment on board 30 x 30cm



*Elements From The Past* 2009 Encaustic and pigment on board 122 x 94cm



*Rockpool* 2011 Encaustic and pigment on board 120 x 120cm



*Eddie Don't Shoot The Geese* 2011 Encaustic and pigment on board 61 x 43cm



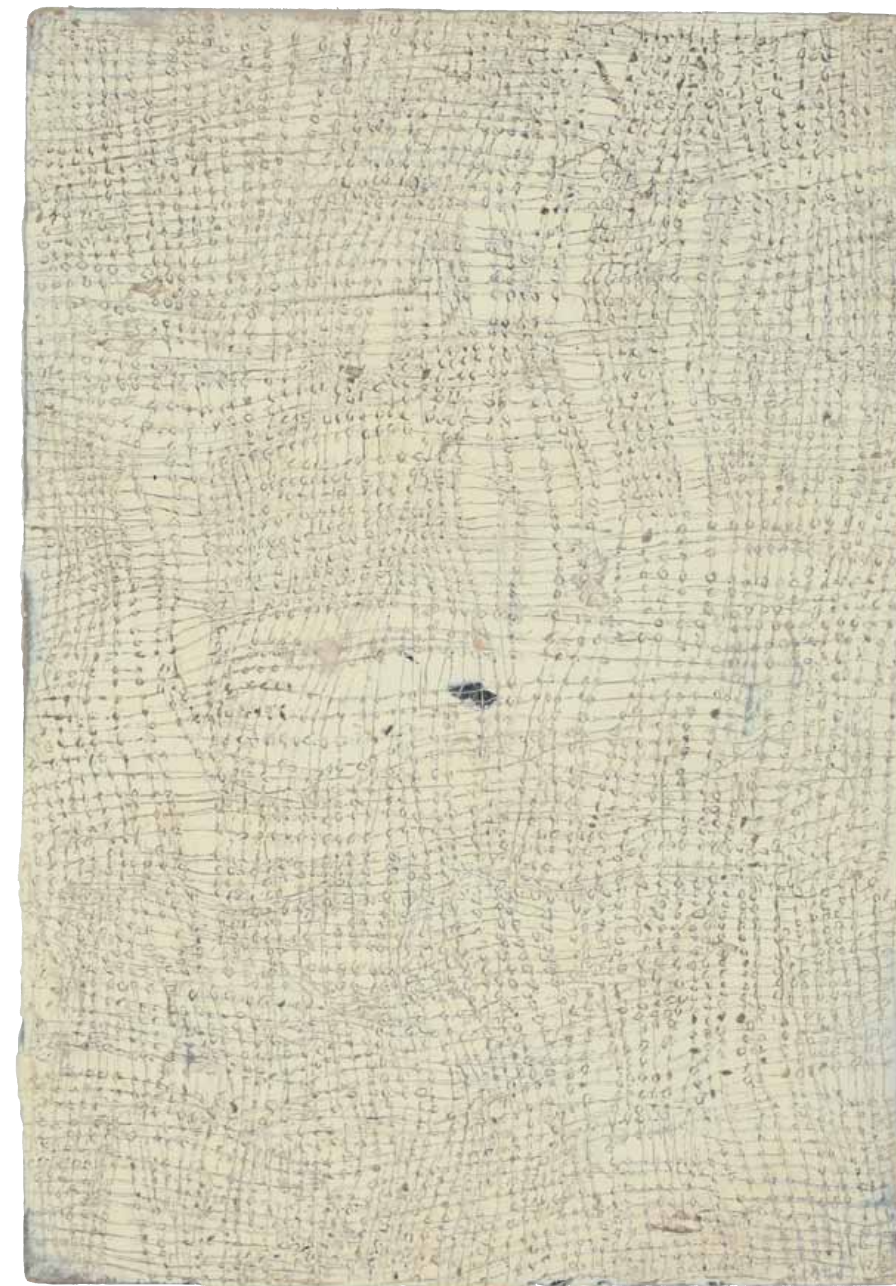
*Transmutation* 2011 Encaustic and pigment on board 60 x 40cm



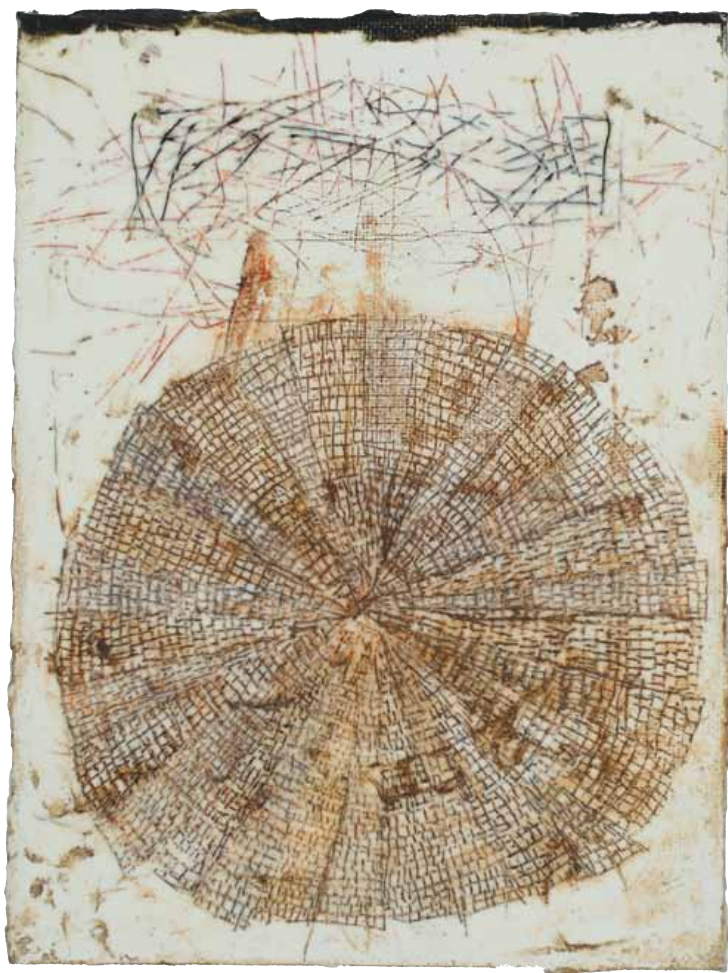
*Roots* 2011 Encaustic and pigment on board 33 x 33cm



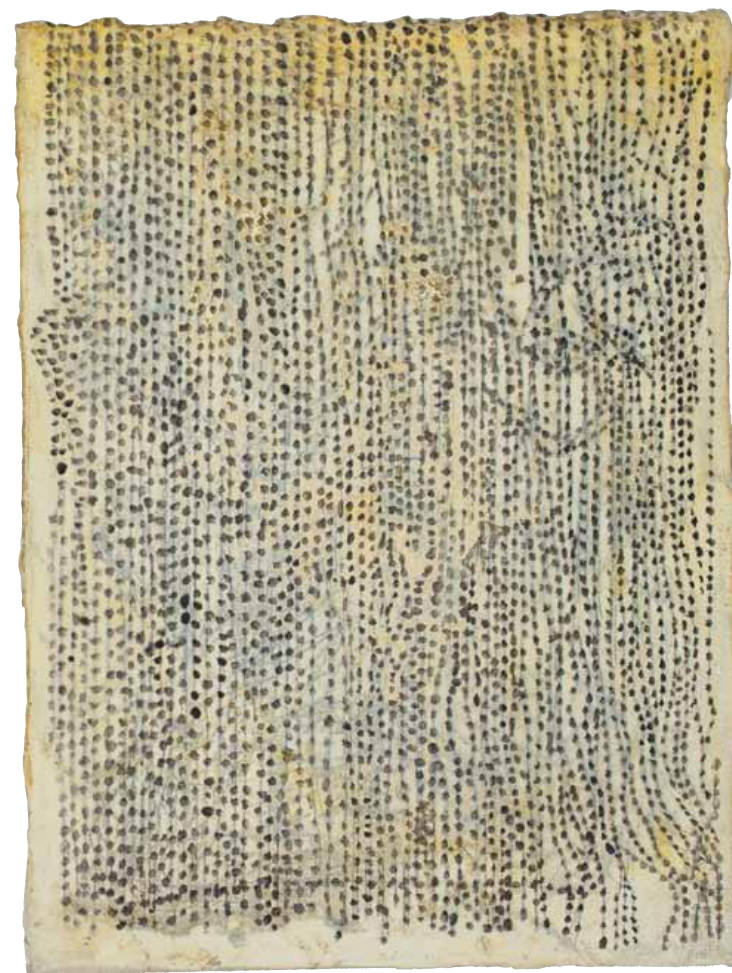
*What Ifs 1* 2011 Encaustic and pigment on board 24 x 18cm



*What Ifs 8* 2011 Encaustic and pigment on board 26 x 16.5cm



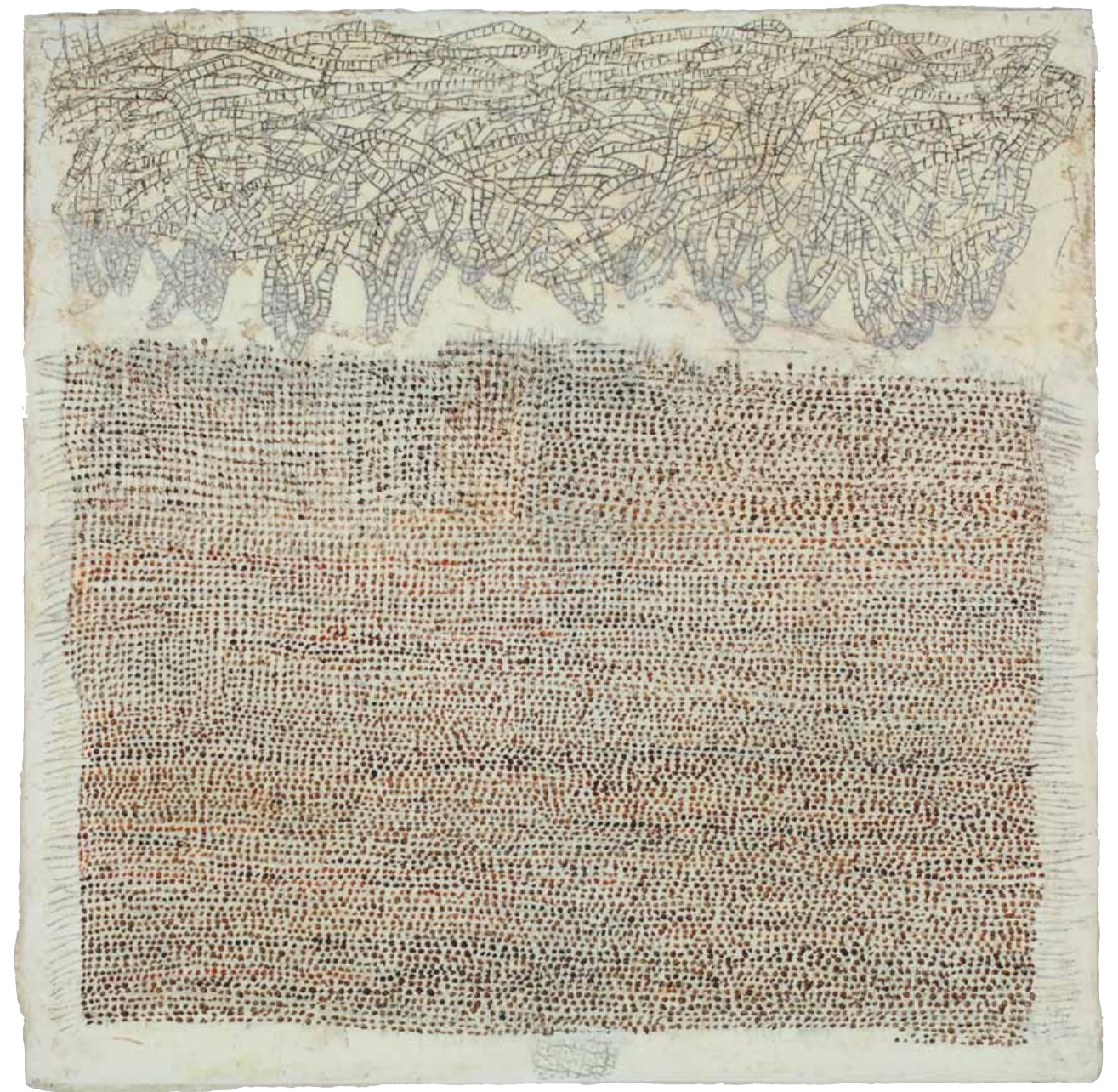
*What Ifs 3* 2011 Encaustic and pigment on board 20 x 15cm



*What Ifs 4* 2011 Encaustic and pigment on board 20 x 15cm



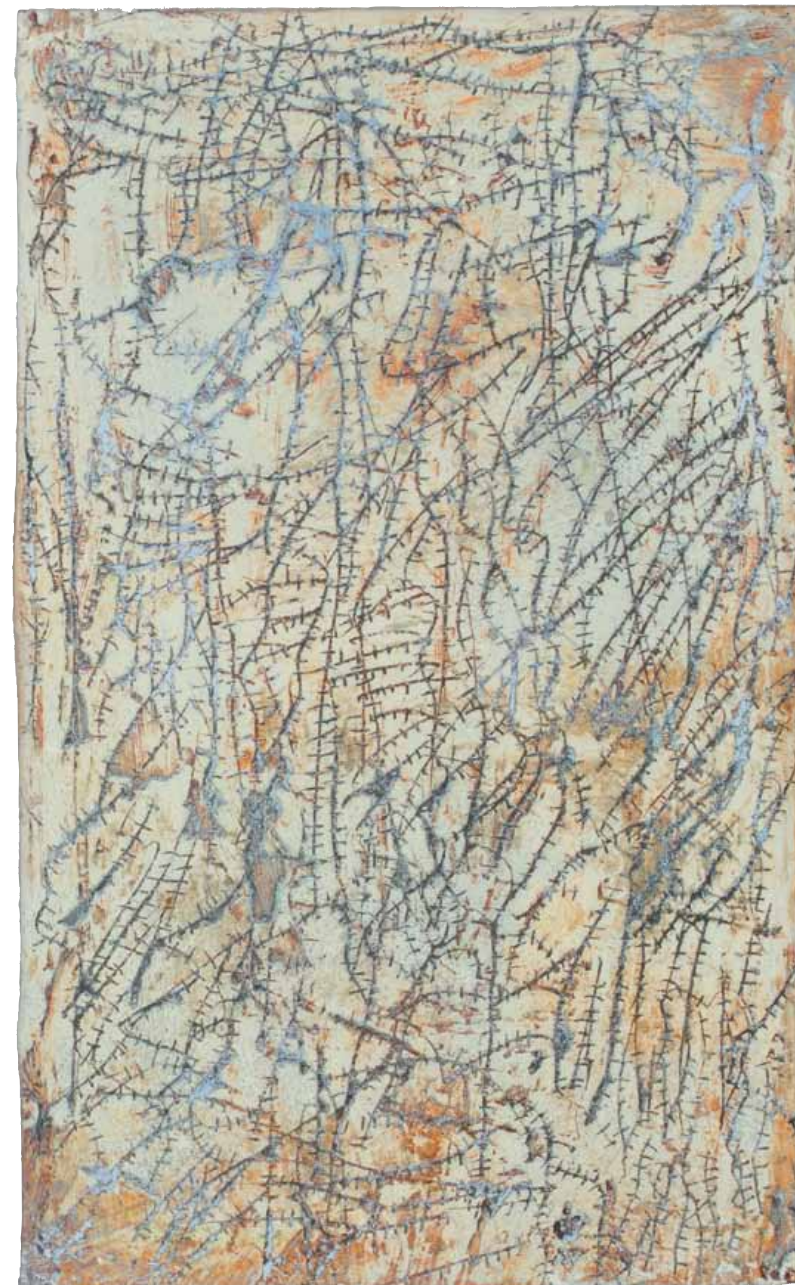
*Day After Day* 2011  
Encaustic and pigment on board 244 x 54cm



*Prayer Mat for Cairo* 2011 Encaustic and pigment on board 30 x 30cm



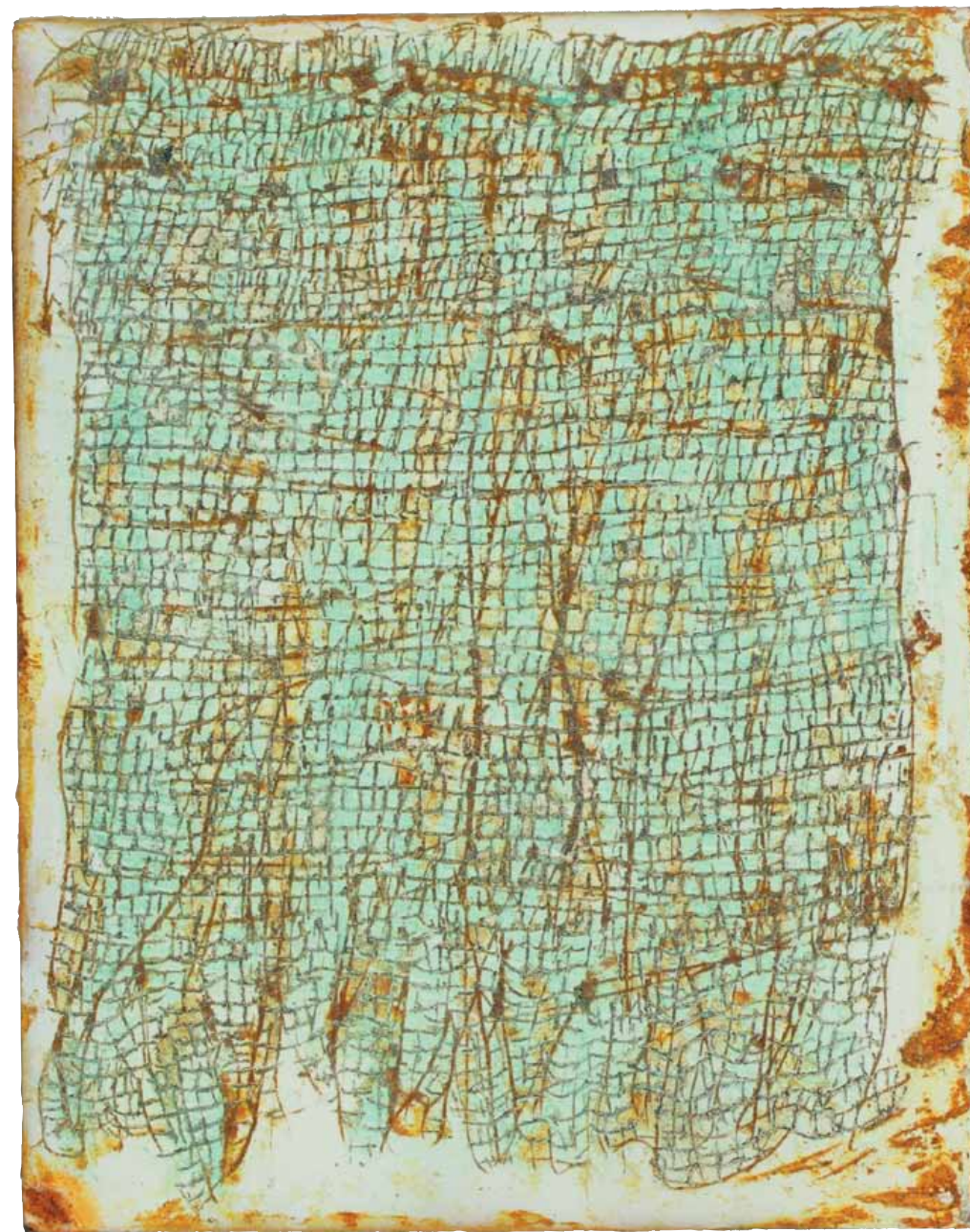
*What Ifs 7* 2011 Encaustic and pigment on board 25 x 20.5cm



*What Ifs 5* 2011 Encaustic and pigment on board 18 x 11cm



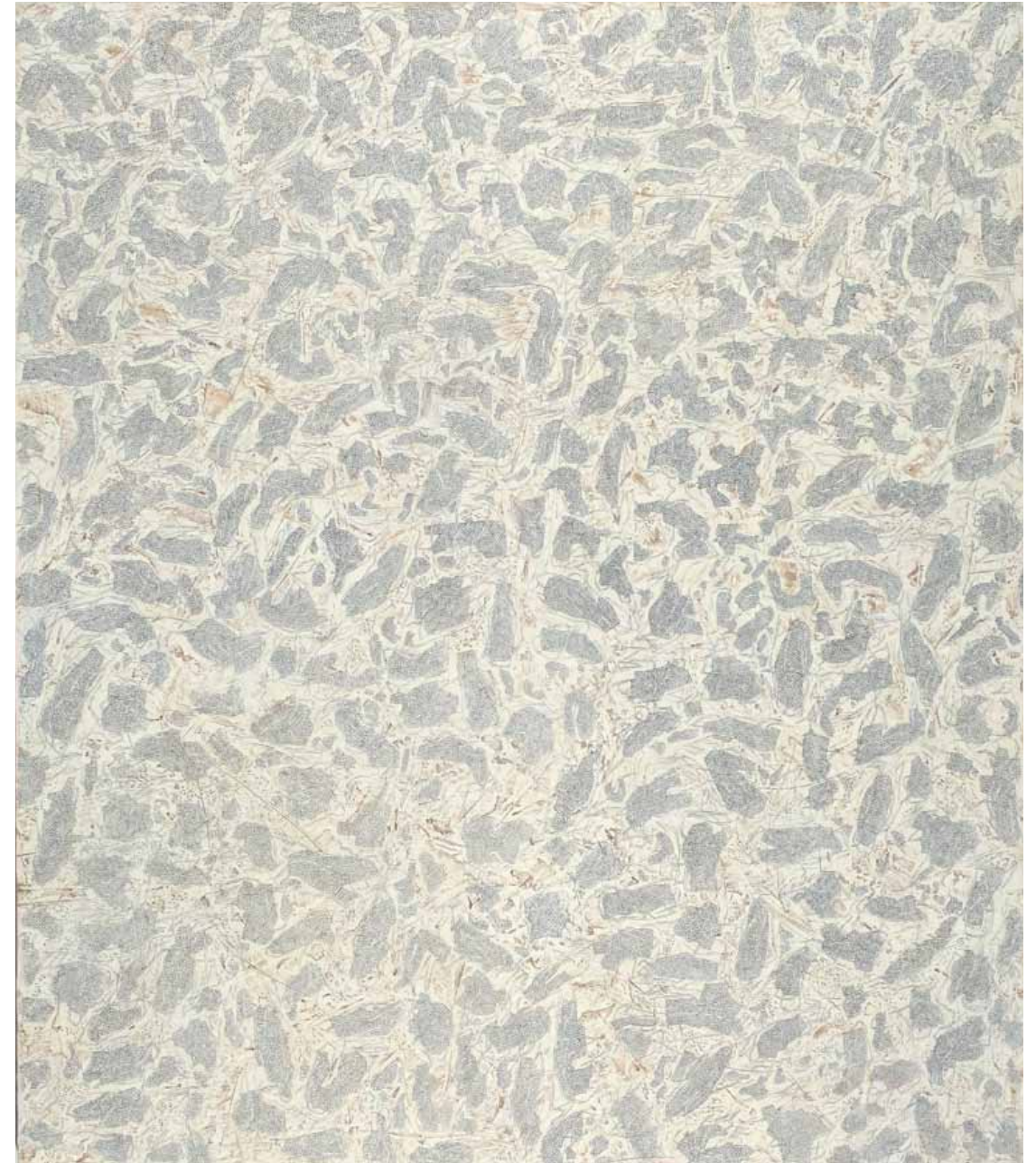
*What Ifs 2* 2011 Encaustic and pigment on board 37 x 13cm



*What Ifs 6* 2011 Encaustic and pigment on board 16 x 12.5cm



*Red Seeds Are Poisonous* 2011  
Encaustic and pigment on board 91.5 x 22cm



*After The Dry Season* 2011 Encaustic and pigment on board 162 x 140cm



2010 Abstract Nature, Samstage Museum of Art, S.A.

# Jenny Sages

## Born

1933 Shanghai, China  
1948 Arrived in Australia

## Study

1985-pres Full-time painting  
1955-84 Freelance illustrator books, fashion, travel articles for Vogue Australia and other magazines  
1956-57 John Olsen / Mary White School, Sydney  
1951-54 Graduate - Franklin School of Art, New York  
1950-51 East Sydney Technical College

## Selected Solo Exhibitions

2010-13 *Paths to Portraiture* [curated by Sarah Engeldow], National Portrait Gallery, Canberra;  
Tweed River Regional Art Gallery, Murwillumbah, NSW; Toowoomba Regional Art Gallery, Toowoomba, Qld;  
Artspace Madkay, Mackay, Qld; Burnie Regional Art Gallery, Burnie, Tas; Mosman Art Gallery, Sydney

2011 *Transience of Time* King Street Gallery on William, Sydney, NSW

2008 *A Diary of My Days* King Street Gallery on William

2005 *a process of walking* king street gallery on burton, sydney

2004 *king street gallery at Span Gallery* [with Salvatore Gerardi], Melbourne  
*Film Clips* Chapman Gallery, Canberra, ACT

2003 *the daily act of living/just doing it* king street gallery on burton

2001 *around here out there* king street gallery on burton  
*My Children Have Gone to Toowoomba* Chapman Gallery

2000 *Names and Being* Chapman Gallery

## Selected Group Exhibitions

2011 *Archibald Prize* Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney

2010 *Abstract Nature* Samstag Gallery, Adelaide, SA

2009-10 *Idle Hours* National Portrait Gallery, ACT

2009 *Archibald Prize* Art Gallery of New South Wales  
*The Drawn Line* King Street Gallery on William

2008 *Compositions* King Street Gallery on William  
*Archibald Prize* Art Gallery NSW, Sydney

2007 *Archibald Prize* Art Gallery of New South Wales

2006 *afilla landscapes* king street gallery on burton  
*Archibald Prize* Art Gallery New South Wales  
*Doggett Street Studios with king street gallery* Brisbane, QLD  
*Kedumba Drawing Prize* Kedumba Gallery, Wentworth Falls, NSW

2005 *Archibald Prize* Art Gallery of New South Wales  
*Wynne Prize Exhibition* (Winner), Art Gallery of New South Wales  
*Mosman Art Prize* Mosman Regional Gallery, Sydney  
*Tattersalls Landscape Prize* Brisbane, QLD

2004 *Archibald Prize* Art Gallery of New South Wales  
*Singular Visions* Cowra Art Gallery, NSW

2003 *Archibald Prize* Art Gallery of New South Wales  
*Wynne Prize Exhibition* Art Gallery on New South Wales  
*The Fleurieu Prize for Landscape*, S.A.  
*Ned Kelly Framed* National Trust of Australia, SH Ervin, Sydney  
*64 years*, king street gallery on burton

2002 *Archibald Prize* Art Gallery of New South Wales  
*The Dobell Prize for Drawing* Art Gallery of New South Wales  
*Acquisitions & Donations* National Portrait Gallery, Canberra, ACT  
*Two Thirds Sky-artists in desert country* Hazelhurst Regional Gallery & Arts Centre, NSW  
*last show of the year* king street gallery on burton

2001 *A Century of Collecting* Ivan Dougherty Gallery, Sydney  
*Tattersalls Art Prize* Tattersalls Club & Waterfron Place, Brisbane  
New England Regional Art Museum, Armidale, NSW  
*Monochromatic* king street gallery, sydney  
*views* king street gallery  
*Works on Paper Prize* Hazelhurst Regional Gallery & Arts Centre  
*Archibald Prize* Art Gallery of New South Wales  
*Wynne Prize Exhibition* Art Gallery of New South Wales  
*last show of the year* king street gallery on burton

2000 *women and the landscape* king street gallery  
*Archibald Prize* Art Gallery of New South Wales  
*Kedumba Drawing Prize* Kedumba Gallery, Wentworth Falls, NSW  
*last show of the year* king street gallery on burton  
*Melbourne Art Fair 2000* king street galley at Royal Exhibition Buildings, Melbourne  
*Wynne Prize Exhibition* Art Gallery of New South Wales  
*Redlands Westpac Invitational Art Prize* Mosman Regional Gallery

Awards/Prizes

|      |                                                                         |
|------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2006 | Kedumba Drawing Award                                                   |
| 2005 | Wynne Prize Art Gallery of New South Wales                              |
|      | Campbelltown Purchase Prize, Campbelltown Bicentennial City Art Gallery |
| 1994 | Work on paper, Warringah Art Prize, NSW                                 |
|      | Mosman Art Prize, Mosman, NSW                                           |
|      | The Portia Geach Memorial Award                                         |
| 1992 | The Portia Geach Memorial Award                                         |
| 1991 | Principal Acquisition-Bathurst Regional Art Gallery                     |

Collections

|                                            |                                           |
|--------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| Art Gallery New South Wales                | KPMG, Sydney                              |
| Art Bank, Australia                        | Avillion Hotels                           |
| Bank of America                            | Bathurst Regional Art Gallery, NSW        |
| Campbelltown City Bicentennial Art Gallery | Coles Myer, Australia                     |
| Department of Transport, Canberra          | IBM, Australia                            |
| Dresdner Australia Limited                 | Gadens Ridgeway Collection                |
| Labour Council of NSW                      | National Portrait Gallery, Canberra       |
| New South Wales State Library, Sydney      | Smorgon Collection, Australia             |
| NIDA, Sydney                               | Mosman Council, Sydney                    |
| National Library of Australia, Canberra    | Macquarie Bank Collection                 |
| The McDonalds Australia Collection         | Trust Company of Australia                |
| University of New England, NSW             | Warringah Council, NSW                    |
| Colonial First State Property Ltd          | Northern Territory Museum and Art Gallery |
| Manly Regional Gallery                     | Montifiore Collection                     |
| Kedumba Drawing Collection                 | Hawkesbury Regional Gallery, NSW          |
| Queensland Art Gallery                     | Tweed River Art Gallery, Qld              |
| Gallery of Modern Art,Qld                  |                                           |
| Gallery of Modern Art,Qld                  |                                           |

Selected Bibliography

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|------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
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