

# Rock of Ages features in new exhibition

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☆ Artist Mark Dober drawing at Nuggetty Hills.



☆ Rocks, Spring (Nuggetty Hills).

**AWARD-WINNING Castlemaine artist, Mark Dober will have his Nuggetty Hills work featured in a show (along with artist Alexandra Sasse) at Alexandra Sasse Gallery in Melbourne.**

The show opened to the public on Saturday 6 March and runs until Saturday 27 March.

“Since moving from Melbourne to Castlemaine

in 2016, my work has been mostly made in this region,” Mark said.

“I have been tracking down to the Rock of Ages almost daily for a couple of years now making my work on site.

“The Nuggetty Hills feature piles of rocks, stunted trees and sweeping views at the summit. Further down the hill, the forest thickens, trees are taller but twisted

and contorted, grassed over mounds and collapsed shafts are evidence of past gold diggings.

“My work made at this place explores a tension between connectedness – an enjoyment of being amongst nature – and otherness (for nature is not a world of our making).

“Skeletal trees upright and lying dead on the forest floor, twisted and leaning tree trunks, contorted and curling branches, piled up rocks, weedy and spiky looking plants, the remnants of mining past – can seem uncommunicative, strange and even surreal. Yet simultaneously, the beauty of the bush and its living environment beckon. These opposing qualities inform my response.

“From time to time, my work made here is also shown nationally, as in the upcoming Muswellbrook Art Prize in NSW.”

Mark’s vivid watercolour paintings bring a heightened sense of the tactile landscape through a finely honed sensibility.

His work is held in the collections of the National Gallery of Australia, Australia Council of Trade Unions, the National Bank and many others. He holds a PhD in Painting from Monash University.

Alexandra Sasse Gallery, at 4 Selbourne Road, Kew, is open on Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday from 11am-4pm.