

## “View from Binna Burra, Queensland” & “Star Gazing”

by Alexandra Drysdale

Last year I wrote a piece in your newsletter following on from my lecture “Out of the Blue: the story of Blue in Art”. I said that I was going to make some paintings inspired by Australia and by the paintings of William Robinson whose work I had seen in Brisbane. Well here are the first two. They ought to be in my Blue lecture as they sure do have a lot of blue in them.



*“View from Binna Burra, Queensland” Oil on canvas, 76x62cm*

My partner and I went camping at Binna Burra, in the Lamington National Park. On one of our walks we saw this phenomenal panorama looking over the Bush towards the distant river flowing towards the ocean. In the painting I imagine what it would be like to leap off the precipice and fly.



*"Star-gazing" Oil on canvas, 76x62cm*

The night sky in Australia seems so vast compared to in England. And there is much more opportunity to see pure night light, untainted by city light. In this painting the little figures lie on the ground and look up at the stars. One of the stars is transformed into an image of the spirit. At the top of the painting is the city night-light.

One of my favourite artists is Arthur Boyd. He lived in London and had a holiday cottage in Suffolk which is near to where I live in Cambridge. If he were alive today I would have sought him out and asked him for painterly advice as I work on my next Australian painting.