



B E

W A T E R

BE WATER

I keep telling myself "This one will be different.

THIS ONE WILL BE DIFFERENT.

THIS...ONE...WILL...BE...

DIFFERENT..."

And it always is, and it never is.

I dive into the water. An intangible dance, a fluid existence, submission to a force greater than yourself. An explosion of sound, an entire orchestra of emotion and cleansing, moving through the contours of life, shaping and re-shaping. Ever adapting and evolving. Flowing through the crevices of uncertainty.

Comfort in a rhythm of change.

The process seems simple when I start thinking about it more.

Over the years I had been increasing a natural input in my work, allowing it to be more personal; could people tell I was splitting myself in two?

A profound moment on a secret beach, alone, crying, holding a stone in one hand and a piece of sea glass in the other.

I shaped a surfboard recently, it felt like art. A material potential, a movement towards form and shape and colour. A finished object as a residual to the performance of making. An object with open interpretation, emotional experience, a place where I could meditate.

A cyclical arrival. I am thinking about different surfaces, transparencies, forms, and my speed. How painting is the manipulation of light, you take different materials that absorb or reflect and use them as a way of manipulating the light. Where are the edges of this process? Where is the edge of my comfort zone? A collection of work begins to emerge, like a collection of seaside ephemera; rocks, sea glass, shells, coral... Some familiar things too, re-imagined. Moments in time, paintings in the sky and light dancing over the water, references that I have been coming back to for some time.

In the introspection I find ripples from the deeper currents pulling me towards the unknown.

A fire starts in my belly.

Like the water carves away the rock, these other inputs shape me. I flow between my worlds, between passions and ideas, blending the boundaries until they blur into nothingness. I embrace the ebb and flow of emotions (in this process I have many), in the fluidity of being is freedom. As I dive deeper into a more fluid existence, embracing change, embracing movement, embracing the unpredictability of life, I realise I have become water.

SOPHIE
GANNON
GALLERY



RYAN HOFFMANN
BE WATER









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The Answer is the question #1 (Moon shimmer)

Aluminium leaf, varnish, gilding milk, enamel, moulded acrylic polymer, CSM,
gypsum, aluminium, timber, and stainless steel

113 x 38 x 6 cm

2024



A butterfly wing on the forest floor, 1420 1906202433, Mossman Gorge, QLD

Moulded oil paint, acrylic polymer, wax, copper leaf, gilding milk, varnish,
CSM, gypsum, aluminium, timber, and stainless steel

100 Ø x 12 cm

2024



Beach Foam (SGS-11-24')

Moulded artist resin, surfboard cloth and alcohol pigment

106 x 53 x 9 cm

2024



You always end the call "I better let you go" but it doesn't feel like you were ever holding on, 1143 2106202433, Port Douglas, QLD

Moulded oil paint, acrylic polymer, wax, copper leaf, gilding milk, varnish, CSM, gypsum, aluminium, timber, and stainless steel

100 Ø x 12 cm

2024



Rock in one hand, sea glass in the other – hands in pockets (SGS-08-24')

Cast artist resin and alcohol pigment

75 x 53 x 5 cm

2024







Everything grows stronger in the light (SGS-12-24')

Moulded artist resin, surfboard cloth and alcohol pigment

112 x 53 x 9 cm

2024



*The tongue is powerful, be careful it doesn't speak something into existence, 0741
0706202433, Jan Juc, VIC*

Moulded oil paint, acrylic polymer, wax, CSM, gypsum, aluminium, timber,
and stainless steel

115 Ø x 15 cm

2024



Unsure of what you are (SGS-14-24')

Moulded artist resin, surfboard cloth and alcohol pigment

77 x 54 x 10 cm

2024



*Be delicate – You must be delicate – Be gentle – Please be gentle – You must be gentle,
0920 2006202433, Mackay Reef, QLD*

Moulded oil paint, acrylic polymer, wax, copper leaf, gilding milk, varnish,
CSM, gypsum, aluminium, timber, and stainless steel

100 Ø x 12 cm

2024



All I can do is continue, like a snail (Moon shimmer)

Enamel, moulded acrylic polymer, CSM, gypsum, aluminium, timber, and stainless steel

113 x 38 x 6 cm

2024







The Search (SGS-02-24')

Moulded artist resin, surfboard cloth and alcohol pigment

78 x 45 x 6 cm

2024



The Breath (SGS-09-24')

Cast artist resin and alcohol pigment

75 x 53 x 5 cm

2024



*Mother-Mother Mary-The mother-My mother-Our mother, 1531 1806202433, Port
Douglas*

Moulded oil paint, acrylic polymer, wax, aluminium leaf, gilding milk, varnish,
CSM, gypsum, aluminium, timber, and stainless steel

100 Ø x 12 cm

2024



The Answer is the question #2 (Moon shimmer)

Enamel, aluminium leaf, gilding milk, varnish, moulded acrylic polymer, CSM,
gypsum, aluminium, timber, and stainless steel

149 x 46 x 6.5 cm

2024



Terrifying but mostly beautiful (SGS-13-24')

Moulded artist resin, surfboard cloth and alcohol pigment

147 x 58 x 10 cm

2024







Everyone fears different things (Moon shimmer)

Pearl pigment, fixative, gilding milk, moulded acrylic polymer, CSM, gypsum, aluminium, timber, and stainless steel

113 x 38 x 6 cm

2024



Love is made for watering, 1533 2006202433, Cape Tribulation, QLD

Moulded oil paint, acrylic polymer, wax, aluminium leaf, gilding milk, varnish, CSM, gypsum, aluminium, timber, and stainless steel

115 Ø x 15 cm

2024



I didn't see that coming (SGS-01-24')

Moulded artist resin, powdered pigment, surfboard cloth and alcohol pigment

54 x 35 x 6 cm

2024



Baby's breath [Dogs head] (Moon shimmer)

Enamel, moulded acrylic polymer, CSM, gypsum, aluminium, timber, and stainless steel

113 x 38 x 6 cm

2024



Shifting light in your hand (SGS-10-24')

Cast artist resin and alcohol pigment

75 x 53 x 5 cm

2024



Dappled light on morning water (Moon shimmer)

Moulded acrylic polymer, wax, pearl pigment, gilding milk, CSM, gypsum,
aluminium, timber, and stainless steel

113 x 38 x 6 cm

2024



First edition

Images: Ryan Hoffmann/Sophie Gannon Gallery

Text: Ryan Hoffmann

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Thank you to everyone in my life who made this show possible. I am thankful for the support and grateful to be making.

I respectfully acknowledge the Wurundjeri Woi-Wurrung People of the Kulin Nation, who are the Traditional Owners of the land on which I live and work. I pay my respects to their Elders past, present, and emerging.

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