

We're settling in for winter once again, wood-shed stacked to the ceiling (thanks to Fiona) and the veg garden slowly turning to perma-frost. I'll have to get those spuds bagged before the soil turns to cast iron!

New Book

The most exciting news for us is the prospect of the big and comprehensive account of forty years (plus!) of my painting life which is being published by Craig Potton Publishing in October this year.

Robbie Burton, the Managing Editor at Pottons and who is overseeing this project, is determined that this will be a landmark publication, and its large format, slip-case and beautiful production values will indeed make it something special.

In November 2013 Fi and I took a month away from home and rented a friend's property overlooking Orua Bay and Stephenson Island, about 40 minutes beyond Kerikeri, in the far and balmy North of New Zealand. I spent the month writing recollections of my formative years, to be Part One of the new book. We greatly enjoyed the Northland coast and our privileged location there, while our old friends Marion and Kyle Mewburn took on the dog-minding responsibilities closer to home (thank you!).

I am delighted that Vincent O'Sullivan, one of the nation's literary treasures and current Poet Laureate, is contributing an extensive essay about the paintings, lending inestimable status to the book.



"Fog at Lauder Creek." Oil on linen. 405mm x 605mm.

We will be letting you all know when the book is available otherwise look out for *'Grahame Sydney: Paintings 1974 -2014'* in October 2014.

Database

A necessary labour for the book's preparation has been building a complete database of every painting I've completed since the 1960s, including images. Fiona has done the labour, documenting a lifetime's work chronologically, a long and tough task given the disorderly and random state of that information previously.



"Moonrise at the Shearer's Kitchen." Oil on linen. 840 x 1215mm.

Paintings

Some of the works completed throughout the summer are illustrated in this newsletter. All have been sold to owners within New Zealand. The lingering themes continue to haunt me – the Hawkduns (which we look at every day from home), the Maniototo and its meandering Taieri River, Kane's pond at the Becks corner, the eerie mysteries of fog on the landscape – and works currently in progress continue these explorations.

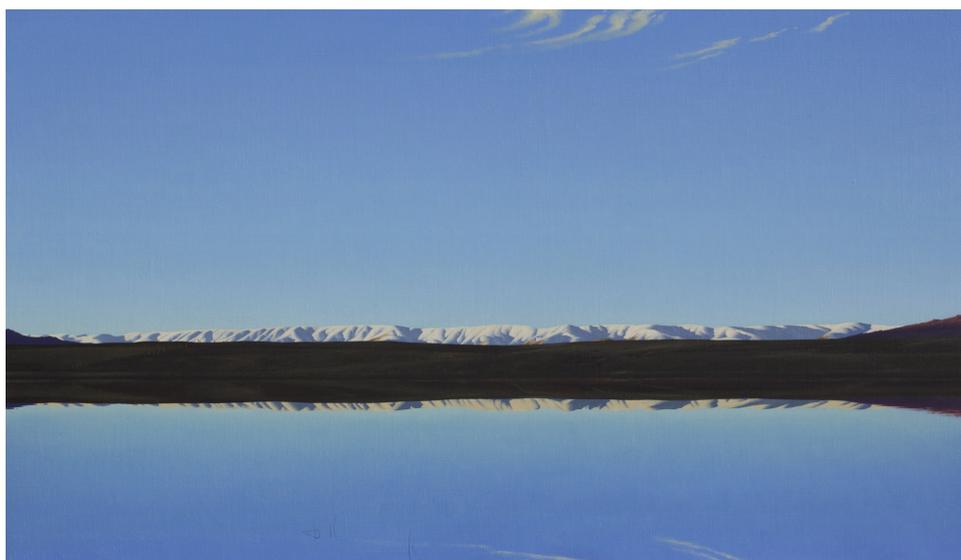
It was a thrill to have my recent oil *'Ida Valley Moon'* occupying the cover of my old friend Owen Marshall's new collection of poems *'The White Clock'*.

During the summer, my large oil *'Timeless Land'*, painted in 1992, was re-sold privately for a sum which far exceeded the previous record for a GCS sale (set in November 2013 when *'Night House II'* resold for \$160,000). *'Timeless Land'* now graces a magnificent home in the South Island, and lives with very good friends of ours. A very satisfactory outcome in every way.

Some Recommendations

Fi and I have been watching some great television and films lately: the Danish dramas *'The Killing'*, *'The Bridge'* and *'Borgen'* are all brilliant and compelling (just make sure you get the Danish vs. the American versions). I've really enjoyed the comparatively unknown *'Justified'* series from USA, but nothing matches *'Breaking Bad'*.

Lately I've read Brendan Gill's life of Frank Lloyd Wright *'Many Masks'*; *'Into the Silence'* by Wade Davis; David Halberstam's wonderful *'The Fifties'* (everything by Halberstam is wonderful); *'Flash Boys'* by Michael Lewis; the two volumes of Peter O'Toole's autobiography *'Loitering with Intent'* and the ever-powerful Chris Hedges' *'Empire of Illusion'*. If you've not read Hedges' *'The World As It Is'* go and get it right now. Required reading.



"Winter at Kane's Pond." Oil on Canvas. 710mm x 1220mm.

In the studio I've been delving deeply into John Singer Sargent – especially his watercolours; the fascinating and bold Swiss artist Ferdinand Hodler, and the marvellous Swedish master, Anders Zorn. What a period of painting that was! Oh to be able to paint like Zorn!

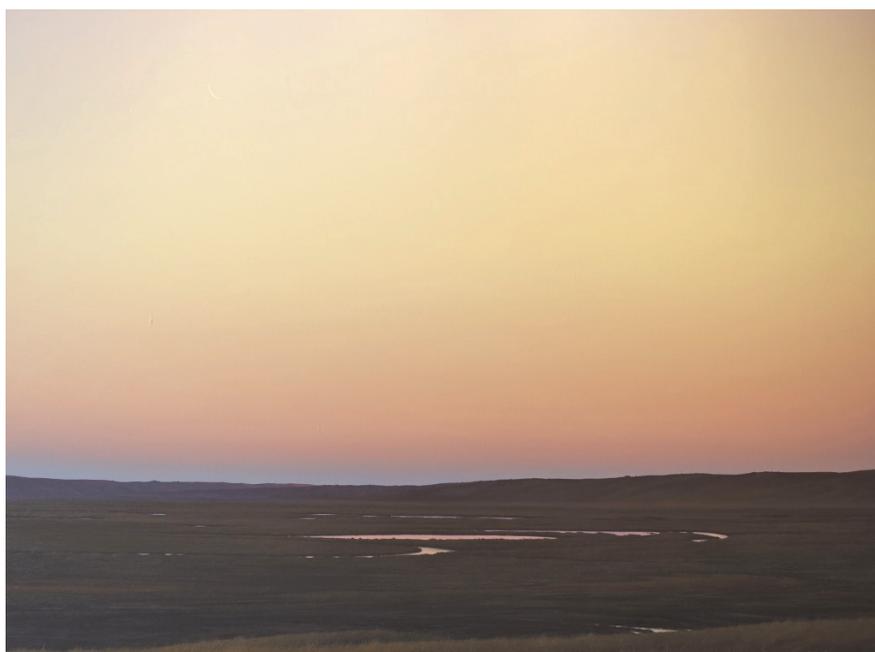
Fiona is the big reader in this household, though. She offers the following from her recent Kindle encounters: the historical novels *'Under a Wide and Starry Sky'* and *'Dear Frank'* by Nancy Horan (about Robert Louis Stevenson and Frank Lloyd Wright's personal lives); *'May We Be Forgiven'* by A M Holmes; *'The Light Between Oceans'* by M L Stedman; and *'The Examined Life'* by Stephen Grosz.

With my best wishes to you all and thanks for your continued interest and support.

GCS

Exhibition

An exhibition of the largest private collection of my lithographs and etchings will be on display in Wanaka from 20 June 2014-30 March 2015. The collection is being launched at a special fund-raising evening at the Warbirds and Wheels Visitor Attraction on Fri, June 20th. Funds raised will go to the Real Art Roadshow Charitable Trust and the Warbirds Over Wanaka Community Trust. For tickets p: 03 443 7010 or e: info@warbirdsandwheels.co.nz



"New Moon at Paerau." Oil on linen. 915 x 1220mm.