

selected artworks by

Bill Cook

The Eloquence of Absence



Cat no. 4
THE FATES & THE POSTAGE STAMP BRIDE
 oil on canvas
 90cm x 180cm
 \$6,000

One of the three ancient fates (the Morae) rolled out your life line, one tugged on it and finally one cut it – you died! Women who sailed across the sea to marry unmet husbands were definitely in the hands of the Fates.

Cat no. 6
THE GO BETWEEN
 oil on canvas
 100cm x 162cm
 \$6,000

Brothers overseas or friends or cousins often introduced by letter a friend of theirs to a single sister back in the village. Courting took place by letter and the occasional best angle photo. Many women then sailed to a foreign country on this scanty information to meet for the first time, and marry a man they had not met and in a real sense did not know.



Cat no. 7
A HUNDRED THOUSAND FOOTSTEPS
 oil on canvas
 61cm x 178cm
 \$6,500

The archway that regularly appears in my images is a portal (symbolic) from the old world to the new – the thread is the link and the attachment, emotional and psychological between both.

Cat no. 10
ARIADNE'S THREAD
 oil on canvas
 61cm x 178cm
 \$6,200

About our past influencing the present, and the constant idea that almost all Australians have a family tree that originates somewhere else; and our ancestors usually left during stormy times.



Enquiries Welcome.

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Cat no. 8
DEFYING ZEUS' SONS
 oil on canvas
 240cm x 120cm
 \$12,000

This is the largest painting and the center piece of the exhibition: it plays on the myth that the Goddess Athena was born out of the head of Zeus – the King of the Gods.

It also addresses the fact that it is not uncommon for the first generation daughters of migrants to be torn between the cultural expectations of their fathers and personal freedoms taken for granted by women in contemporary Australian society.

Cat no. 11
INSOMNIA WITH DREAMS
 oil on canvas
 180 x 103
 \$7,200

Those who left suffered excitement, hope and adventure as well as nostalgia, guilt and homesickness. Many later returned following their thread.



Cat no. 13
STITCHING THE PAST TO THE PRESENT
 oil on canvas
 100cm x 165cm
 \$6,000

Those who go, leave behind those who don't – usually the old, but the thread connects them via hope, regret, and memory. On leaving, maybe the last memory they have of someone loved, who was still alive or someone young, who never returned.

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Cat no. 20
TYCHE ABANDONED
ceramic / bronze glaze
50cm x 54cm x 54cm
\$3,000

Tyche the Goddess of Fortune, and later in Greek mythology the Goddess of the city. Abandoned villages a symbol of abandoning the Goddess to seek your fortune.



(above)
Cat no. 25
HOMAGE TO THE FUTURE SEER – CASSANDRA
bronzed ceramic
20cm x 20cm x 35cm
\$800

Cassandra who foretold of the fall of Troy but was ignored.

(right)
Cat no, 26
THE EMBRACE
white ceramic / oil paint
39cm x 47cm x 68cm
\$3,500

Mothers miss their daughters, daughters worry about their mothers and sisters feel the absence of their siblings.



Cat no. 36
THE CANDLE
ceramic / black underglaze
40cm x 42cm x 71cm
\$3,000

The abandoned village and the candle you light in the Greek Church in memory of someone or for someone.



(above)
Cat no. 30
THE STATUES' INTERNAL DIALOGUES
ceramic & bronze glaze / oil paint
53cm x 47cm x 62cm
\$3,500

Ancient and classical Greeks believed that the statue had a spirit and a type of life. It saw as well as was seen and would have born witness to the departures of those who left.

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