

The Visitation

Pitt Street Uniting Church, Sunday 5 November 2023

**Artist Kerry Holland in conversation with Rev Penny Jones about her
Exhibition of Paintings and Ceramics celebrating the Visitation**

Pentecost 23A

**Psalm 107: 1-7, 9 & 33-37; Matthew 22: 34-46; Contemporary Reading: A
Sonnet for the Feast of The Visitation by Malcolm Guite.**

This worship service can be viewed on You Tube at <https://pittstreetuniting.org.au/spirit/reflections/>

Mary stayed with Elizabeth for about three months then returned home. Luke 1: 56.

Artist Statement

There is always a starting point to a body of work, and this is the sentence that I pondered for the exhibition. Three months as a guest is a long time. I considered what that meant to them, the closeness of living and working together over that time: what they talked about and how they filled the days. The work is not an illustration but an expression of the contemplation of the experience imagined. It is deliberately abstract with no figures, leaving space for the viewer's own thoughts and imagination.

The adventure and discovery in the process is an unfolding journey. I like using different mediums, layering spray can paints with oil in the paintings and combining different clays in new forms with the ceramics, seeing what nuances and surprises happen. Making the glazes and firing the kiln is exciting and nerve-wracking.

Learning from the works as they are made, noticing motifs that emerge over the years and exploring meaning through them is a joy. This is what keeps me making art.

Questions posed by Penny in the Public Conversation with Kerry (see accompanying video)

How did you come to the theme of the Visitation as the opening inspiration for this exhibition?

Can you tell us a little bit about your process; about the choice to create symbolic rather than figurative work; about your choices of materials and colours and glazes?

Often women's stories are not central to the biblical narrative. What has it meant for you as a woman of faith to attend to the story of these two women of faith, and what spiritual and theological ideas has it nourished in you?

I know that you are a spiritual director in the Ignatian tradition, giving the Spiritual exercises – that may not be a tradition familiar to everybody here. Can you tell us just a tiny bit about that tradition and why it is important to you personally, and how it has impacted your work as an artist?

We meet globally in the shadow of war, especially in the Middle East, the lands of Mary and Elizabeth. What do you think they and their story have to say in this context?

What impact are you hoping this exhibition may have on those who view it?