

# COLLECTION HIGHLIGHTS EDUCATION KIT



**Chris Langlois**



**Landscape, *Narrabeen Lake no. 3*, 2009.** Oil on linen. 122 x 213cm. Port Macquarie-Hastings Council, donated through the Australian Government's Cultural Gifts Program by the artist, 2012. © Image courtesy and copyright of the artist. [Themes/Subject/Style: Landscape, Seascape]

**Collection connections**  
Anneke Silver  
*Land into Sea*

**Chris Langlois.** Born in 1969. Lives and works in Sydney.

To paint an image of the landscape around Narrabeen Lake, Chris Langlois has coated the linen with countless layers of finely blended colour. The result is a shadowy, blurry rendering of the lake in soft light, as if it were an apparition in a dream. The dreamlike nature of the image causes the lake to become indistinctive; which suggests that Langlois is less interested in capturing a sense of place and more interested in exploring how a landscape painting can express mood through atmospheric devices such as tone.

The beauty of the painting is highly poetic, evoking feeling and a sense of the sublime. The paintings of JMW Turner and other European landscape painters of the 18th century are major influences on Langlois practice. This is evident in the romance and high drama of *Narrabeen Lake no. 3.*, a painting that combines abstraction and naturalism to explore the relationship between nature and human emotion.

## Questions and activities

### Chris Langlois *Landscape Narrabeen Lake no. 3* 2009

Chris Langlois makes small painted sketches of landscapes before developing large-scale landscape paintings in his studio. Conduct a Google image search and find an example of a painted sketch by Chris Langlois (The Glasshouse Regional Gallery does have two painted sketches in their collection, you might even find it on display). Analyse the differences between Langlois's sketches and his finished paintings. Do you consider the sketches completed works in their own right? Provide explanation for your reasoning.

The paintings of Chris Langlois make reference to the Romantic period of landscape painting in 19th Century Britain and France. Find out more about this period and focus particularly on artists such as JMW Turner, John Constable, Theodore Gericault and Eugene Delacroix. Write an essay discussing the concept of the sublime in Romantic landscape painting.

Explore your local outdoor environment and find a place that you find captivating. Spend some time in that place and pay close attention to its atmosphere. Langlois takes lots of photos when he is out in nature, gathering information for a new painting, so do that to. Use the photos and your memories of that place as the basis for a landscape painting. Think carefully about the theme and concept that you want to communicate to an audience.