

# 100 Days to Create a Narrative by Mel Dare

*May 26, 2015*

By Caitlin Dominey

I recently read in some pseudo psychological article on the internet that our identity is formed by our memory of ourselves. Regardless of the truth or untruth of that statement it certainly poses an interesting idea to consider. Particularly when taking into account the fickle nature of memory, how its shifts and changes over time and between the accounts of different people. The recent exhibition by Mel Dare at the Spectrum Project Space titled “100 Days to Create a Narrative” seems to investigate this very idea of the connection between moments and memories, and the reoccurring themes found in these memories.

Mel Dare created a 10 x 10cm painting every day, for 100 days to create a narrative of her emotional and psychological identity, and the results are startlingly beautiful. Each piece uses a minimalist colour scheme with beautifully subtle abstract imagery to perfectly capture the dual nature of emotional memory. These memories are both sharp as a knife and fluid. So fluid they may just slip through the fingers of our consciousness. For me, each painting captures my attention like it's inflicted a small cut, while somehow remaining just beyond complete comprehension.

This is what I love most about this collection of works, besides the obvious aesthetic appeal of the paintings themselves, is the combination of emotional self-indulgence from the artist portrayed in such an enigmatic manner that it becomes (paradoxically) highly relatable to the person viewing the work. Each painting is accompanied by intriguing titles such as “Little boxes to fill” and “The small business of finishing” which remain abstract enough to leave interpretation open to the viewer while adding to the overall narrative of the work, and often giving some greater poetic insight into the mind of the artist.

The exhibition remains open until the 28th of May, with an Artist Talk being held at 2pm on the 23rd of May.

**LOCATION:** Spectrum Project Space, Building 3.191, 2 Bradford Street, Mount Lawley

**OPENING HOURS:** 10am to 5pm Tuesday – Friday, 12pm to 5pm Saturdays

**DATES:** 14th of May – 28th of May