

# GREAT SOUTHERN LANDSCAPES



# RACHEL GRIFFITHS EXPLORES ICONIC LANDSCAPES AND THE UNTOLD STORIES BEHIND THEM

After the tremendous success of *Finding the Archibald*, actor and art lover Rachel Griffiths has once again teamed up with Mint Pictures to present the illuminating six-part series *Great Southern Landscapes*.

This time, Rachel trades famous portraits for iconic landscapes in an entertaining fusion of art, social history, and travel.

Packing up her boots and backpack, she heads off across the country to find the exact spots where famous artists placed their easels and cameras to capture their interpretations of iconic landscapes.

Along the way, she meets people from all walks of life who help unlock the hidden secrets of the works and the untold personal, social, and cultural stories behind them.

Each episode celebrates a renowned artist and one of their works, including Arthur Streeton, Clarice Beckett, John Olsen, Eugene von Guerard, Narelle Autio and Albert Namatjira.

While the destination – standing on the exact spot where the artist stood to capture that vista – is the payoff at the end of each episode, it's the journeys there that are the most revealing.

---

HD 6 x 30'  
Mint Pictures



‘To have somebody like Rachel to take us through *Great Southern Landscapes* was a real gift... She’s not fronting a thesis documentary where she’s telling us everything that she knows about a particular artist, she’s actually going on the journey herself and learning about the artists and having those wonderful conversations.’

– Jennifer Collins,  
ABC Head of Factual & Culture,  
in *Mediaweek*



# EPISODES

## Episode 1 – Rivers

*The Purple Noon's Transparent Might*  
by Arthur Streeton, 1896

In this stunningly visual episode, Rachel travels to the Hawkesbury River to find the exact spot where Arthur Streeton painted his 1896 masterpiece. Along the way, she views the original, participates in a masterclass and learns how First Nations people have co-existed with waterways for millennia before arriving at the landscape in Streeton's painting.

## Episode 2 – Cities

*Luna Park* by Clarice Beckett, 1919

Taking a journey around her hometown of Melbourne, Rachel pinpoints the location where Clarice Beckett painted her 1919 pandemic-era work *Luna Park*. She discovers that Beckett's paintings were abandoned in a cowshed, learns about the global pandemic of yesteryear, and examines her own mother's activist past.

## Episode 3 – Lakes

*Lake Eyre* by John Olsen, 1975

Rachel voyages to Kati Thanda – Lake Eyre to find the spot where John Olsen drew inspiration for his epic 1975 painting. She meets the man himself, traverses across the vast deserts of South Australia, hears the stories of the local Arabana elders and takes off for an aerial view over this great lake.



# EPISODES

## Episode 4 – Wilderness

*Tower Hill* by Eugene Von Guerard, 1855

Rachel travels to Tower Hill in country Victoria to see where Eugene Von Guerard painted his iconic artwork of 1855. En route she stops in at the goldfields of Ballarat, then has a drink with some old-timers who reveal the environmental significance of this painting.

## Episode 5 – Beaches

*Splash* by Narelle Autio, 2004

In an insightful episode, Rachel meets Narelle Autio to hear the story behind her iconic 2004 photograph, *Splash*. She then heads to Western Australia, where she chats to Tim Winton about the beach, and finds the exact spot where Narelle framed the famous snapshot.

## Episode 6 – Outback

*Rutjima-Mount Sonder*

by Albert Namatjira, 1954

Rachel treks to Western Arrernte country in central Australia to find the very spot Albert Namatjira painted his 1954 masterpiece of Rutjipma – Mount Sonder. This heart-warming episode also sees her meet Namatjira's descendants, and reflect on how far she has travelled while taking up the advice given to her along the way – sit, listen and enjoy.



# MEDIA

‘A fascinating look at some of our most revered artists and their work, this series also serves as a reminder of why we should focus on preserving the unique natural wonders we have.’

– **The West Australian**

‘[Griffiths] pinpoints the artists’ exact viewpoints and, with curators and experts, examines the impact of the paintings and the changing shape and fortunes of those natural environments.’

– **The Weekend Australian**

‘What a gift this celebration of iconic Australian landscape paintings... has been.’

– **The Sunday Age**

‘Part armchair travel show, part art appreciation show’

– **Sunday Mail**



# STATEMENT FROM RACHEL GRIFFITHS

Making *Finding the Archibald* was one of the most interesting and satisfying projects I have worked on. Above all, I was thrilled at the audience response and that so many people who may not consider themselves art lovers enjoyed the journey.

When people I met asked me what was next, I would return the question, 'what would you like to see?' I was surprised how many people confessed to me that they loved Australian landscape painting and would like to know more about it.

Growing up in a house without a view, the landscape paintings on our walls (all famous reproductions) were my windows to the world, and I used to wish that I could step through them just like in *Play School* and pop out to that place. Places that were warm or beautiful or majestic, representing the extraordinary diversity of ecosystems that this continent contains.

During Covid, as we were all locked down staring at our walls, I found myself doing the same. And like so many Australians, I was thinking when we get out of this, I want to go and see our own country and get a deeper understanding of the many communities who live outside the cities.

*Great Southern Landscapes* is the response to this collective yearning. To travel, to leave our lounge rooms and to appreciate and deepen our connection to the places made famous by our artists over the last 200 years.

