



One Tree Art Prize

Artist: Karen Napier

Title: Grand Agonis flexuosa

GPS: -33.6168368, 115.1028678

When I heard about the One Tree Art prize, I instantly knew which tree I would paint. I had driven past it many times. It is located in Dunsborough near the Chinese restaurant and the petrol station, at the end of town. Its botanical name is *Agonis flexuosa* (commonly referred to as the Peppy tree). I have always thought it looks like a giant Bonsai.

How to paint this tree? I wanted to focus only on the tree. I felt the background would detract rather than enhance its character. I wanted to capture the strength and flexibility of this beautiful tree, highlighting the gashes, rough bark and gnarly trunk. I decided to use watercolour (paynes grey) and gouache. A simple black and white.



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Before beginning I wanted to know roughly how old it is. My search indicated it is aged between 70 - 150 years.

How many creatures have lived in this tree and made it their home? Over the years, how many cars, tractors, carts and horses have passed by it? Before the road existed, how many travellers found shelter and shade beneath its leafy canopy?

These were just some of the questions I asked myself as I picked up my brush and began to paint.....