

Blue Mountains inspire wonder, rapture, contemplation

Lana Lam

CROYDON artist Min Woo Bang has captured the winter mists of the Blue Mountains in a stunning collection of landscapes.

Inspiration for the 30-work series came during a family trip to the mountains in the winter school holidays last year.

"I made a trip to the Blue Mountains last year and I fell in love with the place," Bang said.

"It was a mixed day emotionally because of the mist, the wonder and the rapture. It makes you think about a meditative existence, why we are here?"

The works should encourage contemplation, Bang said.

"When people look at my paintings, I want them to think of their memories and their past," he said. "I'm interested in more meditative images - sometimes very dark, but not in a bad way. I like moody paintings."

Bang, who also teaches at the Croydon Art Studio, has been

painting for more than a decade and, at 38, describes himself as an emerging artist.

"When people look at my paintings, all the information is there. I don't want to create art that's too hard to understand," he said.

Nature has always been a source of inspiration but his palette had evolved.

"Every year, your inspiration changes a bit," he said.

"This one is all about the mist, the aura and atmosphere, so the palette is different, more limited, more subtle, more blurry."

Bang was 19 when his family came to Australia from South Korea and settled in Croydon.

He studied at the National Art School in Darlinghurst before completing a master of visual arts degree at Sydney University.

Mystic Landscapes is his 13th solo show and his first with Wagner Art Gallery in Paddington, one of Sydney's most prestigious galleries specialising in Australian fine art. It runs until the September 3.



Croydon artist Min Woo Bang says his inspiration changes every year.

Picture: CRAIG WILSON