



Title	<i>Deep darkness</i>
Artist's dates	Born 1985
Gallery/source	Nanda Hobbs, Sydney
Date of purchase	09/09/2026
Buying Circle	Fiona Brockhoff, Fiona Edwards, Phillipa Williams, Jacky Hupert, Susan Jones
Dimensions (H X W)	120 x 140 cm
Medium	Acrylic on linen

CONTENT/SUBJECT/AESTHETIC QUALITIES

- The striking image in this work is a stringray,. Lottie feels a great connection to the ocean and sea creatures, swimming sometimes three times a day. Closer observation of the classically monumental form on a dark background reveals a 'necklace', meaningful as it represents an item belonging to her mother. The other symbols in the work are recurring motifs in her repertoire.

TECHNIQUE

- Lottie uses a restricted colour palette of earthy and neutral shades to create often monumental images. The forms are generally simple but fluid, in empty space with light and dark contrast. Interestingly she prefers to paint in the dark with the use of an artificial light source, usually in the early hours of the morning. She is also paints at her bush block again influenced by darkness and isolation.

CONTEXT

- Born in Sale of Italian ancestry, Lottie grew up in Melbourne, pursued practice in Paris, Berlin and Leipzig with her husband artist James Drinkwater, and now lives and works in Newcastle "where the land meets the sea".
- Her interest lies in intangible concepts and mystical phenomena. There are often elements of surrealism in her work, generated by her experience and interpretation of nature - oceans, bush, other species. The painted forms often reference memory, horizons and sacred places. Not unsurprisingly, she routinely practices transcendental mediation before starting work in the studio.
- Although primarily a painter, Lottie's practice also includes performance, photography, videography and sculpture.
- She has exhibited internationally, won the Muswellbrook Art Prize and was a finalist in the Sulman Prize (2026).
- She competed this current work, *Deep darkness*, in 2026 at the age of 41.

COLLECTION STATEMENT

- Lottie's work has been appreciated by a number of members of the Circle Collective and members of the Year 4 Buying Circle attending Sydney Contemporary were impressed by this

piece, particularly by its strength and dynamism. The substantial burnished frame was thought to balance the work perfectly.

- This work reflects the updated buying guidelines in that it is a larger work and is a clear and significant example Lottie's oeuvre.