

**The Idea of Wallum : catalogue essay**

**Chandler, Lisa**

## ***Research Background***

This essay critically investigates the artist's creative explorations of the complex ecosystems of coastal forests and wetlands and the threats they face from climate change and suburban growth in an exhibition of paintings at Noosa Regional Gallery.

## ***Research Contribution***

The research contributes to understandings of how creative practice can be employed to investigate individual and broader relationships to place – and more specifically, to fragile wetland eco-systems. It examines the tension that emerges from a relationship involving both appreciation and capacity for desecration that marks humans' engagement with the land. It also considers ways in which creative process can reinforce notions of paradox and tension through an interplay between qualities of two-dimensionality and three-dimensionality, surface and depth, and construction and concealment within the works.

## ***Research Significance***

The research is significant in its explication of ways in which the artist explores notion of place and human engagements with fragile ecosystems, and its consideration of the role of process and formal elements in communicating meaning. Its value is attested by the provision of Queensland Government Arts Queensland, Regional Arts Development Fund support for the catalogue publication.