

# Edging Forward

Reconnection, Reconciliation, Regeneration

Ann Dale

“...there is enough science,  
enough information to act now  
on sustainable development,  
so what is preventing us from  
changing?”

-Ann Dale

Nancyanne Cowell

## Curatorial Statement

We have enough knowledge, science, and innovation to act now on sustainable development, so what is holding us back? Why can't we leap from the edge onto new sustainable pathways?

After realizing that something was missing in conversations on sustainable development, Ann Dale and Nancyanne Cowell came together to explore missing threads: love, compassion, and the power of storytelling. Art and traditionally separate disciplines, with the former focused on expression and the latter centered on the pursuit of data and discovery. However, given the unprecedented nature and scale of issues our world is facing, they decided the two disciplines would tell a more compelling story. *Edging Forward: Reconciliation, Regeneration* is an art and literary project that illuminates the power of collaboration. As the social scientist and artist explore what is holding them back, they bring new perspectives to the conversation about how to leap toward a sustainable world.

Dale's latest manuscript, *Edging Forward: Achieving Sustainable Community Development*, weaves together over 15 years of research on sustainable communities into a story about how we can no longer merely edge forward, rather we must leap. She frames her research and discovery through a literary journey that also explores personal and poetic life experiences. Throughout each chapter, she explores relationships to one another, to other species, and to our planet. She contemplates how a single story of growth has come to dominate our narratives and why we struggle to embrace diversity and difference. By blending storytelling with research, Dale uncovers how the power of our narratives can not only lead us toward social change but also a more resilient and empathetic world.

Responding to the core ideas in Dale's manuscript, Nancyanne Cowell creates large-scale oil mixed-media paintings to illuminate each chapter theme. Her luminous channel the dramatic and often turbulent landscapes of English Romantic painter Joseph Turner. Chromatic strokes of blues, greens, and magentas alternate to thin, swirling horizontally and vertically across the foreground. Teeming with motion, Cowell's powerful yet sensuous paintings also echo the style pioneered by the Impressionists, including Claude Monet. Her gestural brushwork not only builds structure and texture across large surface areas, but also manifests voice and emotions. Notably, her unique approach to composition channels the power of nature, thereby offering new perspectives.