HERENOW 24: Artists in Wonderland

Julie Barratt, the Director of Art Strategy at DADAA, has been invited by ECU Galleries to mentor Shelley Elkins, Arts Program Coordinator from DADAA Midland, to curate HERENOW|24 in Spectrum Project Space as part of Fringe World, featuring artists from DADAA.

HERENOW 24: Artists in Wonderland showcases the creative works of:

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Alex CAMMACK
Kelly GRANT
Emma HARRADINE
Christopher HUMMEL
Aidan LEAHY
Timothy MALEY
Esa NYKANEN
Brittany PLUMMER
Brent STANLEY
Oliver Max TAYLOR
Declan WHITE
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Curator | Shelley ELKINS
Curatorial mentor | Julie BARRATT

Officially opened by Julie BARRATT

Spectrum Project Space

Opening: Thursday 1 February 2024 5pm-7pm Exhibition dates: 2 February to 6 March 2024 Floor talk: Wednesday 28 February 12:30pm-1:30pm Gallery opening hours: Tuesday to Friday 10am-4pm Building 3, 2 Bradford St, Mount Lawley

ECU Galleries acknowledges the traditional custodians, the Whadjuk Noongar people, and elders past and present. We pay our respects for the great privilege of living, making and researching on these unceded lands.

FRINGE WORLD
FESTIVAL 2024

ECU Galleries



Lyndall ADAMS

Director's Statement

A big welcome to ECU Galleries 2024 program and what a way to start with the HERENOW curatorial mentoring exhibition for the Fringe World Festival. Professor Ted Snell AM CitWA moved the HERE&NOW exhibition series, established in 2012 at the Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery, to ECU Galleries in 2021. Renamed HERENOW, the series is a mentoring project for aspiring curators, which can be daunting, so to provide that experience and enable an emerging curator to capture the vibrancy across current practice within an area of focus within the visual arts is essential. This is one of the few mentoring programs of its kind in WA. We lost Ted on 23 September 2023. Ted's knowledge of art in general and art in WA in particular cannot be replaced.

For the inaugural exhibition Ted wrote:

HERENOW is a snapshot of current visual arts practice in Perth, right here and right now! Its focus is provided by a young curator keen to develop the complex skills, insights, and sensibilities required to curate an exhibition in a public gallery. Bringing those skills into play and delivering an exhibition that showcases a group of artists whose work they admire and wish to promote is not an easy task. And, it is one that is best achieved by doing, in tandem with professional colleagues. Learning the ropes by taking the strain, setting a course, and tackling the challenges that inevitably arise requires courage, commitment, and guidance. Its multiple facets of operation must be coordinated with intricate care.

ECU Galleries continues Ted's legacy with curatorial mentor Julie Barratt, Director of Art Strategy for DADAA, the largest Arts and Disability organisation in Southeast Asia. She is nationally and globally connected as an artist, curator and disability worker. For both exhibition Julie is mentoring DADAA arts worker Shelley Elkins through the process of curating 13 DADAA artists—*Mummy's Agony* featuring Marina Psaila in Gallery25 and *Artist in Wonderland* featuring Alex Cammack, Kelly Grant, Emma Harradine, Christopher Hummel, Aidan Leahy, Timothy Maley, Esa Nykanen, Brittany Plummer, Brent Stanley, Oliver Max Taylor and Declan White in Spectrum Project Space.

ECU Galleries is guided by our understanding that Art Galleries are significant educative bodies (Clover & Sanford, 2019), they provide "plays of force...[that] influence the public" (Steeds, 2014, p. 29). Exhibitions "actively construct, shape and mobilize our understandings of the world through carefully choreographed" (Clover & Sanford, 2019, p. 65) works of art that shape our collective and individual identities and "draw attention to public memory, the ideological nature of display, the epistemological influence of historical forces, embodied and affective forms of learning beyond language, and historical sites of public discourse" (O'Malley et al., 2020, p. 5).

Associate Professor Lyndall ADAMS ECU Galleries Director January, 2024

References

Clover, D. E., & Sanford, K. (2019, June 1-4). The disobedient women exhibition as feminist public pedagogy. Art as Lived, Art for Life. 38th Canadian Association for the Study of Adult Education (CASAE/ACÉÉA) Annual Conference, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

O'Malley, M. P., Sandlin, J. A., & Burdick, J. (2020). Public Pedagogy Theories, Methodologies, and Ethics. *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Education.*

Steeds, L. (2014). Exhibition. Whitechapel Gallery.

Julie BARRATT

Foreward

To have the opportunity to mentor one of DADAA's most passionate Arts Coordinators as a Curatorial Mentee on HERENOW|24 has been a hugely rewarding experience for myself and mentee Shelley Elkins, and a privilege to do so within the two beautiful ECU Galleries.

In HERENOW|24 we highlight the remarkable talents within DADAA and take great pleasure in presenting the diverse and eclectic works of some of our Midland based artists, who have been supported by an incredible team of Arts workers. DADAA is one of the largest employers of arts workers in Western Australia. This skilled and dedicated team, work with DADAA participants to develop their artistic interests and skills, and to further their goals.

DADAA acknowledge our fantastic art worker's contribution to this showcase exhibition in their support and mentoring of the participating artists. Arts workers supporting exhibiting artists in Artists in Wonderland are Valerie Barron, Neil Elliott, Jake Carlshausen, Dimity Gregson, Murray Willis, Belinda Eldridge, Katrina Hales and Kelly Gardner.

Julie BARRATT Director of Art Strategy, DADAA January, 2024

Shelley ELKINS

Curatorial Statement

HERENOW|24: Artists in Wonderland presents an exploration of contrasting styles, concepts and techniques from a diverse group of artists at various points in their artistic journeys. This exhibition invites the viewers into a wonderland of eleven different realms, each illuminating the creator's personality and inspirations.

These wonderful worlds from which each artist lives and creates, divulges a narrative which illustrates and conveys passion, innocence, sentiment and intent to showcase and educate viewers on personal, political and playful themes. Viewers are encouraged to observe and consider the narrative of each work and imagine going down the rabbit hole into the artists own little worlds of wonder.

As the Curator, I had the privilege of collaborating, mentoring and watching each of these artists emerge and develop spectacular arts practices over the span of ten years and serve as a witness to their remarkable artistic journeys. The dedication of artists, demonstrated through years of practice, persistence, and passion for their craft, along with their openness to learning and overcoming obstacles to fulfill their most ambitious dreams, stands as a testament to their skill. This achievement is a collective success, acknowledging the crucial support received from their families, friends, fellow artists, and support workers throughout their journey. This exhibition would not be possible without this amazing network of people.

Shelley ELKINS DADAA Arts Worker January, 2024



Alex CAMMACK

Biography

Alex Cammack is a 20-year-old West Australian artist whose works are based on the natural environment—flora and fauna. They enjoy re-creating the natural form.

Alex studied at Kalamunda Senior High School in the Gifted and Talented Visual Arts Program. They were awarded the Year 11 Outstanding Achievement Award. Alex is comfortable working with any media, although they love ceramics and the 3D form.

Alex's work has been exhibited at *Darlington Art Festival*, *Hypervision*, *Outside the Frame*, *Young Originals* and City of Gosnells' *Community Art Exhibition*, winning the 2018 Youth Award for their work *Tiger* in fineliner on paper.

They are currently creating at DADDA, working in ceramics with a focus on ocean life.

Artist's statement

Alex's inspiration comes from the ocean and enjoys spending time in the water and walking over the rocks looking for small creatures.

Kelly GRANT

Biography

Kelly Grant, born, educated and grew up in the Goldfields of Western Australia. Kelly attributes her quirky sense of humour to her Kalgoorlie life.

Kelly's deep connection to country reflects in the process of her art making. In the art making practice Kelly explores the concept of second life, highlighting these outdated and obsolete items and using them to develop beautiful, intentional, and reflective art pieces.

"Even the most beautiful of things have imperfections, with that in mind, those things, when nurtured can be even more beautiful".

Kelly is devoted to creating awareness and connection around art and how it can be used as a tool for social change, hence why Kelly has aligned with DADAA for the past six years where she has had a nurturing environment to develop her body of work.

Artwork statement

Knot what it seems #2, 2023 Hand knotted jute, Dimensions variable

This piece explores the paradox of electric vehicles, revealing the irony that while they are hailed as eco-friendly alternatives, their production and usage contribute significantly to wildlife degradation. Through juxtaposing the supposed *green image* of electric cars with the hidden environmental costs, I'm hoping to provoke reflection on the unintended consequences of our pursuit of sustainable transportation. An unintentional silent killer.

Contact Information

Website | kellygrant.com.au Instagram | @kellygrant_art

Emma HARRADINE

Biography

Emma Harradine is a mature emerging artist and musician with autism from Perth, Western Australia. To Emma, the arts are all about having fun. Her creative arts practice is filled with bold and playful works that flaunt her tongue-in-cheek personality. She is a prolific up-and-coming artist, creating numerous works every week, each characterised by her mischievous sense of humour. Animals are the focus of Emma's creative arts practice. She loves just about every animal imaginable, from the depths of the ocean, to the ends of the earth, and beyond. Inspired by her upbringing on her family's hobby farm in Perth's outer suburbs, she finds great happiness in depicting animals, especially those found on farms.

Emma's passion for animals is deeply connected to their relatability juxtaposed with their absurdity. They are a source of pure joy for Emma, especially if she finds their appearances or habits funny. She accentuates this feeling of elation in her work by prioritising childlike fun over fussy rendering. Her work can be seen as a beacon of fun amongst the daily humdrum of modern life, reminding viewers to stop and have fun every once in a while.

Artist's Statement

A colourful rooster with vibrant feathers and an outstanding tail stands proud and stern in a grassy field. Aptly named Cocky Lachy Rooster, his unrelenting gaze affirms his position at the top of the pecking order in his world. This farm is his territory.

"Cocky Lachy Rooster makes me smile and laugh," says the artist, Emma Harradine. "I loved painting Cocky Lachy Rooster. His colourful feathers are my favourite. I like roosters, as long as they're friendly! I think Cocky Lachy Rooster would be a friendly rooster."

Inspired by her upbringing on her family's hobby farm in Perth WA's outer suburbs, Emma finds great happiness in depicting animals in her creative arts practice. Emma's passion for animals is deeply connected to their absurdity juxtaposed with their relatability. They are a source of pure joy for Emma, especially if she finds their appearances or habits funny. She accentuates the elation she finds in animals by prioritising childlike fun and excitement over fussy rendering in her art. Her work can be seen as a beacon of fun against the day-to-day humdrum.

Contact Information

Instagram | @emmaharradine.art

Christopher HUMMEL

Biography

Christopher Hummel (aka. 'Graff My Train') is a self-taught, young emerging artist with autism from Perth, Western Australia. He is an extraordinarily prolific artist, completing each acrylic on canvas work with incredible skill, dedication, and attention to detail.

Needless to say, Christopher loves graffitied trains. He sees beauty in graffitied trains where others often do not, and so he has chosen to make them the focus of his creative arts practice. Each of his confident, energetic strokes in his wild, unfussy renderings are made in the name of paying homage to this muse. His work is deeply embedded in an aesthetic appreciation and nostalgic sentimentality for graffitied trains. It is *l'art pour l'art*; it exists for its own sake, completely enraptured by their neglected worldly beauty.

Since his first exhibition in 2017, Christopher has established himself in the national arts community, as well as the local graffiti scene with his iconic, award-winning artwork. For every work Christopher has exhibited, he has sold dozens more to collectors, friends, and fans alike, and will undoubtedly sell and exhibit countless more throughout his career.

Christopher continues to paint every day, paying tribute to the trains, graffiti art, and graffiti artists he loves so much. He plans to paint, exhibit, and sell many more artworks in the years to come and has bigger plans to someday see the graffitied trains of the world for himself.

Artist's statement

"Hullo There! I'm Christopher Hummel and I have autism. I'm an artist slash graffiti artist who paints pictures of trains with graffiti on them."

Contact Information

Website | graffmytrain.bigcartel.com Instagram | @graffmytrain

Aidan LEAHY

Biography

Aidan Leahy is an artist based in Perth, Australia, who loves creating new and innovative forms of art. Aidan works across multiple mediums, often combining traditional and digital techniques such as sculpture and film making in unique ways. His work often reflects his interests in food and music, from munching chicken nuggets to making experimental songs. Through his art and music, he is able to present his most ambitious concepts inspired by friends and food. Aidan's work is a unique blend of passion, effort and imagination that gives those around him a glimpse of his creative journey.

"I like repeating"

Aidan LEAHY, 2024

Timothy MALEY

Biography

Tim Maley is a Perth-based artist, hailing from the northern suburbs, specializing in visual art. His favourite medium is pencil, although he also works with paint, sculpture, and digital mediums. Using an illustrative style, Tim's work often depicts innocent and playful characters, with a particular focus on animals. He employs a vibrant color palette, incorporating textures and expressive lines to bring his subjects to life.

Through his art, Tim seeks to capture the whimsy and light-heartedness of his chosen subject matter, evoking emotions of joy and wonder in his viewers. With meticulous attention to detail and a strong command of various mediums, Tim carefully and passionately plans each work of art with precision often erasing and redrawing numerous times until he is satisfied.

Tim brings a cheerful attitude to his practice and always lightens up the space with his inquisitive questions, dance moves and singing. Tim's favourite animal is a moo cow.

"Who is a happy person? Tim Robert Maley is a happy person" Timothy MALEY, 2024

Esa NYKANEN

Biography

Esa Nykanen is an artist based in Perth Western Australia. Drawing from various mediums such as painting, drawing, and digital art, Esa has created a unique and vibrant visual art style. In addition to exploring these visual elements, Esa also produces original electronic music, to create colorful videos for his instrumentals.

Esa believes that creativity is good for the soul and his mental health. His original work is a reflection of his passion and exploration of engaging creative output. He seeks to communicate a degree of emotion within all his works in order to create a strong immersive experience for the viewer. By combining electronic music, colorful visuals, and thoughtful art, Esa strives to create unique experiences that are both an expression of himself and a window into his emotions.

Artist's statement

When I'm feeling homesick I make things that remind me of home in Helsinki Finland. Snowflakes remind me of home.

Contact Information

Instagram | @esa.newcannon

Brittany PLUMMER

Biography

Twenty six year old Brittany Plummer is an emerging artist from Perth's Northern Suburbs. Born and raised in Perth, Western Australia, Brittany has been engaging in the arts since she was a young child. With a supportive and loving family Brittany has been encouraged to pursue and practice her art interests for many years and remembers fondly the time dad was renovating the house and allowed Brittany and her sister Jackie to draw all over the walls.

Brittany continued her arts practice throughout primary and high school and went on to study art at Leederville TAFE for two years. Following the conclusion of TAFE, Brittany sought out other avenues to further develop her arts practice and connected with DADAA in 2015. Brittany began at DADAA in the dance and performance group called *On Track*. Here she explored performing arts and made many meaningful friendships and connections with fellow performers many of whom she still thinks of fondly to this day. About a year later, Brittany expanded her participation with DADAA to include mixed media and Visual Arts workshops which came naturally to her from her many years of prior art and drawing experience. Here she has established herself as an immensely prolific illustrator creating countless artworks over the years.

In 2017 Brittany was awarded a Nexus Arts Grant for Artists with an Intellectual Disability. Working with a professional Arts Mentor, Brittany debuted her first solo exhibition, '21' and was held at her old highschool, John XXII College. Brittany's exhibition was a huge success and resulted in a high volume of sales. In 2022 Brittany decided to put a pause on performing arts to explore some new areas of interest primarily ceramics and pottery and his since been exploring and learning all aspects of hand building and ceramic sculpting. Between Brittany's drawing and ceramic practice she has continued to build an impressive body of work and maintain her unique style and approach to art making.

Artist's statement

Brittany's Illustrative style almost always depicts emotive figures and characters. Brittney manages to capture her style both in 2d and 3d, utilizing expressive line work, harsh contours and a sense of movement. Brittany's fast approach, fluid strokes and sense of urgency results in intricate, sometimes messy but beautiful complex renderings of her favourite people, movie characters, cartoon characters, musicians, and voices. Rarely does Brittany include other subject matter unless it directly relates to the character she is interpreting. Brittany demonstrates an almost carefree approach to her art making, working back into works, over top of works and sometimes even deleting or erasing works. This ephemeral quality to her work adds a sense of danger to her practice as it is never guaranteed to see the next day.

Brent STANLEY

Biography

Through my long association with DADAA Midland, I have exhibited in numerous In Focus Exhibitions at the Midland Junction Arts Centre. I have exhibited in *As We Are* for many years receiving a high commendation in 2017. In 2017, I had a solo painting exhibition *Nature vs Magic* at Guildford Potters through a Nexus Grant from DADAA that enabled me to develop my creative style and direction.

Artist's statement

I love colour and the feel of fabric. This costume is inspired by the colour and shape in my paintings of mandalas. I love sparkle and glitter which comes from my obsession with Disney animations, especially the ball gowns. Making costumes for my large collection of Barbie Dolls continues to inspire me. This is the second costume I have designed and made on a human scale.

"Art makes me feel like theres a whole new, different world"

Brent STANLEY, 2024

Oliver Max TAYLOR

Biography

Oliver Max Taylor is a mixed media artist with a focus on ceramic works usinghand-building techniques. His works centre discussions of gender, sexual expression, and disability; drawing upon his own experiences alongside investigation of societal norms and values. Through humour and a childlike whimsy, Taylor seeks to delight as much as he seeks to confront, balancing serious conversations with a sense of joy and curiosity. He is particularly interested in the relationship art creates between artist, art, and audiences, with works often utilising visual and textual metaphors that carry double-meanings or are left open to interpretation.

Contact Information

Instagram | @olivermaxtaylorart

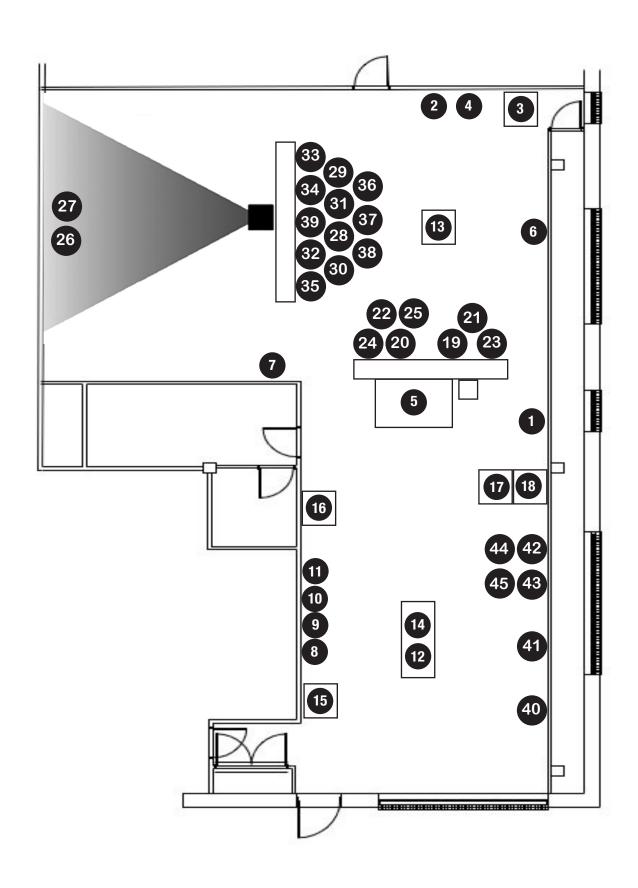
Declan WHITE

Biography

Declan White is a young artist whose career began at DADAA in Western Australia in 2017. In the early stages of his practice, Declan worked out of DADAA's Midland studios where he established his practice. In recent years, Declan has spent some time living abroad but has now returned home and is currently residing and practicing out of Perth's Southern suburbs and DADAA's Fremantle studios.

Declan has a very unique abstract quality to his art. His illustrative approach and attention to detail provide for extremely intricate designs composed of geometric shapes, patterns, bold lines and blocks of colour. Declan's preferred mediums include pencil and markers, however has also been known to use paint for larger scale and simpler works. With such intricate designs, pencils and markers allow for increased precision and application in his practice. Declan is a very visual Artist. He most often draws from references and still life. Declan will intensely study a subject and draw what he sees which rarely reflects what others see, resulting in one-of-a-kind characterized, abstract interpretations of the subject. Declan's subjects are often derived from nature, including plants and animals.

Declan has had many achievements in his relatively short career so far. Declan has received two Nexus Arts Grants in 2018 and 2019, a grant for emerging artists with a disability. During which time Declan worked alongside professional Arts Mentor Yvonne Zago to further develop his concepts and practice. Following this mentorship Declan exhibited in a solo show at Fremantle and Lancelin. In 2019 Declan was among a small group of artists invited to exhibit in the Joondalup Invitation Art Prize. Other exhibitions Declan has been exhibited in include; *Treasured* at the Wanneroo Art Centre, *Catapult One* at Gallery Central, *Menagerie* at Guildford Village Potters and DADAA's annual *In Focus* exhibitions from 2018 to 2020 at the Midland Junction Art Centre. Declan currently has Multiple Artworks in the City of Swan and DADAA art collections. Most recently Declan was the artist in residence at the 2023 Awesome International Arts Festival.



- **Emma HARRADINE** Cocky Lachy Rooster, 2023, Acrylic on canvas, 40x51cm. \$145.00
- **Kelly GRANT** Spherical 2, b Flat, 2022, Vintage music score sheets, 59x59x5cm. \$2,135.00
- **Kelly GRANT** *Knot What it Seems # 2*, 2023, Hand knotted jute, Dimensions variable. \$1,145.00
- **Kelly GRANT** *Nui Shibori Stitched # 1*, 2022, Framed textile, 68x64x4cm. \$1,145.00
- **Brent STANLEY** *Mandala Dress*, 2023, Textiles, Dimensions variable . POA
- **Declan WHITE** *Crocodile*, 2019, Acrylic on marine ply, 122x244cm. \$2,000.00
- **Declan WHITE** *Giraffe*, 2019, Acrylic on marine ply, 244x122cm. \$2,000.00
- **Brittany PLUMMER** *Britt and Sally*, 2023, Digital print, 42x54cm. \$180.00
- 9 Brittany PLUMMER Britt and Josh, 2023, Digital print, 42x54cm. \$180.00
- Brittany PLUMMER School Rules, 2023, Digital print, 54x42cm. \$180.00
- **Brittany PLUMMER** *Friends*, 2023, Digital print, 42x54cm. \$180.00
- Oliver Max TAYLOR Pieta, 2023, Ceramic and mixed media, 29x20x24cm. \$430.00
- Oliver Max TAYLOR Word Vomit, 2023, Ceramic, 15x16x13cm. \$375.00
- Oliver Max TAYLOR God is Everywhere in this World, 2023, Ceramic, 18x23cm. \$400.00
- **Oliver Max TAYLOR** *Kylie,* 2021, Ceramic, 27x30cm. \$360.00
- **Oliver Max TAYLOR** *Amphora*, 2021, Ceramic, 38x37x30cm. \$575.00

- **Esa NYKANEN** *Snowflake* (1), 2023, Ceramic, 28x28x28cm. \$165.00
- 18 Esa NYKANEN Snowflake (2), 2023, Ceramic, 25x28x12cm. \$165.00
- Alex CAMMACK Manta, 2023, Ceramic on board, 19x18cm. \$230.00
- Alex CAMMACK Blue Spotted Ray, 2023, Ceramic on board, 15x23cm. \$215.00
- 21 Alex CAMMACK Shells, 2023, Ceramic on board, 14x21cm. \$185.00
- Alex CAMMACK Shark, 2023, Ceramic on board, 22x15cm. \$220.00
- **Alex CAMMACK** Ray, 2023, Ceramic on board, 23x15cm. \$182.00
- **Alex CAMMACK** *Blue Stingray*, 2023, Ceramic, 7x7cm. \$38.00
- **Alex CAMMACK** *Grey Stingray,* 2023, Ceramic, 8x8cm. \$38.00
- Aidan LEAHY Donuts and Cookies, 2022, Film. NFS
- Aidan LEAHY Busy Day, 2023, Film. NFS
- **Tim MALEY** Tiger in the Water, 2023, Acrylic on canvas, 25x25cm. \$110.00
- Tim MALEY Wacky Animals, 2023, Acrylic on canvas, 40x50cm. \$500.00
- Tim MALEY Spotty Frog, 2023, Watercolour pencil on paper, 15x21cm. \$115.00 (framed)
- Tim MALEY Funny Fly, 2023, Watercolour pencil on paper, 15x21cm. \$115.00 (framed)
- Tim MALEY Frog Sitting on a Tree Branch, 2023, Watercolour pencil on paper, 15x21cm. \$115.00 (framed)

- Tim MALEY Funny Frog, 2023, Watercolour pencil on paper, 15x21cm. \$115.00 (framed)
- Tim MALEY Baby Lionfish, 2023, Watercolour pencil on paper, 21x30cm. \$155.00 (framed)
- Tim MALEY Sea Angel, 2023, Watercolour pencil on paper, 21x30cm. \$155.00 (framed)
- Tim MALEY Kangaroos, 2023, Watercolour pencil on paper, 42x30cm. \$225.00 (framed)
- **Tim MALEY** Saola, 2023, Acrylic on canvas, 15x15cm. \$85.00 (framed)
- Tim MALEY Aardvark, 2023, Acrylic on canvas, 15x15cm. \$85.00 (framed)
- Tim MALEY Shoebill, 2023, Acrylic on canvas, 15x15cm. \$85.00 (framed)
- Christopher HUMMEL Two Suburban Queensland Rail EMUs Stopped at a Station, 2023, Acrylic on canvas, 51x76cm. \$575.00
- Christopher HUMMEL Queensland Rail Electric Tilt Train, 2023, Acrylic on canvas 51x76cm. \$575.00
- **Christopher HUMMEL** Endeavors # 1, 2023, Acrylic on canvas, 51x51cm. \$430.00
- Christopher HUMMEL Endeavors # 2, 2023, Acrylic on canvas, 51x51cm. \$430.00
- Christopher HUMMEL Endeavors # 3, 2023, Acrylic on canvas, 51x51cm. \$430.00
- **Christopher HUMMEL** Endeavors # 4, 2023, Acrylic on canvas, 51x51cm. \$430.00