

Redgums & Regents

celebrating the flora & fauna of northeast Victoria

BENALLA ART GALLERY
21 SEPTEMBER - 27 OCTOBER 2013



Redgums & Regents is an exhibition of new work by three artists who work in a variety of media ranging from printmaking to textiles and metal/wood mixed media. The exhibition will portray aspects and personal impressions relating to the animal and plant life specific to northeast Victoria, where Rose Wedler, Fleur Rendell and Sally Huguenin live.

The exhibition came about after the three friends acknowledged their shared respect for the environment and a shared desire to each create a body of work celebrating the flora & fauna of northeast Victoria. The resulting art works present intriguing and diverse explorations of the theme.

Many of Fleur Rendell's linocut prints explore the relationship between locally native birds and the plants and habitats on which they depend for their survival. From the familiar Blue Wrens, to Pardalotes and Regent Honeyeaters, Fleur captures a unique perspective of each bird. Closer inspection reveals intricate and sensitively expressed details about their habits & habitat.

Rose Wedler's mixed media relief sculptures capture the silhouettes of majestic remnant trees & stags found across the northeast landscape. Her symbolic "Milagros for the Regent Honeyeater" derives from the Mexican tradition of pinning "ex votos" or "milagros" (small metal cut out shapes) to the robes of patron saint figures in the churches, when requesting a miracle or offering thanks for a miracle received. Other works on paper explore the symbolic nature of epicormic growth after fire.

Sally Huguenin's textile sculptures of six different bird species are "amplified portraits". They capture the identifying markings and physical traits of each species, but with the colours & markings turned up a notch reflecting the fascination and admiration she feels for them. After learning about the Brushtailed Phascogales believed to be enjoying some of the Regent Honeyeater Project nesting boxes, she decided that a Phascogale sculpture should join the flock of birds.

The exhibition will be officially opened by author Cate Kennedy at 2pm, Saturday 21 September, 2013. There will also be a free artist's floor talk at 11am, Friday 18 October. All welcome!

*Image details (l-r): Fleur RENDELL, *Regent's Regalia*, 2013, linocut print; Rose WEDLER, *Gentle Giants* (detail), 2013, patinated mild steel; Sally HUGUENIN, *The Punk - Crested Shriketit* (detail), 2013, handprinted & embroidered recycled cotton & linen, paper clay, glass, wire*



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