



As a recurring sensibility in art, the inseparability of nature and culture can be considered across a broad range of very different materials and modalities. From beholding celestial infinitudes at night to serendipitous encounters with life forms in urban environments, the aesthetics and poetics of this mutually entangled interconnectedness has long offered rich subject matter for artists.

In a world where technology, spectacle and excess can sometimes eclipse quieter contemplation, how do we reconcile our position as a virus in clothes that makes cities and internets of ineffable complexity? Has nature been assimilated into the artifice of culture? Or is culture simply a form of nature that humans produce?

Notwithstanding the urgencies of our present moment, this exhibition seeks to quietly resist didactic instrumentalisation and instead consider art and nature together as part of the labyrinthian continuum of reality.

Curated by Cūrā8

p r o j e c t 8

Level 2, 417 Collins St, Melbourne VIC 3000
11 am–6 pm, Wednesday–Saturday
project8.gallery

MEGACOSM

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p r o j e c t 8

SIMONE DOUGLAS' multi-modal constellations pair image and object to evoke the sublimity of light, water and eternity of being.

LINDSAY FARR has produced bonsai creations since he was 13 years old. Now 75, his extraordinary bonsai attract substantial national and international attention.

IRENE HANENBERGH offers the viewer a painterly threshold through which to imaginatively enter other worlds inflected with baroque and romantic currents.

LOTTA PETRONELLA'S filmic and photographic works trace stories both remembered and forgotten to embody ghostly connections across space and time.

KATE ROHDE offers a fantastically colourful and synthetic re-versioning of natural forms in an uncanny faux-figurative sculptural trinity.

BENEDICT SIBLEY points to the Australian bush's extraordinary—but increasingly tested—capacity to regenerate following catastrophic fires.

UTAKO SHINDO'S delicate watercolour on paper abstractions quietly interact with ceramic objects to resist translation and direct attention to that which is less noticed.

Clockwise from entrance

1

IRENE HANENBERGH
Lyrids Rising, 2021
Oil on canvas, gilded frame
40.5 × 30.5 cm
Courtesy of the artist and Neon Parc
\$5,000

2

LINDSAY FARR
A Wing of Dragons Gazing at the Moon, 2022
Chinese elm (*Ulmus parviflora*) circa 1980
86 × 90 cm
Chinese Shiwan pot, mulberry ash, green glaze
55 × 40 cm
\$10,000

3

BENEDICT SIBLEY
Carbon Rich Landscape: A ten-year fire map, 2022
Charcoal, ink and powdered pigment on Fabriano paper
298 × 141 cm
Unframed: POA

Etchings from *Fire History*, 2020–22
All individually titled: *P8-A, P8-B, P8-C, P8-D, P8-E, P8-F, P8-G*
and *P8-H*
42 × 42 cm each (framed)
Edition 1–8 framed \$1,580 each

4

SIMONE DOUGLAS
Sanctuary I, 2022
Backlit film, Victorian ash
102.4 × 152.3 × 7.5 cm
Edition 1–3 \$8,580 + 2 AP

Sanctuary II, 2022
Backlit film, Victorian ash
114.8 × 152.3 × 7.5 cm
Edition 1–3 \$9,380 + 2 AP

Parallel Infinities, 2022
Ice, water, one-to-three-day durational melt event
50 × 101 × 50 cm (thence dimensions variable)
Receptacle, acrylic base
62 × 62 × 108 cm
POA

5

LOTTA PETRONELLA
Sleeping with the Island, 001–035, *Seili* 2021–22
Digital photographs on forex
14.8 × 10.5 cm each
Edition 1–3 each \$280, \$680 for three, full set POA

Själö: Island of Souls, 2020
Film, 1' 18"
Script: Lotta Petronella, Seppo Parkkinen
Cinematography: Kerttu Hakkarainen
Sound: Janne Laine
Editing: Matti Näränen, Lotta Petronella
Music: Lau Nau
Cast: Lotta Petronella, Jasmin Inkinen
Producer: Ilona Tolmunen

Marked trees 001–035, *Seili* 2021
Digital photographs on forex
14.8 × 10.5 cm each
Edition 1–3 \$280 each, \$680 for three, full set POA

6

KATE ROHDE
Modern Jade #2, 2012
Polyester resin, acrylic, acrylic paint
50 × 50 × 40 cm
POA

Aquatic Cornucopia #1 & Antelope Table, 2022
Steel, plywood, plaster bandage, polyurethane foam, enamel paint
130 × 120 × 60 cm
\$5,000

Modern Jade #1, 2012
Polyester resin, acrylic, acrylic paint
77 × 60 × 30 cm
POA

7

UTAKO SHINDO
It Recalls What I Still Don't Know, 2022
Japanese watercolour on paper, red stoneware with Mashiko white glaze and white slipware, digital print
Dimensions variable
Individual works POA

< *It Recalls What I Still Don't Know* > 2022
Japanese watercolour on paper, red stoneware with Mashiko white glaze and white slipware, MDF board, wooden dowel
70 × 70 × 11 cm
\$1,850