



STU JAMES

The Narrow Escape

AUSTRALIAN GALLERIES

MELBOURNE

MEDIA RELEASE

Exhibition Dates: 25 September - 14 October 2018

35 Derby Street Collingwood VIC 3066

Open 7 days 10am to 6pm

'Two worlds meet on the thin line of the beach in a mixture of order, chaos, and at times, just peace affirmed by looking a bird in the eye.' S.J.

In his highly engaging and distinctive visual style, Stu James depicts life on and around the shorelines of Victorian beaches with evocative charm. James' affinity with the natural world and his awareness of our relationship to it is poignantly portrayed in his intricately detailed sculptures. Expansive ocean horizons, boats and buoys, seagulls, fish, sea sponges and grevillea spring to life through deftly hand beaten copper and meticulously rendered oil paint.

The title *The Narrow Escape* is a reference to the beach as the thin line that divides worlds of order and chaos; the perfect place to unwind and renew. The beach may be seen as the axis between our immersion in the world and our negotiation of environmental concerns.

The ornately bordered format of James' unique works gives them an almost religious quality, creating a shrine to the experience of mindful contemplation and our connection to the world around us. The birds' gaze, central to these works, provides a mirror through which we may reflect on our place in the mix.

Although drawn from his own experiences and observations, James' works arouse in the viewer an unmistakable sense of recognition. These magnificent scenes are both joyous celebrations of our unique coastal landscape and poignant reminders of its fragility and the profound relationship of humankind to the natural world.

The Narrow Escape is current until 14 October 2018.

For more details or images contact:

media@australiangalleries.com.au

australiangalleries.com.au 03 9417 4303