



MARTIN KING

Thinking about Unnatural History

MEDIA RELEASE

Exhibition Dates: 12 November - 1 December 2019

Print Room Gallery

28 Derby Street Collingwood VIC 3066

Open 7 days 10am to 6pm

Martin King's wide-ranging art practice is underpinned by an abiding interest in the Australian landscape, most visibly by making connections between land, sea and air.

King's earlier works on paper traced the movement of rain shadows and the effect of weather patterns across undulating terrain and vast tracts of desert. His more recent works express the fragility of our relationship with nature using creatures of the sky as simple motifs that convey a paradoxical vision of the Australian landscape as both tranquil and unsettling.

Thinking about Unnatural History showcases works from numerous series, which highlight the artist's deft technical skills working across a range of media and techniques, and his ability to communicate poignant messages about human relationships, spirituality, the cycles of life and the environment with sensitivity and depth.

King's work references the genres of still life and natural history painting and explores the theme of the commodification of the natural world. *'Drawn from observation and modified by imagination, the work is a synthesis of a number of things, life and death, beauty and the macabre, nature and 'nature morte'. The lyrebird is a symbol of beauty, mystery and exuberance and the tail feather skulls reference the idea of opposing realms within mortality, life and death,'* King says.

Martin King's works are held in numerous corporate collections, 17 regional galleries and university collections, and four state galleries in Australia, plus collections in the USA, UK and India. Martin King occupies an important place in printmaking in Australia, and is acknowledged widely as one of the leading Master printmakers in the country. He is also the senior printmaker at The Australian Print Workshop, a position he has held since 1994.

Thinking about Unnatural History is current until 1 December 2019.

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