



# STILL

nic mason

Tablelands Artists Cooperative Gallery

# Forward

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Tablelands Artists Cooperative Gallery (t.arts Gallery) is an Artist Run Initiative, a co-operative of artists providing a unique venue for Bathurst and the Central West, New South Wales.

Nic Mason has been a valued Member of this Co-operative since 2013 and her unique voice has enriched the Gallery both artistically and practically over this period. Running a gallery whilst pursuing our own practices can be a juggle at times.

As the Gallery has grown, members have been encouraged to exhibit bodies of works. STILL is the second solo exhibition of Nic's work and this is the first of many catalogues documenting t.arts Gallery exhibitions. We are very excited about taking the next step on the journey showcasing and cataloguing the works of artists exhibiting in t.arts Gallery and we are excited to present you with this exhibition.

Heather Dunn, Director

## Essay

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### A Voice That Was Still, by Corey Tatz

It is blisteringly hot on the drive out to Napoleon Reef, situated on the outskirts of Bathurst. With the car windows down the air is dry, carrying with it the scent of eucalyptus, and dry grass. The parched landscape has a hazy, sun-bleached appearance. The light lends itself to a palette of dusk rose, pewter blue, and creamy terracotta.



Back of two dolls, 2017, oil on linen, 40 x 50 cm



Two dolls, 2017, oil on linen, 40 x 50 cm

When I arrive, Nic Mason is at home with her kids, and there is a contented flurry of work in progress. Nic shows me a series of sculptures that will feature in her latest exhibition, Still. There are a dozen or so round vessels lined up on the large kitchen table. They are translucent, delicate, and fragile. Yet they resemble something robust and utile - a vehicle for food, a bowl to eat from, a feeling of being nurtured. The bowls are inspired by gumnuts and eucalyptus leaves that are observed in abundance around the property during daily walks with her Kelpie, Nim.

In the studio, an original goldminers cottage, the oil paintings are taking shape. The paintings read like a cautionary fairy-tale for adults. Her narrative speaks not only of Australia's wealth of unique, varied, shy, and painfully beautiful wildlife, but also gently reveals her concern for environmental decline.

The walls of the studio are interspersed with finished pieces, as well as canvasses simply painted in blocks, or grounds of colour. Nic looks constantly for new techniques to develop she explains, "My use of painting grounds is a result of terrific guidance from my supervisor. This has led me to search for and experience greater richness and layering in my works adding a sense of time, a hint of something before, and where a buried mark can be lost and found".

It takes time to absorb her work, and to let the narrative speak. The red bag with brass locks and leather handle is full of hope. Is this a journey, a destination, new beginnings, or maybe a farewell? A series of skulls from both introduced and native species - stacked on top of one another like an evolutionary timeline that is about to topple. The dolls borrowed from Nic's husband's grandmother are comforting, but also unsettling. A tinge of melancholy prevails. The animals depicted throughout her work reveal eyes that convey intelligence beyond their childlike bodies.

Nic has a profound and deep connection to the land, of our cultural history and a great love of storytelling, fuelled by a rich background in conservation management. Her work struggles with tension between hope and loss. This is communicated through the symbolic use of still life objects to convey meaning, and stimulate discussion. Her works raise a myriad of questions, trigger memories, surprise, and foster the imagination, inviting thought and reflection.



## List of Works

Juncture 2016

oil on canvas, 100 x 100 cm

Eastern quoll, mabi, coming home 2017

oil on canvas, 76 x 76 cm

Bilby, bilbi, waiting still 2017

oil on canvas, 76 x 76 cm

Gone 2017

oil on canvas, 76 x 76 cm

Red bag latch up 2017

oil on canvas, 76 x 76 cm

Red bag who 2017

oil on canvas, 76 x 76 cm

Fox, fox, red-necked wallaby and wombat 2017

charcoal on paper, 56.5 x 56.5 cm

Red bag 2017

charcoal on paper, 56.5 x 56.5 cm

Startled still life doll 2016,

charcoal on paper, 56.5 x 56.5 cm

Rabbit, fox and dog 2016

charcoal on paper, 56 x 56 cm

Two dolls 2017

oil on linen, 40 x 50

Two dolls II 2017

oil on linen, 40 x 50

Two dolls III 2017

oil on linen, 40 x 50

Back of two dolls 2017

oil on linen, 40 x 50

Wedge tail eagle, eastern grey kangaroo and koala 2017

oil on linen, 40 x 40 cm

Rabbit, brush-tailed rock wallaby, red-necked wallaby and eastern grey kangaroo, 2017

oil on linen, 40 x 40 cm  
(framed 43.5 x 43.5 cm)

Koala, 2017

oil on linen, 40 x 40 cm  
(framed 43.5 x 43.5 cm)

Echidna, koala and eastern grey kangaroo II, 2017

oil on linen, 40 x 40 cm  
(framed 43.5 x 43.5 cm)

Echidna, koala and eastern grey kangaroo, 2017

oil on canvas, 40 x 40 cm  
(framed 43.5 x 43.5 cm)

Echidna, 2017

oil on canvas, 40 x 40 cm

Wombat, 2017

oil on canvas, 40 x 40 cm  
(framed 43.5 x 43.5 cm)

Fox, fox, red-necked wallaby, wombat, 2017

oil on canvas 40 x 40 cm  
(framed 43.5 x 43.5 cm)

New growth, collection of bowls, 2017

paper mâché

New growth, collection of bowls II 2017

paper mâché

New growth, five bowls 2017

paper mâché

New growth, three bowls 2017

paper mâché

New growth, hanging, 2017

paper mâché, wire

New growth, hanging II, 2017

paper mache, wire

New growth, branching out, 2017

paper mâché, wire, wood

New growth, branching out II, 2017

paper mâché, wire, wood

New growth, branch, 2017

paper mâché, wire

New growth, branch II, 2017

paper mâché, wire



Fox, fox, red-necked wallaby and wombat, 2017, oil on canvas, 40 x 40 cm



Bilby, bilbi, still waiting, 2017, oil on canvas, 76 x 76 cm



Red bag, charcoal on paper, 2017, 56.5 x 56.5 cm (unframed)

# Artist CV

## EDUCATION:

2016-17 - Currently studying Graduate Certificate in Arts Painting, School of Art & Design, Australian National University  
2012 - Certificate III in Visual Arts, TAFE Western (Bathurst)  
2009-11 - Subjects in Certificate II and IV in Visual Arts, Nepean Arts and Design Centre  
2003 - Certificate IV in workplace training and assessment, Sydney Institute (Ultimo) TAFE  
1996 - Bachelor of Science majoring in Resource and Land Management, Macquarie University

## SCHOLARSHIPS:

2014 - Henry Malouf Scholarship, The Art Scene, Mitchell School of the Arts

## SOLO EXHIBITIONS:

2016 - Wild, Cowra Regional Art Gallery, Cowra

## SELECTED AWARDS AND RECOGNITION:

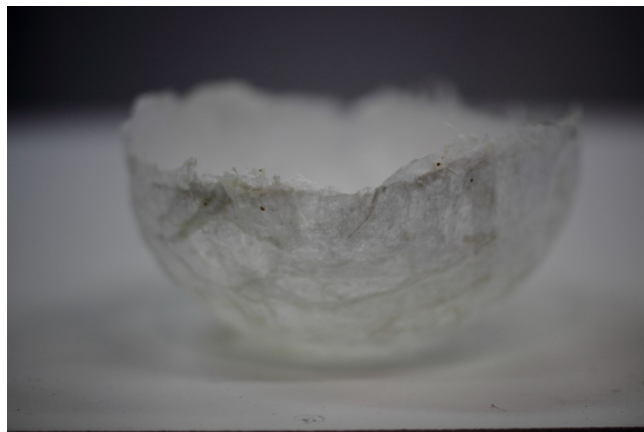
2017 - **Finalist** in the Cambridge Studio Gallery Portrait Prize,  
2016 - **Winner:** Winmalee Artfest, Winmalee High School and TaranArchie, Tarana Art Show, Tarana Australian Red Cross, **Runner Up:** All Saint's College Festival of Art, **People's Choice Award** and **Highly Commended:** Blackheath Art Prize, **Finalist:** Korea Australia Art Prize, Sydney, Australian National University Drawing Prize, Canberra, Flanagan Art Prize, St Patrick's School, Ballarat, Brisbane Art Prize, Judith Wright, Centre, Brisbane, Kirribilli Art Prize, Sydney, Calleen Art Award, Cowra Regional Art Gallery, Cowra  
2015 - **Winner:** Central West Regional Art Award, Cowra Regional Art Gallery and Columbia Aged Care Oberon Archie, Oberon Village Acquisitive Art Award, **People's Choice Award:** All Saint's College Festival of Art, **Finalist:** Cambridge Studio Gallery Portrait Prize, Melbourne  
2014 - **Semi Finalist:** Doug Moran National Portrait Prize  
2013 - **First Prize:** Portrait section, Evans Arts Council Prize, **People's Choice Award:** Evans Arts Council Prize **Finalist:** North Sydney Art Prize, **Semi Finalist:** Moran Contemporary Photographic Prize  
2011 - **Second Prize:** Blackheath Art Prize, **Finalist:** Hornsby Art Prize

## COLLECTIONS:

2015 - Columbia Aged Care Services

## CATALOGUES:

2016 - WILD Nic Mason, Cowra Regional Art Gallery exhibition  
Essay by Tracy Sorensen



New growth bowl, 2017, paper mache (paper, water, flour, salt, eucalyptus oil, PVA glue)

## SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS:

2016 - Royal Society Café, Bathurst Art Trail exhibition, Bathurst, Tablelands Artist's Cooperative Gallery, t.arts Gallery, Bathurst  
2015 - Bathurst Art Fair, Bathurst Regional Art Gallery Society, Bathurst Regional Art Gallery, 200 Plants and Animals exhibition, Bathurst Community Climate Action Network, Bathurst, t.arts on Tour, Grenfell Regional Art Gallery, Grenfell, Art of Our Place, Bathurst Arts Trail, Bathurst, Tablelands Artist's Cooperative Gallery, t.arts Gallery, Bathurst  
2014 - The Idea of North, in Mayfield Shearing Shed, O'Connell Public School, Oberon, Tablelands Artist's Cooperative Gallery, t.arts Gallery, Bathurst  
2013 - Bathurst Art Fair, Bathurst Regional Art Gallery Society, Bathurst, Tablelands Artist's Cooperative Gallery, t.arts Gallery, Bathurst, Freedom to..., The Toxteth, The Tate, Glebe  
2012 - Tarana Art Show, Tarana, Raw, Western Institute of TAFE, Bathurst  
2011 - Glenbrook Potters Exhibition, Glenbrook, Me, Myself and I, Nepean Arts and Design Centre, Kingswood

## CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT:

2011-16 - Senior Project Officer, NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Environment and Heritage  
1995-11 - Various positions in the conservation and land management sector.

## FURTHER DETAILS PLEASE SEE NIC'S WEBSITE:

[www.nicmasonartist.com](http://www.nicmasonartist.com)

## Acknowledgements

Created for the occasion of the exhibition STILL Nic Mason in Tablelands Artists Cooperative Gallery, printed in Bathurst, NSW, Australia. Exhibition dates: 24 February to 10 March 2017. Catalogue Essay by Corey Tatz, catalogue assembly by Nic Mason, © text Nic Mason, Heather Dunn and Corey Tatz, © images: Nic Mason

Front page image: Echidna, koala and eastern grey kangaroo 2017, oil on canvas, 40 x 40 cm

Nic Mason wishes to thank all the Members of t.arts Gallery, past and present: Emanda Bertwistle, Greg Cross, Katrina Daly, Heather Dunn, Nancy Morgan, Nicole Foxall, Margaret Ling, Claire Newlyn, Louise Ranshaw, Marilyn Rice and Judy Thatcher, Writer Corey Tatz, Musicians Christine Porter and Henry Bialowas, Australian National University (ANU) Painting Supervisor Ruth Waller, ANU Technical Officer Emma Beer, the Australian National Gallery Collections Study Room program and staff in particular Rose Montebello, Assistants Sonia McAllan and Loloma Craig and family Mark, Caitlin, Tynan and Bridget. Also specific thanks to Elise Burden, Ray Mjadwesch, Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation staff in particular Robert Palmer, Collection Manager, Australian National Wildlife Collection and NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service staff for specific assistance in enabling my access to those objects studied and painted.



Tablelands Artists Cooperative Gallery (t.arts Gallery)

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Opening Hours: Mon to Fri - 10am to 5pm (closed Tuesdays), Sat & Sun - 10am to 2pm

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