## FREE Entry

# SPECIES AT RISK

## 10AM-4PM DAILY 18 MARCH-2 APRI

LION GATE LODGE MRS MACQUARIES ROAD ROYAL BOTANIC GARDEN SYDNEY ALL ARTWORK FOR SALE



## ON THE EDGE SPECIES AT RISK

An exhibition exploring nature in peril.

18 MARCH - 2 APRIL LAUNCH 6-8PM,17 MARCH Partnered with <u>Radish Events</u> and <u>Taylors Wines</u>

Officially opened by the Hon. Tanya Plibersek, Minister for the Environment and Water and Member for Sydney. Attended by Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley and Denise Ora, Chief Executive of the Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust.

## **PRESS PACK**

For high res. images or to organise an interview with any of the artists or curators, contact:
Meredith Kirton, Communications and Marketing Manager <u>meredith.kirton@botanicgardens.nsw.gov.au</u>
M. 0417 698 559 P. +61 2 9231 8182







#### An exhibition highlighting nature in peril.

On the Edge: Species at Risk will open on the evening of March 17, at a ticketed event. The exhibition runs from March 18 until April 2, with opening hours from 10am-4pm daily at Lion Gate Lodge on Mrs Macquaries Road at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney.

Exhibited works include painting, drawing, printmaking, photography, sculpture, ceramics, mosaics and textiles. Entry is free. All work will be for sale with funds raised going towards the vital work of the Gardens.



**Over 80 different species and habitats are represented in the exhibition.** Biodiversity conservation is critical to the long-term environmental health of our country.

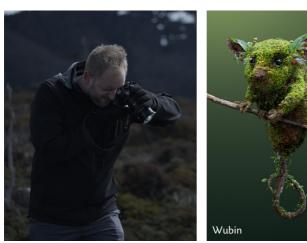
"Biodiversity is essential to the natural environment and to human survival, wellbeing and economic prosperity. A recent survey showed that Australians believe wildlife, forests and natural places are important because they are critical to the balance of nature and that it is the responsibility of the current generation to leave nature healthy for future generations." Biodiversity chapter, State of the Environment report 2021

#### **Participating Artists**

Julianne Ross Allcorn, Sally Blake, Scott Brunsdon, Nichola Bryan, Hannah Caprice, Stephanie Chambers, Steve Coburn, Owen Crick, Camila De Gregorio, Sasha Deshon, Josh Dykgraaf, Helen Earl, Alison Ellis, Sharon Field, Cathy Gray, Jody Graham, Jane Guthleben, Anders Hallan, Garth Henderson, Lisa Hoelzl, Jo Hollier, Kerriann Indorato, Christine Johnson, Rachel Klyve, Janet Luxton, Kelly Mackey, Rob Mancini, Janet Matthews, Jason McDonald, Ella McGaw, Joan McKay, Dawn Oakford, Pamela Pauline, Meaghan Potter, Dave Segal, Nettie Sumner, Studio A, Anna Voytsekhovich, Deborah Wace, Tasha Waller, Catherine Wardrop and Lindy Yeates.

### **SNAPSHOT OF SELECTED ARTISTS**

# **Profiles**



#### Josh Dykgraaf

Josh Dykgraaf is a photoshop artist and illustrator based in Melbourne. His work explores environmental and conservation issues which includes the extinction events of the devastating 2019-2020 bushfires, and the new ecological issues that humanity has created during COVID. One of his images features a Mountain Pygmy possum, created using photography shot of various alpine mosses and fungus. Exploring the visual similarity between those forms and the animal's fur as a starting point, with the aim to promote awareness of the species' critically endangered state.'

#### **Cathy Gray**

Cathy Gray is a south Australian artist who has dabbled in different mediums but always returned to pen and ink. Her love of small details has lead her to intricate drawings taking up to 400 hours. In her work, "Endangered", she has drawn 755 of the 758 endangered and critically endangered Australian plant species within the Mandala (cycle of life). The recording of 'at-risk' species highlights the actuality of permanent loss within our lifetime and equally, the potential to pivot by effectuating change. It was awarded the Dr Wendy Wicks People's Choice Award as well as being "highly Commended" in the 2022 Waterhouse Natural Science Art Prize. Cathy also went on to win the Woman in Innovations Awards for the Arts. Annual Winnovation Awards recognise the South Australian women who are contributing to the state's innovation economy.





#### **Jane Guthleben**

Jane Guthleben reimagines Sydney's coastline before colonisation, abundant with birdlife and flora in fantastical bio-diverse profusion. In paintings that are a cross between botanical illustrations and imaginary landscapes, Guthleben conjures precolonial scenes featuring species unique to the remnants of bush in suburban Sydney. To create her compositions, she consults data from scientific and local government surveys to re-present flora and fauna in a hopeful, reimagined and abundant way.

She has been a finalist in numerous awards including the Archibald Prize, Ravenswood Art Prize, Portia Geach Memorial Award and the Mosman Art Prize.

#### **Garth Henderson**

Garth Henderson grew up in the southwestern area of Western Australia where his love of Australian flora, especially Banksias formed. He is based in Melbourne and is a visual artist & horticulturist whose contemporary botanical works explore the space between the real and the virtual, utilising 3D CAD modelling and sculpting software. Organic geometry, in particular the unique and evolving mathematical permutations of Australian flora, forms the basis of an architectural approach to these constructions. His philosophy is to visually dispense with the scientific and cultural 'restrictions' of traditional botanical studies and approach the subject matter with a focus on form and geometry.





#### **Jason McDonald**

Jason McDonald is a photographer, farmer, animal rescue carer and tourism operator. In his art practice, Jason uses a modern blend of photography and digital design in his art works. He grew up in rural NSW and has a strong connection to the land. He is a true champion of wildlife and the environment often using the rescue animals he cares for as his subjects.

Having kept a large childhood collection of toys which include earthmovers, he has carefully paired them with endangered species as a stark reminder that these vehicles have been used in land clearing and deforestation. This irony has not been lost with Jason as he is fully aware of the plight of our native species. In each of his 3 artworks lies a strong message "Let us hold these flagship species in high esteem before they are truly pushed to extinction".







#### Joan McKay

Joan McKay is a Canberra based scratch-board artist and wildlife carer. She has found scratchboard to be the perfect medium for realistically portraying macropods and birds, showing their vulnerability, beauty and character and often using her "patients" as her models. McKay has won several awards, including first prize in the Strathnairn Arts Squares 2019 and was a finalist in 2021 National Capital Art Prize. She holds science, education and library degrees and has studied and practiced art throughout her life.

#### **Pamela Pauline**

Pamela Pauline is a photographic artist based in the northern beaches of Sydney. She uses her practice to share the wonder of the natural world, focusing primarily on endemic Australian flora and fauna that are vulnerable to extinction. She photographs every element, creating complex composited photographic artwork that are often deeply layered and emotive. She has been a finalist in many awards including Winner in the National Trust 2021 Heritage Award for exhibitions.



#### **Meaghan Potter**

Meaghan Potter is an artist residing and working in the Blue Mountains. Her artwork finds its genesis in the drawn form, continuously evolving through the vibrant capture of watercolour layering a-topped by explosions of dark charcoal and ink. Paper is cut from a voluminous roll allowing for creation on the scale of the energetically large; a full-body drawing experience in which each line and block of colour is placed onto the paper through sweeps and lunges.





#### Nettie Sumner

Nettie Sumner is a contemporary artist whose sculptural and conceptional collections evoke stories of Australian landscapes and environments. Her work explores the revival traditional craft using current methodologies within contemporary contexts. Her pieces form a curated collection of hand-knitted wire installations and sculptures using different techniques, materials and treatments.

Nettie works from her home studio in Bondi as well as a workshop in Sussex Inlet on the south coast. Both studios have water, energy and recycling protocols in place to ensure environmentally ethical and sustainable practices where possible.

#### Anna Voytsekhovich

Anna Voytsekhovich is a scientist, scientific illustrator, botanical artist and wildlife illustrator residing in Maroubra, Sydney.

For 'On the Edge' exhibition she has painted 'The Greater Bilby ' in acrylic on wood panel. The Greater Bilby is the largest of the ground-dwelling marsupials known as bandicoots. With its long pinkish ears, it is sometimes called the Rabbit-eared Bandicoot and once a year can be seen hopping around in chocolate as Australia's Easter Bunny. It is now presumed extinct in NSW and classified as endangered or vulnerable elsewhere in Australia, with only scattered populations in the central western deserts and a small area of southeast Queensland.



#### **Deborah Wace**

Deborah Wace is a Tasmanian botanical artist, fabric designer and printmaker. Through her highly detailed and intimate artwork, she creates a window into the botany of Tasmania's wild and often endangered plant communities.

She combines digital plant images with dry point and mono-print original artwork and etchings, which she layers to create her rich, complex botanical designs.



#### Tasha Waller

Tasha Waller lives in Hobart, Tasmania and is a passionate diver and underwater photographer. She has been photographing the underwater world and its unique marine animals since 2010. In early 2021, Tasha was inspired to start drawing the marine animals from her underwater images. Her preferred medium is coloured pencils as it exhibits the splendid array of colours found under the water.

Tasha's aim is to share the beauty of the ocean through her underwater images and drawings to those who do not get to venture below. "If people can see the beauty which lies beneath, they may be more inclined to respect the ocean and the animals that call it their home."



#### Curators

Robyn Macintosh, Lucette Moore and Vanessa Snelling have combined forces to put together this exhibition.

Robbie, as she prefers to be called, has volunteered for 25 years with the Foundation & Friends, working on many exhibitions including Botanica, Transformation and Charlotte Thodey. She champions artists and the Gardens and has always been a fierce advocate for preserving and respecting our unique environment, working currently with World Wildlife Foundation raising money to educate and train young indigenous women to become rangers.

Lucette was co-founder and creative director of a global image library and was drawn to volunteering at Foundation & Friends as it involved working with her passion for plants and the arts. Finding artists who encompass a love of nature, or who have been influenced by the environment drives her involvement.

Vanessa is a retired lawyer with a strong interest in the arts. She first became involved with Foundation & Friends about 10 years ago, shortly after completing a postgraduate degree which included exhibition administration and exhibition development. Working as a volunteer with Foundation & Friends was the perfect mix for her lifelong interest in plants and in exhibitions. Since then, she has helped with exhibition administration for several of the Botanica and Artisans exhibitions. More recently she has been part of the exhibitions teams for our series of scientifically based exhibitions, including the highly successful Fungi x Botanica.

According to Vanessa, On the Edge – Species at Risk is a particularly topical exhibition with the very visible government and media focus on Australia's bio-diversity crisis. "I have found it a fascinating journey – from identifying artists who could meet our brief of Species at Risk; to learning about the endangered species and ecological communities researched and selected by the artists. This process has heightened my own awareness of the extinction crisis and of strategies being used to try to reverse the trend. The curators hope that through visiting this exhibition and seeing the works by our inspiring eco-artivists, others will also become aware of what we stand to lose and perhaps take up the challenge as citizen scientists."

## Walks, Talks & Workshops

#### Plants in Peril Walk

Lion Gate Lodge, Royal Botanic Garden Sydney | Sat 18 March, 10am - 12pm | Cost \$50

Some 1,362 of Australia's 22,500 vascular plants are listed as threatened at a national level and at least ten times this number by State and Territory jurisdictions. Join Paul Nicholson and volunteer guides Ann Webber and Pam Davis to discover some of the endangered plants in our living collection and what scientists are doing to conserve them.

#### From Field Notes to the Gardens

Maiden Theatre, Royal Botanic Garden Sydney | Sat 25 March, 12pm - 4pm | Cost \$140

Take notes in the field and develop them into paintings using the Royal Botanic Garden as your inspiration. You will be guided in observing and recording endangered flora, using your detailed field notes to compose a painting back in the studio. All levels of experience are welcome. The class is led by artist Jane Guthleben who is exhibiting at On the Edge: Species at Risk.

#### Bricolage Birds Workshop with Nichola Bryan

Maiden Theatre, Royal Botanic Garden Sydney |Sat 25 March, 12pm - 4pm | Cost \$140

Create a unique and striking sustainable bird assemblage with upcycled garden plastics. Bricolage, much like assemblage art, refers to art made from a diverse range of objects and materials. Create a gorgeous bird of your choice in the form of a wall hung relief where materials play cleverly with subject matter. From the design, composition and sketch stage through to selection, manipulation and arrangement of materials, you will be gently guided by sustainable Artist and Visual Arts teacher Nichola Bryan. Texture, colour, tone and composition will all be addressed with particular attention given to capturing character in your bird.

All materials will be provided, yet you are welcome to bring your own small collections for upcycling. Please note: no materials containing soil are permitted within the gardens.

#### Decorate Your Own Chocolate Bilby Workshop

Maiden Theatre, Royal Botanic Garden Sydney | Sat 1 April, time 11am | Cost: \$35

Decorate a chocolate Bilby for Easter with a range of coloured icing, sprinkles, smarties and silver pearls. As you create your fantastic edible art, you'll learn about our threatened species and protecting habitat.







## **PROGRAMME OF EVENTS**

## **Free Demonstrations**

#### **David Segal**

Maiden Theatre, Royal Botanic Garden Sydney | Sat 18 March, 11am - 1pm

Join Bonsai artist David Segal as he demonstrates the basics of creating and refining Bonsai in this unique, 2-hour presentation.

In addition to fielding questions throughout the presentation, the artists will provide information on the following topics:

- \* The history of Bonsai
- \* Basic plant physiology
- \* Techniques such as wiring, pruning, shaping and repotting

#### **Sharon Field**

Maiden Theatre, Royal Botanic Garden Sydney | Thursday 23 March, 12pm - 1pm

In response to David Attenborough's prediction that 2/5 plants may be gone from the planet by 2100, Sharon Field set herself a challenge - to draw each a day for the next 3000 days on a continuous scroll, the purpose of which is to provide a visual record of the plants we are in danger of losing, and to help educate people about the fact that we don't have much time. She started on Earth Hour Day – 26 March 2022. One year on, join her to examine the work, and which species have disappeared.

#### Sue from Wildcard Sue

Lion Gate Lodge, Royal Botanic Garden Sydney | Wed 22 March, 10am – 2pm Watch this live drawing demonstration by Sue Liu. Sue is a self-taught illustrator and observational artist, and creates intricate, realistic illustrations of Australian native wildlife from land, sea and sky with Artline pens and colour wash markers.

#### Joan McKay

Maiden Theatre, Royal Botanic Garden Sydney | Sunday 2 April, 1pm – 2pm Scratchboard is an art medium that involves scratching through a thin layer of ink to show parts of a lighter-colored layer underneath. Joan is a Signature member of the International Society of Scratchboard Artists, and a tutor of scratchboard at Nature Ar

International Society of Scratchboard Artists, and a tutor of scratchboard at NatureArt Lab, ACT.

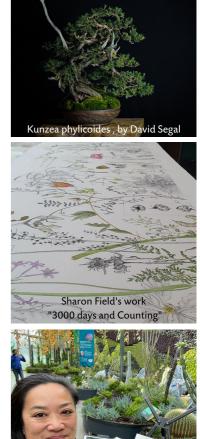
## **Expert Panel**

### Expert Panel Discussion with Master of Ceremonies Costa Georgiadis

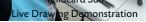
Maiden Theatre, Royal Botanic Garden Sydney | Thursday 23 March, 3pm-4pm \$50

Join our expert panel with Dr Brett Summerell, the RBG Chief Scientist and Director Science, Education and Conservation, Professor Maria Byrne FAA, aquatic species expert and Dr Elspeth McLennan, Postdoctoral Research Associate, Koala Genome Survey, Sydney University. It's a chance to learn about our Threatened Species and the work being down to save them. Costa Georgiadis, Landscape Architect, and host of ABC's Gardening Australia programme will also take questions from the floor as we try to understand the complex issues of climate change, habitat loss and species decline.





"Wildcard Stor"



## <u>Hospitality</u>

#### Brunch with the Birds

Foundation & Friends' Terrace, Royal Botanic Garden Sydney Thu 30 March, 7.30am – 10:30am Cost \$55

Meet the Royal Botanic Garden's most visible members, the birds, with our volunteer guides and then join Dr Holly Parsons from Birdlife Australia for a talk about endangered feathered friends. The morning will conclude with a lovely brunch. Don't forget to bring your binoculars!



#### High Tea: On the Edge

Lion Gate Lodge, Royal Botanic Garden Sydney Sun 2 April, time 2pm - 4pm Cost: \$100 You might have heard of the Threatened Specie

You might have heard of the Threatened Species Bake Off? Well, this high tea takes the cake! Join us for the usual delicious fare of petit fours, finger sandwiches and the CWA's famous freshly-baked scones, with the added twist of some flora and fauna themed cup-cakes, bilby chocolates and more. It's high tea "On the Wild Side". You'll love what our talented team of chefs have cooked up!

#### <u>On the Edge Exhibition Tour with the Curator</u>

Lion Gate Lodge, Royal Botanic Garden Sydney Wed 22 March, 10.30am – 11.30am Mon 27 March, 2pm – 3pm Friday 31 March, 10.30am – 11.30am Cost \$35

Sit in Lion Gate Lodge's garden and enjoy a delightful morning or afternoon tea followed by a tour of the On the Edge: Species at Risk exhibition. Enjoy this exclusive small-group experience where you will be able to chat to a curator as she guides you through the exhibition



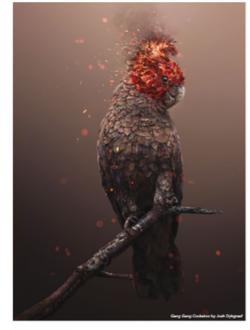
#### Food with Friends Cafe

Lion Gate Lodge, Royal Botanic Garden Sydney Wednesday to Sunday 10:30am to 2:30pm

Visit the exhibition's very own pop-up café where you can indulge in fresh coffee, sandwiches and delicious homemade treats right in the heart of our exhibition precinct. Take this opportunity to sit among the fine artworks, served by our incredible catering volunteers. All proceeds from the café will benefit our continued support of the Botanic Gardens.

## The Gardens Magazine

#### Article by Susan Wannan - available on request







### ON THE EDGE: SPECIES AT RISK













For a word version of this article for use, please contact Meredith Kirton meredith.kirton@botanicgardens.nsw.gov.au





# <u>About Our</u> <u>Organisation</u>

Our mission is to grow a strong, supportive community to advocate and raise funds for our Botanic Gardens and their vital work protecting our plants and our future.



Foundation & Friends serves as an important link between the Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust and the community, and promotes, supports and contributes to the development of the Gardens.

Foundation & Friends runs a number of exhibitions in support of its fundraising including *Artisans in the Gardens*, *Botanica* and its upcoming *Botanica de Materia Medica*, and collaborations with other organisations such as the Australian Watercolour Institute.