

16/4/25

Artist Statement *“The Birds and the Bees”*

I am a Victorian artist working in oil paints on canvas, drawing inspiration from time spent birding in my local parks and the Australian bush. These paintings begin with original photographic images captured on those quiet walks; moments where birds and native flora reveal themselves in fleeting, sunlit compositions.

Layering these elements with cast shadows, and using both brush and palette knife, I aim to create a surface that feels as tactile as it is visual, evoking the delicate textures and rhythms of the natural world. The process of walking, observing, and painting offers a sense of stillness and connection, a kind of flow that feels especially grounding in times when the wider world can feel uncertain or overwhelming.

Among the discoveries that have most captured my imagination is the sheer variety of Australian birds and even native bees; small, often overlooked, and astonishing in their diversity. While the works may appear decorative at first glance, they hold a quieter intention: to record the beauty and fragility of environments that many of us already feel so deeply connected to.

The Birds and the Bees is both literal and metaphorical. A celebration of life, connection, and the ephemeral.

Kirsty McIntyre