

Ways and Means

Mark Elliot & Bernadette Smith

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For the last two decades Bernadette and Mark have worked together and individually on several art projects in locations from Darwin to Singapore and across Australia. As practitioners with diverse mediums and styles, they have dealt with several themes and issues. This current project at Darlington Installation Project entitled “Ways and Means” resumes our collaboration entwining ways and means.

Bernadette has a masterful command of the language of photography. As the 2024 winner of the Hazelhurst Art Prize, apparently the first time by a photographer in this competition shows Bernadette offers a way forward in the medium rarely explored by other practitioners. Her works combine a photographer’s intense concentration on the moment with a painter’s ongoing sense of diverse

Mark is an artist, examining the history and language of Art through painting. It is the archaeology of this immensely complex, ongoing and still growing medium that draws Mark again and again back to painting. The very language of painting stretches back to the earliest physical processes of actual creation of a mark on a body for example. For Mark it is the ongoing relationship between our spoken and written languages and Art’s highly diverse ever restless changing processes that is his personal quest to explore.

The work that Mark is presenting, “Jaguar man” presents the viewer with a challenging, complex exploration of what is a painting. Mark draws on experiences of travelling in PNG, Asia, Africa and Northern Australia in the work. Signs seen along roads advertising trade stores made of cast-off

possibilities to create a unique expressive passage of aesthetic language that defies categorisation.

detritus from western sources. They would be crazily painted and hung up on rickety provisional forms.

In “Ways and Means” the work by Bernadette consists of a collaboration between ourselves using modified found oars (by Mark) and a sublime wall hanging by Bernadette concentrating on the movement of water sculpted by the wind.

As Mark says: “This collaboration is an ongoing project by ourselves drawing on shared memories and individual experiences. These include travels across the water to new lands, continents and cultural exchanges with other artists. We intend to continue these remarkably intense and rich processes”.

<http://artbymarkelliott-ranken.blogspot.com>

<https://bernadettesmithart.blogspot.com>

intelligent animal acknowledges First Nations peoples from Gadigal country as the sovereign custodians of Country, and pay respect to Elders of past, present and future generations. We acknowledge and value the culture, customs and practices present in the diverse tribal nations across NSW.

intelligent animal and the Darlington Installation Project (DIP) present Mark Elliot & Bernadette Smith: Ways and Means
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ARTWORKS

Mark Elliot	Ghosts:	upcycled oars \$1,000 Jaguar Man, mixed media sculpture \$2,000 Dimensions variable
Bernadette Smith	Greenway Reflections:	comprising one dye sublimated printed photograph on fabric 152 x 130cm two photographs printed on 30cm diameter self adhesive vinyl circles \$600 for the set



ARTIST SUPPORT

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