



Re
2nd solo show
3 -18 Oct

1983. That's when mum and dad made one of the biggest decisions of their lives: bringing our family of five from New York to a farm in MacDonald Valley, or "Forgotten Valley" as the locals call it, just over the mountain from St Albans. As a child, I bonded closest with my pioneering mother. Dad was often travelling or busy taking care of the 150-acre property. Though only two years ago I discovered he was also an oil painter alongside his cartoons, which perhaps explains more than I realised. My mum wholeheartedly embraced this new world. She approached it with the curiosity, wonder and heart that I think of when reading writers like Eleanor Dark, Inga Clendinnen and Lilius Trotter. She decorated our table with wattle and wildflowers and gave us the freedom to roam the valley, provided we returned shortly after hearing the bell she would ring from home. 'The Rocks', a cluster of strangely shaped outcrops in the bushland closest to our homes, became my playground. Alongside my best friends from the other families who shared life in the valley, I spent countless hours there. With discarded tin sheets, old bus seats and whatever treasures we could find, we built magnificent forts and elaborate bomb shelters. We played Convict Day, Opposite Day, and transformed into pirates, hunters, and explorers. We would conquest up the mountains, build alters of stones, explore the treehouse, swim in the lagoon and river, and during wet season, visit a waterfall hidden within the rainforest. Each season brought a new chapter of colour and life: banksias, gymea lilies, grass trees, wattle, and flannel flowers would bloom, and with them came black cockatoos, lorikeets, lyrebirds, tawny frogmouths, possums, huntsman spiders and even the occasional dingo. My entire early life was shaped here. Mum homeschooled us until we eventually moved to Lake Macquarie, where I attended high school. Yet these memories remain vivid and close to my heart. They continue to guide the way I see, explore, and make sense of the world. You can see those influences throughout the works in this exhibition. These flora and fauna tapestries share my ongoing reflections on life as it unfolds. Some are playful, curious, others explore deeper questions and emotions. All I bring to you, to join the discussion of these nature clusters share light and insight.