

**Artists:** Janet Laurence and Caroline Rothwell

**Exhibition:** Seeing Science



The work of Janet Laurence alerts us to the subtle dependencies between water, life, culture and nature in our eco-system and reminds us that art can provoke its audience into a renewed awareness about our environment. She created the *Fabled* series during a residency at the Fauna and Flora camp in Aceh, Sumatra in 2011. In Aceh, one of the few places in the world with wildlife still in natural habitat, she recorded images of the animals with a hidden camera triggered by movement. On her return to the region in 2015 Laurence found the hills burnt to the ground to accommodate the planting of palm oil crops and the animal habitat destroyed.

Janet Laurence *Fabled 3*, 2011, altered camera trap image, archival ink on archival paper 60 x 48 cm  
 Courtesy the artist and Dominik Mersch Gallery, Sydney and Arc One Gallery Melbourne.



Caroline Rothwell combines a scientific focus with imagination to reflect on human activity and its effects. The image is an of endangered Australian species presented in a style reminiscent of science and natural history. Rothwell has drawn with the emissions found in the exhaust pipes of cars, mixed with a binder medium. She states "I thought it would be interesting to create a specimen drawing of an endangered creature using the pigment from our pollution". Her title names the endangered animal, the car model that provided the material, and other materials used.

**Caroline Rothwell** *Honeyeater (*Xanthomyza phrygia*)*, 2013, Ford Futura MKII Conquest exhaust emission, acrylic binder medium and 23 carat gold on primed canvas, 25.5 x 36 x 2cm  
 Courtesy the artist and Roslyn Oxley9 Gallery Sydney and Tolarno Galleries Melbourne

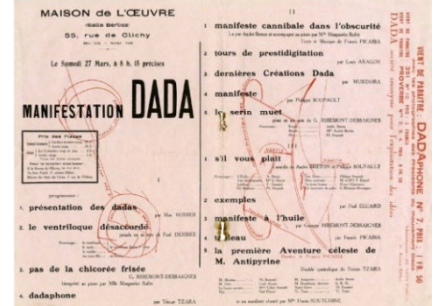
Artists **CAROLINE ROTHWELL** and **JANET LAURENCE** are both interested in the **relationship between humans and the natural environment** and both provoke an audience into greater awareness.

- Rothwell uses car exhaust fumes to create botanical drawings of endangered plant and animal species.
- Laurence alerts us to the subtle dependencies between water, life, culture and nature in our eco-system and explores what it might mean to heal, albeit metaphorically, the natural environment.

**What is a Manifesto?**

An art manifesto is a public declaration of the intentions, motives, or views of an artist or artistic movement. Manifestos are a standard feature of the various movements in the modernist avant-garde and still written today. A manifesto can be a social and political tool.

- **Research the Manifesto** from 1918, created by the Dada movement in reaction to the rise in nationalism and rationalism prior to the First World War.
- **Write** a passionate manifesto to support your Laurence or Rothwell.
- Highlight their concerns and ways to improve the relationship between humans and the natural environment



Choose either Laurence or Rothwell.

Study their artwork and read their artist information – or look at their websites.

<https://www.carolinerothwell.net/>

<https://www.janetlaurence.com/>

- What do they believe?

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- What are their aims?

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- What policies would they introduce?

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# MANIFESTO