

# Untethered

4 to 26 November 2022

Alyson Bell      Ingrid Bowen  
Susie Dureau    Amanda Fuller  
Colleen Southwell

**I lift my mind to the sky  
And I let it take flight  
The wind carries to my ears  
Precious sound of life**

*From Higher by Asgeir*

Responding to the concept of being untethered, five contemporary artists find ways to navigate a radically changing world. Their artworks engage with a sense of freedom associated with letting go of familiarity. Themes of weightlessness, ethereality and transcendence are balanced against grounded states and earthy connections to nature. Through mediums of painting, video, sculpture and immersive installation, the artists uncover a dialogue between spirituality and mortality.

The artworks by Alyson Bell (video installation) and Susie Dureau (spectrogram collages) both employ ethereal phenomena as a creative process. Through the capture of light and sound data, the artists ask the viewer to 'feel' as a way of thinking about the landscape, employing a unity of senses (rather than just sight) in making and viewing the work.

Ingrid Bowen's watercolour paintings trace the migratory path of the Bogong moth, highlighting the complexity of migration in a time of evolving climactic zones. Ingrid's flowing, watery paper works point to the instinct and adaptation required to navigate the next phase of evolution on earth.

The artworks of Colleen Southwell and Amanda Fuller are contemporary interpretations of curiosity collections. Colleen's delicate paper sculptures seem to grow organically over the surface; the spirit-like natural forms hovering on pins like an 18th century collection of butterflies. Amanda's sensual oil paintings imbue found objects with metaphorical significance, acknowledging the artistic tradition of memento mori and reminding us of our mortality.

# The Artists

**Alyson Bell** is a multi-disciplinary artist based on Sydney's Northern Beaches (Garigal Country) working primarily in video and installation. Responding to the world about her, Alyson's artworks explore transformational and darker interior themes, sometimes surprising with an element of playfulness. Enveloped in the ethereal space between the earth and the sky, our senses are bathed in a breeze of movement, light, illumination and sound. In this metaphorical exploration, raw bush materials pair with repurposed garments to suggest the unfettered female form and the invisible natural forces that connect our spirituality with nature.

@alysonbell.art [www.alysonbell-visualartist.com.au](http://www.alysonbell-visualartist.com.au)

**Ingrid Bowen** is a northern Sydney-based (Dharug Country) artist practising predominantly in watercolours, stretching the boundaries of both material and subject in order to create dreamlike landscapes. Ingrid's panoramic work for Untethered explores the concept of migration; the apparent freedom of creatures in flight, as tethered to their journey as we are to the ground. However, evolving climactic zones will untether most species, unravelling their historical paths and pushing them into foreign biomes in order to survive the Anthropocene.

@ingridbowenart [www.ingridbowen.com.au](http://www.ingridbowen.com.au)

**Susie Dureau** lives and works on Garigal Country in Sydney's Northern Beaches. Her multi-disciplinary practice is landscape-based, although her artworks invite non-literal interpretations of light and sound phenomena, addressing humankind's kinship with the more-than-human world. For this exhibition, Susie has used landscape sounds such as a crashing wave, a Fairy-wren call and summer cicadas to construct works that are vibrant visual celebrations of the earth and its creatures. Each piece is created by layering digital spectrograms: scientific graphs that map sonic frequency.

@sdureau [www.susiedureau.com](http://www.susiedureau.com)

**Amanda Fuller** is based on Sydney's Northern Beaches (Garigal Country) and combines her love of travel with collecting found memento mori to inspire her art practice. Predominantly working in oil painting, she aims to depict a sense of time and place. As inspiration for Untethered, feathers, bones and flowers become beautiful motifs presented in a contemporary context. Amanda's collective work combines elements to portray the found objects as being symbolically powerful and beautiful in their silent and dynamic states, untethered but grounded in a new eulogy.

@amandafullerart [www.amandafuller.net.au](http://www.amandafuller.net.au)

**Colleen Southwell** is a paper sculpture artist practising from her home in rural NSW (Wiradjuri Country). Drawing on a background in horticulture and life on the land, her intricate works celebrate the beauty of nature both wild and cultivated. She challenges the contemporary quest for manufactured perfection suggesting instead that beauty exists in its most perfect form in nature. Colleen's work reflects the contrasts of release and grounding experienced through a life spent with hands in the soil. Early morning garden wanders invite moments for reflection in quiet light and stillness. The garden appears almost weightless, hovering, though remaining firmly anchored to the earth.

@thegardencurator [www.thegardencurator.com.au](http://www.thegardencurator.com.au)



Artworks from top, left to right:

Susie Dureau *Cicadas on Yaeal Country, NSW*

Alyson Bell *Unfettered* (installation detail)

Ingrid Bowen *Vanishing Eclipse*

Colleen Southwell *In Grounding, I Am (# 1)*

Amanda Fuller *Last Migration # 1*

## Main Foyer

**SUSIE DUREAU** Represented by Curatorial + Co.

*Australian Raven Call on Bundjalung Country, NSW*, archival pigment print (framed), edition 1/3, 110 x 145 cm

*Summer Cicadas on Yaegl Country, NSW, 2022*, archival pigment Print (framed), edition 1/3, 110 x 145 cm

*Magpie Warbling on Garigal Country, NSW, 2022*, archival pigment print (framed), edition 1/3, 110 x 145 cm

*Voices Without Words: Soundscapes from NSW, 2022*, Video

*The Migration, 2022*, oil on canvas (framed), 22 x 28 cm

*The Moment, 2022*, oil on canvas (framed), 22 x 28 cm

*Minerality, 2022*, oil on canvas (framed), 22 x 28 cm

*Flying, 2022*, oil on canvas (framed), 22 x 28 cm

*Open, 2022*, oil on canvas (framed), 22 x 28 cm

*Untamed, 2022*, oil on canvas (framed), 22 x 28 cm

*Free Spirit, 2022*, oil on canvas (framed), 22 x 28 cm

## Room One

**AMANDA FULLER**

*Last Migration #1, 2021*, oil paint on canvas, 61 x 51 x 8 cm

*Last Migration #2, 2021*, oil paint on canvas, 40 x 30 cm

*Dream Catchers (installation), 2022*, antique glass domes, silver platters, feathers, cloth, bone on antique table, 150 x 110 cm

*Cabinet of Curiosities 2015-2022, 2022*, artists personal display of found objects

*Dream Portal (Orchids), 2022*, digital print on sheer voile, hand stitched with gold thread, timber rod, ribbon, 1.5 m rods x 10 m length

*Dream Portal (Memento Mori), 2022*, digital print on sheer voile, timber rod, 1.5 x 10 m

*Poor little Birdie (#4), 2021*, oil on canvas unframed 60 x 40 cm

*Poor little Birdie #5, #6 and #7, 2022*, oil on canvas, 43 x 43 cm each

*Poor little Birdie ( #8), 2022* oil on canvas , 50 x 40 cm

*Orchidae Morte Blanc, Orchidae Morte Viola, Memento Mori, 2022*, 3 limited edition prints, 55 x 70 cm each

## Room Two

**INGRID BOWEN**

*Vanishing Eclipse, 1-10, 2022*, watercolour on paper, 57 x 76 cm each

**COLLEEN SOUTHWELL**

*In Grounding, I Am (# 1), 2022*, paper, watercolour, pigment, copper foil, entomology pins. 49 x 49 x 6 cm

*In Grounding, I Am (# 2), 2022*, paper, watercolour, pigment, copper foil, entomology pins. 49 x 49 x 6 cm

*In Grounding, I Am (# 3), 2022*, paper, watercolour, pigment, copper foil, entomology pins. 49 x 49 x 6 cm

*In Grounding, I Am (# 4), 2022*, paper, watercolour, pigment, copper foil, entomology pins. 49 x 49 x 6 cm

*In Grounding, I Am (# 5), 2022*, paper, watercolour, pigment, copper foil, entomology pins. 49 x 49 x 6 cm

*In Grounding, I Am (# 6), 2022*, paper, watercolour, pigment, copper foil, entomology pins. 49 x 49 x 6 cm

*Among the Gentle Voices, 2022*, suspended paper sculpture, 250 x 250 x 120 cm (approximately)

## Room Three

**ALYSON BELL**

*Unfettered, 2022*, installation with four channel HD video with sound, 1-4 minutes, repurposed garments, old and new, raw bush materials gathered from Gadigal Land, charcoal bird drawings digitally printed onto voile 73 x 200 cm, blue lamp, tulle and voile fabrics, vintage birdcage