



the
whisper
in
the
leaves

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the leaves

an exhibition by Bronwyn Davies,
Joolie Gibbs & Shelley Pisani

four public programs

tailoring to place and community



The Whisper in the Leaves is a contemporary exhibition by Bronwyn Davies, Joolie Gibbs and Shelley Pisani that explores trees as witnesses to deep time, cultural memory and environmental change. Through painting, drawing, installation and mixed media, the exhibition invites audiences to consider trees not simply as part of the landscape, but as storytellers - holding traces of migration, resilience, loss and connection. The works draw on personal narratives and broader ecological histories, creating a layered and poetic reflection on our relationship to place.

As the exhibition tours, we are committed to ensuring each presentation is grounded in the unique character of its host community. We see *The Whisper in the Leaves* as a living, evolving project - one that listens and responds to the stories embedded in local landscapes and the people who know them. From the rainforests of North Queensland to the open country of the West, each location carries its own tree stories, and we are interested in creating space for those stories to be shared, explored and reflected in the exhibition experience.

To support this, we offer a flexible and responsive suite of public programs that can be tailored to each venue and community. These may include residencies, hands-on workshops, artist talks or panel discussions, all designed to encourage participation, creativity and dialogue. Central to this approach is an invitation for local artists and community members to engage directly with the themes of the exhibition, contributing their own perspectives and creative responses. In doing so, the exhibition becomes not only a presentation of artworks, but a platform for connection, exchange and collective storytelling.



residency model

The residency model for *The Whisper in the Leaves* is designed as a place-responsive, community-engaged process that connects local knowledge, artists and landscape. At each location, we partner with a local organisation - such as an art society, environmental group or First Nations-led organisation - with deep knowledge of trees of significance and local stories. This ensures the residency is grounded in authentic, place-based understanding.

The process begins with identifying key sites, trees and landscapes of ecological, cultural or community importance. These inform the creative direction of the residency and shape the public programs. Approximately two months prior to the exhibition, local artists would be invited to participate through an open call or targeted engagement. A series of skill-based workshops led by Bronwyn, Joolie and/or Shelley then supports participants to explore storytelling, drawing, mapping and material responses to place through guided site visits and studio-based sessions.

Following the workshops, artists are given time to develop resolved works in response to their experience. They are then invited to submit work for curatorial selection into a complementary exhibition presented alongside *The Whisper in the Leaves*. Up to 20 reusable frames will be provided (pending funding) to exhibit selected works on paper (up to A4), accommodating a range of mediums.

This model embeds local voices within the exhibition, creating a meaningful legacy while ensuring each tour reflects the unique stories, landscapes and communities it engages.



workshops

love letter to a tree

with Bronwyn Davies



This reflective workshop invites participants to create a personal "love letter" to a tree - an intimate expression of connection, memory and place.

Using old maps, participants will craft a unique envelope before creating an illustrated letter that blends words, marks and imagery to honour a tree of significance to the maker.

Letters can be shared as part of a collective exhibition display or posted - either immediately or at the close of the exhibition - sending messages of care and connection out into the world.

Workshop Running Time - 1.5 hours
For beginners and up, any age - 10-12 participants
Paper, drawing materials and inks provided

mapping the forest

with Bronwyn Davies

This full-day immersive workshop invites participants to slow down, connect deeply with place, and translate that experience into a handcrafted artist book.

Beginning with a guided walk through a nearby park or forest, participants will engage in mindful observation, walking meditation and dideiri (deep listening), opening space for reflection, memory and storytelling. Back in the studio, these experiences are transformed into a multi-page artist book, using haiku, collage and botanical inks to capture a personal journey through landscape.

Workshop Running Time - 6 hours
For beginners and up, any age - 10-12 participants
Paper, drawing materials and ink provided



workshops

plein air in the round

with Joolie Gibbs



Inspired by Joolie Gibbs' immersive approach to drawing, this workshop takes participants beyond the page and into the landscape itself. Set outdoors, it invites a slower, more intentional way of seeing.

Participants will explore trees through direct observation and tactile techniques such as frottage (rubblings), uncovering the hidden textures and stories held within bark and leaves. Working "in the round," participants will move through space, building a layered, 360-degree response to their surroundings - an unfolding visual narrative shaped by perspective, movement and time.

Workshop Running Time - 3-4 hours

For beginners and up, any age - unlimited participant numbers

Participants provide own materials - list will be provided

all I want to do is draw

with Joolie Gibbs

Inspired by Joolie Gibbs' distinctive practice, this immersive workshop invites participants to explore the joy of drawing through the rich textures and forms of botanicals. Working with natural materials, participants will experiment with botanical inks, discovering how these organic mediums can bring depth, movement and atmosphere to their work.

Joolie's lifelong passion for drawing shines through in her intuitive and expressive approach. With a particular love for wildflowers and towering trees, she will guide participants through accessible techniques and creative prompts designed to build confidence and spark curiosity. By the end of the session, participants will not only develop new skills, but also a deeper appreciation for the beauty and storytelling potential of the natural world.

Workshop Running Time - 3 hours

For beginners and up, any age - 10-12 participants

Paper, drawing materials and ink provided



workshops

tree portraits in lino with Shelley Pisani



This hands-on workshop invites participants to create a lino print inspired by a tree of personal or local significance - exploring texture, scars, growth patterns and presence.

Participants will be guided through designing, carving and printing, with a focus on close observation and expressive mark-making. Drawing on approaches similar to Shelley Pisani's timber portrait work, this process translates sensitivity to material and story into print. Participants will leave with a series of prints capturing the essence of their chosen tree.

Workshop Running Time - 4 hours

For beginners and up, aged 16+ - 10-12 participants

Soft Lino, paper, drawing tools, carving tools and provided for workshop use

repeat patterns in nature with Shelley Pisani

This workshop invites participants to explore lino printing through the creation of a simple botanical motif - such as a leaf, seed or bark texture—drawn from close observation of the natural world. These will be gathered through an outside walk talking photos, rubbings and collecting objects that have fallen from a tree.

Participants will learn how to translate these forms into repeat patterns, carving and printing their designs onto paper. The process encourages playful experimentation with rhythm, placement and variation, revealing how small elements can build into striking compositions.

Workshop Running Time - 4 hours

For beginners and up, aged 16+ - 10-12 participants

Soft Lino, paper, drawing tools, carving tools and provided for workshop use



artist talks & panels

host a panel discussion

This panel discussion offers a rich opportunity to bring together artists, local knowledge holders and community voices in conversation around themes central to *The Whisper in the Leaves*. Grounded in place, the discussion can be tailored to reflect locally relevant stories - exploring relationships with trees, landscape, memory, environmental change and cultural significance.

Featuring exhibiting artists potentially alongside local experts, Elders, environmental advocates or historians; the panel creates space for shared knowledge, diverse perspectives and meaningful dialogue. It invites audiences to deepen their understanding of the exhibition while connecting it to the unique ecological and cultural narratives of their own community.



artist talks

Artist talks offer audiences a valuable opportunity to connect more deeply with *The Whisper in the Leaves* through direct engagement with the artists. Held in conjunction with exhibition openings or as a dedicated session the following day, these conversations provide insight into the ideas, processes and personal stories that have shaped the work.

In an informal and accessible setting, audiences are invited to ask questions, hear behind-the-scenes reflections, and gain a richer understanding of the themes explored in the exhibition. These sessions create space for dialogue, curiosity and connection - bringing the work to life through the voices of the artists themselves.



costs & funding

Public programs associated with *The Whisper in the Leaves* are designed to be flexible and responsive to each host community, with costs varying depending on the depth and scale of engagement. This may be supported through local avenues including Regional Arts Development Fund (RADF) allocations, gallery contributions, and/or cost recovery through ticketed participation. We are committed to ensuring all artist fees are fair and sustainable, with rates aligned to the National Association for the Visual Arts Code of Practice and Australian Tax Office.

We can provide more specific quotes for public programs once the details are discussed with the host venue. The table below provides a guide to fees.

| PUBLIC PROGRAM | DETAILS | EST. COST |
|--------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| Residency (plus material costs) | Artist Daily Rate (per artist) | \$700 |
| Workshop Rates (plus material costs) | Hourly Rate for Workshop (per facilitator) | \$117 |
| | Workshop preparation fee (per facilitator) | \$350 per workshop |
| Speaker's Fee (Artist Talks/ Panels) | Fee per speaker | \$336 for solo \$257 for panel |
| General Travel | Travel (use of own vehicle) NB - this may need adjustment pending petrol price increases | 88 cents per km |
| | Accommodation (per artist per night) | \$184 |
| | Per Diems & Incidentals (per artist per day as per ATO) | \$152 |

NB - Materials and equipment fees will be quoted on based on discussed needs and availability of any locally available supplies that may reduce costs. Artists are not registered for GST.



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