

JOHN EDEN: TALES FROM THE BUSH

5 FEBRUARY – 2 APRIL 2022



John Eden, *Barton's Prison Yard*, 2021, dirt and bush charcoal on paper, 41 x 58cm.

On display at Mundaring Arts Centre from 5 February – 3 April, *Tales from the Bush* is a new body of work by artist John Eden. *Tales from the Bush* is inspired by Eden's adventures through the Perth Hills, capturing the stories told through remnants left amongst the native bushlands.

At the beginning of 2020, Eden found himself overseas amidst a worldwide pandemic. He was able to return to Perth, where he self-isolated for 14 days in his studio. During his time in quarantine, he began experimenting with bush charcoal, feeling as though the expressive medium adequately captured the stress of his journey home. This experimentation initiated Eden's current artistic practice, prompting him to see himself primarily as an artist. The drawings he produced over those two weeks were showcased in his solo exhibition *Between Borders* at Nyisztor Studio in 2021.

Since the conclusion of *Between Borders*, Eden has turned his attention to the Perth Hills. For many years, Eden has explored the Hills extensively on his bike. He has travelled from Kalamunda to Mundaring, Darlington, John Forrest, Sawyers, Paulls, and Bickley Valleys, Karragullen, and the Monadnocks.

While Eden endeavours to leave no trace of his escapades, he is constantly finding evidence of those who went before him. It is their stories that Eden tries to capture, disclosed in what they have left behind. Through his work, Eden transports viewers to sites such as Mahogany Creek's car graveyard, Sir Paul Hasluck's abandoned swimming pool, and the former Barton's Mill Prison. Accompanying QR codes to geolocations, on display as part of the exhibition, will enable viewers to genuinely experience these places for themselves.

Eden has taught art at Kalamunda Senior High School for the past twenty years. He received a Bachelor of Fine Art from Leeds Polytechnic in 1990, and a Postgraduate Certificate in Education - Art and Design from Middlesex University in 1992. Eden is a frequent participant in Kalamunda Open Studios and has been a finalist in nine Western Australian art awards. This exhibition at the Mundaring Arts Centre follows on from two solo exhibitions held in 2021: *Between Borders* at Nyisztor Studio and *Landmarks* at Paper Mountain.



John Eden, *Sawyers King*, 2021, mixed media on board, 92 x 62cm.

Tales from the Bush depicts the stories revealed at various sites Eden has encountered while exploring the Perth Hills. This evocative exhibition is on show at Mundaring Arts Centre from 5 February – 3 April.

For media enquiries please contact Shannon Pearce, Communications Officer
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Mundaring Arts Centre | Tuesday – Friday 10am-5pm, Saturday & Sunday 11am-3pm
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