



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

WILDFLOWER SEASON

9 September- 9 December 2023

WELCOME TO WILDFLOWER SEASON AT LAWRENCE WILSON ART GALLERY

Western Australia has long been known as 'the wildflower state'. The abundance, strangeness and beauty of Western Australian's plants and flowers are, for many Western Australians, a source of pride, resources, and of personal and cultural significance.

Celebrating the longer, warmer days that come with the seasons of Djilba and Kamberang, the exhibition *WILDFLOWER SEASON* at Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery brings together artworks exploring the ways in which people make meaning from plants and flowers.

Exhibited in full for the first time since gifted to the University of Western Australia in 1941, a substantial folio of watercolours by Emily Pelloe chart the South West's abundance of flowering plants.

During her life Pelloe was well known for her passions for botany, journalism and equestrian sports. Her enterprising spirit saw her initiate the 'women's interests' column in *The West Australian* newspaper, where she would often champion both women's advancement in society and the state's 'floral glory'. A prolific and self-taught artist, many of her watercolour paintings were completed on long distance horseback rides – including a two-week journey from Perth to Augusta made in 1917.

Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery's UWA Art Collection Curator Gemma Weston says: "We're excited to showcase this beautiful and delicate collection of forty paintings, which have undergone an extensive conservation and framing for the exhibition. Emily Pelloe was an incredibly dynamic figure, who did much to popularise the study of local flowers and contributed to a kind of 'wildflower fever' in Perth in the 1920s. She produced an archive of work, both in painting and publishing, that opens a fascinating door into the past – and which also reminds us how precious and special the ecosystem of this place is.



Gregory Pryor, *Herbario Nojciano (Wien)*, 2003, watercolour, pencil, spirit based ink and collage on paper, 42 x 28cm, 1 of 13 parts, The University of Western Australia Art Collection, Gift of the Friends of the Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery and the James RH Watson Watercolour Fund. © The Artist. Photograph by Rob Frith

Marita Sambono, *Underwater Lillies (from the RePlant folio)*, 2006, three plate colour etching, 48.5 x 39.5cm, The University of Western Australia Art Collection, Gift of the Friends of the Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery. © The Artist and Merrepen Arts. Photograph by Rob Frith

In dialogue with Pelloe's watercolours will be a diverse selection of artworks that explore the stories we tell about plants and flowers.

Across paintings, etchings, sculpture, photography and the moving image, each of these artworks complicate the rules of scientific, botanical classification by drawing on memory, emotion and cultural heritage.

At the centre of this collection is an ambitious, multimedia commission from celebrated Noongar theatre-maker and director Kylie Bracknell drawing from a personal archive of photographs of Country captured whilst location scouting.

Other highlights include the winner of the 2020 York Botanical Art Prize, Kirsten Hudson's *Requiem/Kalyakoorl*, an elegant and emotional 16mm 'cameraless' film describing the lifecycle of the 'Everlasting' daisy and, from the University of Western Australia Art Collection, a suite of 13 photorealistic drawings by Gregory Pryor, documenting Western Australian specimens held by the Herbarium in Vienna. Recent works by Penny Coss and Lucy Griggs are also on display for the first time since their acquisition.

Weston says, "Our individual experience of place, and the way we see the world around us is shaped by so many factors, but together we are all part of a very complex, living world. This is so clearly demonstrated when artists' turn their attention to plants - how 'nature' and 'culture' aren't separate at all.

What these works share, as well - from Emily Pelloe painting Eucalypts out in the elements on Minang Country, to Wattie Karuwarra drawing the plants and animals of the Kimberley from memory - is a sense of responsibility and love for their subjects. It's a privilege to celebrate that, and at such a beautiful time of the year".

Exhibition launch opening date and time: [Friday 8 September 5.30-8pm](#)

LWAG's exhibition *BLAZE: people made known*, drawn from the collections of the Cruthers Collection of Women's Art, the Berndt Museum and Susan Cooper Wyatt will also open on Friday 8 September, from 5.30pm

Exhibition dates: 9 September - 9 December 2023

The Gallery is open Tuesday to Saturday, 12pm to 5pm, and admission is free

For more information, visit the LWAG website: uwa.edu.au/lwag/home

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Images: [Images available here - please note all images must be accompanied by captions provided](#)

Website: uwa.edu.au/lwag/Exhibitions/Wildflower-Season

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