



BALANCE

catalogue of paintings by

Nic Mason

at CSIRO Discovery Centre
North Science Road, Acton, Canberra

opened by Dr Amanda Stuart

hosted by
Gallery of small things

18 July to 15 August 2018

Introduction

Welcome to BALANCE, Nic Mason's first solo show held in Canberra. Hosted at the CSIRO Discovery Centre - GOST, Gallery of small things, is thrilled to assist Nic with managing the exhibition. When Nic first approached me, I was quite taken by the idea that GOST could 'go to the artist' and provide art services in unique spaces like the CSIRO.

GOST is pleased to support emerging artists when they graduate from their studies in the visual and design arts. Artists often need mentoring and guidance to become professional practicing artists.

At GOST, we want artists to concentrate on making their works so that as an Gallery operator we concentrate on promotion of their artworks and building the networks that foster the arts sector.

Whether it's a solo or group show, there is an enormous amount of energy that goes in from all parties involved, to make the event a success.

Our ultimate goal is to create an event for all to enjoy and value the arts.

Nic Mason has been a pleasure to work with and her enthusiasm and professionalism working with myself and Cath Atkinson from CSIRO has made this exhibition a joy to experience.

She has worked hard to create a series of paintings that has transformed the science gallery into an Australian landscape investigating the impact of interlopers.

Anne Masters
Director - GOST



Nic Mason, NSW Tablelands, Australia

In this stunning collection of paintings, Nic Mason ponders the impact of interlopers on the Australian landscape. Since European colonisation, Australia has experienced a devastating loss of wildlife species. Introduced species have been implicated in almost all mammal extinctions during this time and continue to wreak havoc with Australia's unique threatened species. In her elegant compositions, Nic focuses our attention on this calamity with sensitivity, compassion, and a touch of her trademark wit.

Animal skulls, weathered and bleached by time, are displayed as still life in an intimate, domestic environment. Precariously stacked, they vie for prominence in the composition just as, when living, they once contended for dominance in the landscape. Presented together with a whimsical - often red - traveller's suitcase, Nic evokes a narrative of a fragile ecosystem struggling to balance competing interests. Juvenile eucalypt leaves reference the flourishing of a new growth and impart a sense of hope for the future.

Nic's loose brushwork and painterly application combine with her attention to shadows and reflections, to suggest that greater forces are at play beyond what immediately meets the eye. Whilst their life force may be gone, a dynamic energy is generated when these static objects come together.

White dominates Nic's palette, echoing the weathering effects of time on life after death. White also alludes to a sense of isolation and reflects the detachment with which we view our relationship to the Australian landscape and native wildlife. Not without a sense of hope, white also suggests the possibility of new beginnings, of wiping the slate clean, and moving forward to an enlightened future.

Nic's marks are expressive and imbued with a tenderness for her subject matter that spreads to the viewer. Her empathy is contagious. She pushes us to care about the plight of our native wildlife, and in particular our threatened species, as much as she does.

Cath Atkinson, Education Specialist, CSIRO



Pricing list

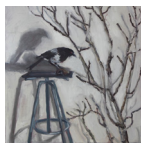
- 1 *Fox on kangaroo*
oil on canvas, framed, 30 x 30 cm, 2016



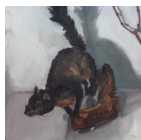
- 2 *Fox on kangaroo II*
oil on canvas, framed, 30 x 30 cm, 2016



- 3 *Pie and branch (detail)*
oil on linen, framed, 40 x 60 cm, 2017



- 4 *Squirrel & shadows, (detail)*
oil on linen, framed, 40 x 60 cm, 2017



- 5 *Rabbit, fox, koala, eastern grey kangaroo & wombat (detail)*
oil on canvas, framed, 45 x 60 cm, 2016



- 6 *Rabbit, fox, dog, deer on brush-tailed rock-wallaby*
oil on linen, framed, 40 x 40 cm, 2016



- 7 *Koala (revisited)*
oil on linen, framed, 40 x 40 cm, 2018



- 8 *Echidna, koala & eastern grey kangaroo*
oil on linen, framed, 40 x 40 cm, 2017

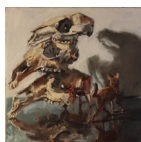


Pricing list (cont)

- 9 *Macropod on Red bag, (revisited)*
oil on canvas, framed, 40 x 40 cm, 2018



- 10 *Three macropods and a dog*
oil on canvas, framed 40 x 40 cm, 2018



- 11 *Pigeon down*
oil on linen, framed, 40 x 40 cm, 2017



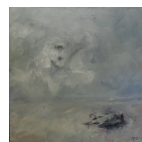
- 12 *Two macropods, a fox and a pig*
oil on canvas, framed, 40 x 40 cm, 2018



- 13 *Macropod balancing II, (revisited)*
oil on linen, framed, 40 x 40 cm, 2018



- 14 *Tom and the red browed firetail*
oil on canvas, framed, 40 x 40 cm



- 15 *Red bag with echidna balancing (revisited)*
oil on canvas, 40 x 40 cm, 2018



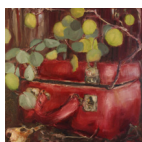
- 16 *Fox, Wallaby and wombat with dog*
oil on canvas, framed, 40 x 40 cm, 2018



- 17 *Red bag, where, why*
oil on canvas, framed, 40 x 40 cm, 2017



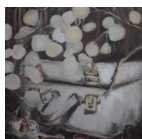
- 18 *New Growth*
oil on canvas, framed, 60 x 60 cm, 2017



- 19 *Waiting*
oil on linen, framed 60 x 60 cm, 2017



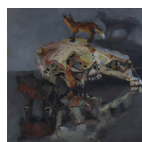
- 20 *New Growth II*
oil on linen, framed, 60 x 60 cm, 2017



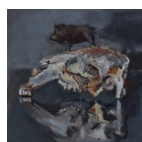
- 21 *Echidna and fox*
oil on linen, framed, 60 x 60 cm, 2017



- 22 *Macropod, fox and boar*
oil on canvas, framed, 30 x 30 cm, 2018



- 23 *Boar on macropod*
oil on canvas, framed 30 x 30 cm, 2018



- 24 *Red bag latch up*
oil on linen, framed, 76 x 76 cm, 2017

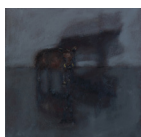


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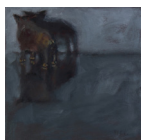
- 25 *Red bag, who (revisited)*
oil on linen, framed, 76 x 76 cm, 2018



- 26 *Boar*
oil on canvas, framed, 30 x 30 cm, 2018



- 27 *Back of boar*
oil on canvas, framed, 30 x 30 cm, 2018



Nic Mason wishes to thank Anne Masters, Director GOST, Catherine Atkinson, CSIRO, & Dr Amanda Stuart, Australian National University for their involvement with this exhibition; Ruth Waller & Dr Raquel Ormella, her ANU supervisors, Robert Palmer, CSIRO & Ray Mjadwesch, Ecological Consultant, for their assistance with processes she undertook to realise work shown in this exhibition; her family Mark, Caitlin, Tynan & Bridget for their ongoing support; & the Centre de Art Marnay Art Centre (CAMAC), Marnay-sur-Seine France, where she undertook an artist residency project & some of the work shown in this exhibition was created.

This residency project was assisted by a grant from Create NSW, an agency of the NSW Government & supported by the Visual Arts & Craft Strategy, an initiative of the Australian State and Territory Governments. The program is administered by the National Association for the Visual Arts (NAVA). This artist residency project was also assisted by a subvention through the Centre de Art Marnay Art Centre (CAMAC) – Ténor Fondation.





BALANCE

GOST logo design: amymcox.com
BALANCE catalogue layout: [anne masters](#)

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Front image: rabbit fox koala eastern grey kangaroo and wombat,
Top L: pie and branch (detail); **TR:** three macropods and a dog
BL: fox on eastern grey kangaroo **BR:** new growth
 Images courtesy of the artist