

frances malcomson —
up-and-coming
emerging artist exhibition



I am a contemporary botanical artist based in nipaluna/Hobart. My printmaking practice focusses the plants that grow untended, disrupting urban and suburban order. I find inspiration in the bypassed fringe sites of my immediate neighbourhoods. My bodies of unique state mono prints are drawn from direct printing engagements: inking, pressing and compressing gathered weeds. My methodologies draw back to and expand upon the traditional nature printing practices of the herbarium. Works are taken through multiple progressions: shifts from imprint to ghost print, to multiply overlaid offset print. Drawn from the immediacy and intricacies of my methodologies, the weeds' structural forms are transposed as indexical marks into papers. Inked details trace, fluids sporadically stain, tonalities fade and shadow. Intertwining imagery and deeply nuanced impressions offer delicate entanglements that edge between order and disorder.

In noticing and bringing to notice the adaptive survival of untended urban nature, I question hierarchical evaluations of plant species. In giving weed species the sensitivity of response historically reserved for culturally valued botanicals, I unsettle idealized botanical art narratives. This fits with the environmental query emergent within contemporary botanical art, questions raised regarding the way forward in a damaged world.

My emergence as a practicing artist is drawn from a previous Bachelor of Education majoring in Visual Art Teaching, an extensive career as a High School art teacher, and my recent Bachelor of Fine Arts with First Class Honours.

emerging
artist

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