

michael mcwilliams — *island matters*



Our island of Tasmania is a very special place. Being surrounded by ocean has meant that our fauna and flora have been, to some extent, quarantined from being overrun by exotic species, except those deliberately introduced by Europeans 200 or so years ago. Our uniqueness matters, but we shouldn't be complacent about it. We all have a hand to play in protecting this special environment.

This current collection of paintings is not only concerned about the impact of development on the environment but also draws attention to the amazing inhabitants of this island. I can not help but be amused and intrigued by the antics of the bandicoots in our garden, or the way the native hens dart furtively around looking for green grass and seed, or how the wallabies and pademelons come every night to feed on the green grass and exotic plants we have established around the house. Their needs are greater than ever as development encroaches on the bush, rainfall diminishes, rivers and waterways become polluted and temperatures increase.

I have used some antique frames for some of the works in this exhibition. Made from Tasmanian native timbers, the frames are beautiful in their own right but also hopefully enhance the works they hold.

Michael McWilliams

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