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Reimagine—the world according to children’s books

24 March to 27 May 2018

Free entry

Reimagine—the world according to children’s books is a selective survey of Australian children’s literature and book illustration, showcasing some of the most acclaimed and loved Indigenous and non-Indigenous illustrators of the past twenty years. The exhibition will open at **Geelong Gallery** on Saturday 24 March and run to Sunday 27 May 2018.

Reimagine provides an opportunity to explore how children’s books are able to introduce young readers to complex ideas about contemporary humanity.

“One of the revelations of working on this exhibition has been the sheer range of material diversity and stylistic approaches deployed by illustrators as they find precisely the right medium to give visual life to a story”, says Geelong Gallery Director **Jason Smith**.

“As curators we have been endlessly surprised by the experimental methodologies of many illustrators whose practices range from the venerable traditions of drawing and watercolour, to collage, sculpture, painted ceramics, and digital imaging. Each pictorial approach seems to magically correspond with the tenor and themes of its story, though the reality for illustrators is less magic and more labour-intensive crafting of their images.”

Reimagine includes works that range in scale from the intimate to the immense. Geelong Gallery is thrilled to premiere an exceptional, major new work by local illustrator, **Robert Ingpen**.

Across almost seven metres of painted wooden panels, Ingpen brings together a universe of some of the most recognisable characters from the history of children’s stories and nursery rhymes, including *Alice in Wonderland*, *Peter Pan* and *Captain Hook*, *Toad of Toad Hall*, *Humpty Dumpty*, *Pinocchio*, *the Tin Man*, *Bunyip Bluegum*, and the hairy Peruvians who voyaged in the artist’s own creation, the *Poppykettle*. This tour de force will be exhibited for the first time in *Reimagine*.

Other exhibition highlights include **Shaun Tan’s** exquisite paintings for *The Rules of Summer*, and **Dee Huxley’s** *Look See, Look at Me* following the story of family life in an Aboriginal community. Huxley and author Leonie Norrington ran workshops with the women of the Barunga, Wugularr and Manyalalluk communities of Arnhem Land to create the vibrant illustrations and rhyming texts.



Shaun Tan
Never be late for a parade 2012–13
oil on canvas
[from *Rules of Summer*, Hachette, Australia, 2013]
Courtesy of the artist
© Shaun Tan



Tai Snaith
Try new things 2017
gouache, ink, watercolour, paper and stoneware and porcelain clay
[from *Slow Down, World*, Thames & Hudson, Australia, 2017]
Collection of the artist
© Tai Snaith

Van T Rudd's paintings on scrap cardboard – salvaged by the artist – reflect a synergy with the story created by Maxine Beneba Clarke in *The Patchwork Bike*, a tale of brothers in a village at the edge of the No-Go Desert, who build a bike from scratch, using everyday items such as an old milk pot and a used flour sack, with a numberplate from bark.

Tai Snaith worked with clay, paper and paint to create the images for *Slow Down, World*, a whimsical journey towards mindfulness; and **Isobel Knowles** staged three-dimensional tableaux constructed from felt and cardboard to create the images for *Owl Know How*, a story about solving problems (big problems that can only be solved with the help of owls); and **Bern Emmerichs's** painted and fired ceramics illustrate Michael Sedunary's texts in *The Unlikely Story of Bennelong and Phillip*.

Other works in the exhibition include: **Bronwyn Bancroft's** abstract *Colours of Australia*, inspired by the shapes, shades and colours of Country; **Rachel Tonkin's** intricate *Leaf Litter: Exploring the Mysteries of a Hidden World*; **Ann James' illustrations** for Roger Carr's *The Butterfly*, **Bob Graham's** touching drawings for *Home in the Rain*; **Anna Walker's** pensive Mr Huff; **Matt Ottley's** computer-based painting and drawings for author Danny Parker's character Toby; **Trace Balla's** *Rivertime* and **Marc Martin's** *A River*; **Anne Spudvilas's** reimagining of *Swan Lake*; **Allison Colpoys's** illustrations for Dabina Bell's *Under the Love Umbrella*; **Terry Denton** illustrations for the story of *Jandamarra*, a creative re-imagining by **Mark Greenwood**; *The Soldier's Gift*, sensitively written by Tony Palmer and illustrated by **Jane Tanner**; **Leigh Hobb's** *Mr Chicken Arriva a Roma*; **Gus Gordon's** *Herman & Rosie*; **Joshua Button & Robyn Wells' Steve goes to Carnival, and **Tohby Riddle's** *Unforgotten*.**

Through the works of Australian illustrators and authors, telling our own stories as well as universal tales, *Reimagine—the world according to children's books* activates the dynamic connection between reading and seeing, and promotes literacy, perception, creativity, and diverse ways of seeing the world.

A Geelong Gallery and Geelong Regional Library Corporation exhibition.

- Ends-

Public programs

Geelong Gallery is running a full schedule of public programs over the period of the exhibition. See www.geelonggallery.org.au for more details.

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Exhibition partners:

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