

Acknowledgment of Country

We acknowledge the 1st peoples of this land in which we live and work to defend. We offer our respects and solidarity to Elders past, present and emerging. Country has never been ceded.

Thankyou

Thankyou to my colleagues Sue Stephens and Terhi Hakola and also to Hobart Hughes who was there in the wings also helping me. Also to the Hazelhurst team who did an amazing job with curating and installing alot of artworks with many details and requests.

Introduction Speech for “Canopy”

Welcome to “Canopy,” an exhibition that invites you to embrace the all encompassing world of trees. We the Tree Veneration Society, celebrate all the trees of our planet and also confront the pressing issues that threaten their existence and, consequently, our own.

Some of the oldest trees in Tasmania's Huon Pine groves, are over 3,000 years old, with some clonal stands (genetically identical root systems) estimated to be over 10,000 years old, making them the oldest living organisms on the planet!

Whilst the specific "Grove of Giants" in Tasmania's Huon Valley was successfully removed from logging schedules in 2023 due to intense campaigning, ancient giant trees and old-growth forests across Tasmania and wider Australia, remain under threat from ongoing logging, often ending up as wood pulp, to be used to make products such as toilet paper and packaging.

Trees are more than just beautiful elements of our landscape. They are the lungs of our Earth, tirelessly transpiring oxygen, sequestering carbon, and providing sanctuary for countless beings—birds, insects, and mammals alike. They offer us and all beings, respite from the heat and pollution and play a vital role in the intricate web of life.

Each ring in their trunk holds the memories of stress and resilience, growth and reciprocity, and the interconnectedness of all living things.

The works in this show acknowledge issues such as: deforestation, environmental pollution, climate change, extinction, colonialism and the dual nature of trees—their incredible strength and resilience as well as their fragility and vulnerability.

We invite you to immerse yourselves in the “Canopy”. To revere trees, learn from them, and commit to being their stewards, so that together we can cultivate a deeper appreciation for these magnificent beings, advocate for their protection and look after them as they look after us.

If you are interested to know more about, or join the Tree Veneration Society, we invite you to watch the video here on display, and or take a business card (at reception), and get in touch via email or thru the website.

Thank you, and welcome to “Canopy.” 