

Old VS New

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My body of work explores the fascination I have with birds who I see as symbols for life. Specifically their colour, sounds and personalities birds give me the capacity to share and connect with my world. A story of resilience, *Old Versus New* concept of new beginnings and the replacement of the old. This is realised aesthetically through the foreground placement of two large vibrantly coloured Kingfisher birds resting on a pale ghost gum branch, bookending the view. Surveying their waterhole a rusted plane wreck awaits. This framed view continues successfully to be broken by the horizontal of the branch and the hanging gums leaves entering from the top much like the style of William Cooper. I connected with his scientific realism and was inspired complementary contrasts of oranges and blues that are further sculpted with darker tones of similar hues to create form. Their alertness is apparent in the way their head is positioned and the highly detailed tonal work of their feathers suggesting they could take flight at any moment. I am quite pleased with this effect as it reinforces my realistic detail and compositional layers take from Cooper.

The brightness symbolizes the new and on closer inspection you see the environmental concerns. Almost hidden, the tiny fragile bird skull almost merges into the pale bark of the ghost gum. By selecting similar surrounding tones, I successfully contoured the bone creating a sense of belonging to the nature. This loss is created by key symbols from the submerged mechanical bird wreck and asks you to question mankind's impact on the environment. The focus for me was in the quality of reflection literal and in the composition as I wanted this to be responsive to the water's surface so it would belong as well a wonder how it go there.

Depicting my story about the cycle of life I continued to work to refine the detail finding different features that linked both the bird and its impact in the world. I discovered Steeven Salvat bird and machine series which lead me to see how nature and manmade objects are similar as I am thinking about planes and birds. Having resolved the angle of the plane in my practical I saw how the perspective would be accurate as I scaled up and tilted the plane. This response shapes my thoughts as I play with the idea of appearance and resilience. It's this I am dealing with, as I look to generate a feeling of inner togetherness.

I would like to inspire others to be hopeful of the new beginnings as life endures with each renewal. Art speaks to the times and says a lot about our cultural attitude and sense of belonging. We age but there are always young birds for the future. These birds are unique as we are and for me have become personal symbols of the ongoing cycle of life, how the new replaces the old and the sometimes useless.