



Botanical Art Workshop *with Stephen Castledine*

Sunday 2 June • 10am to 2pm (4 hours)
Gallery 152, York

Southwest Australia, also referred to by botanists as the Kwongan, is a region of international significance for its botanical diversity.

The region is about the size of England. England has about 1,500 species of vascular plants (all plants except ferns and mosses), 47 of them found nowhere else. Contrast that with Southwest Australia, which harbours an astonishing **7,239 vascular plant species**, almost 80% of which are found nowhere else in the world.

This workshop leads the students from close observation of shapes and textures of some of these remarkable plants through to formalising those elements into compositions and patterns which can be developed into finished works.

Participants should bring reference images of native flora (and the fauna they rely on) and drawing materials suitable for capturing shapes and details which can be combined to create images which have the potential to be further developed into paintings, textiles, printmaking, sculpture or other media.



Suggested materials:

Pencils B, 2B. Black felt pens ranging from 0.4, 0.6 to Artline 70 (for blocking in solid areas). A3 white cartridge paper.



ABOUT STEPHEN CASTLEDINE

Since his first solo exhibition in 1987, Stephen has pursued parallel careers in fine art and graphic design and his work in both disciplines has received numerous awards. Castledine enjoys the unpredictability of watercolour in his painting practice which can produce extraordinary results beyond the control of the artist.

The works featured in "*Romancing Botany*" continue his exploration of combining drawing and painting to capture the unexpected patterns which nature reveals. Castledine's work is represented in private and corporate collections in Australia and overseas.

TOP IMAGE: **Forest Floor**. Ink, watercolour, digital (giclée on archival paper).

CENTRE IMAGE: **New Holland Honeyeaters (detail)**. Ink, watercolour, digital (giclée on archival paper).

Portrait photography by Mikaela Castledine