Prue Sailer will be giving a floor talk about her exhibition on Wednesday 22 May at 12.30pm - entry is free, all welcome, coffee and cake will be served. Please RSVP to gallery@newcastle.edu.au or phone 4921 5255 by Monday 20 May, for catering purposes.

THE UNIVERSITY GALLERY

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE CALLAGHAN 2308

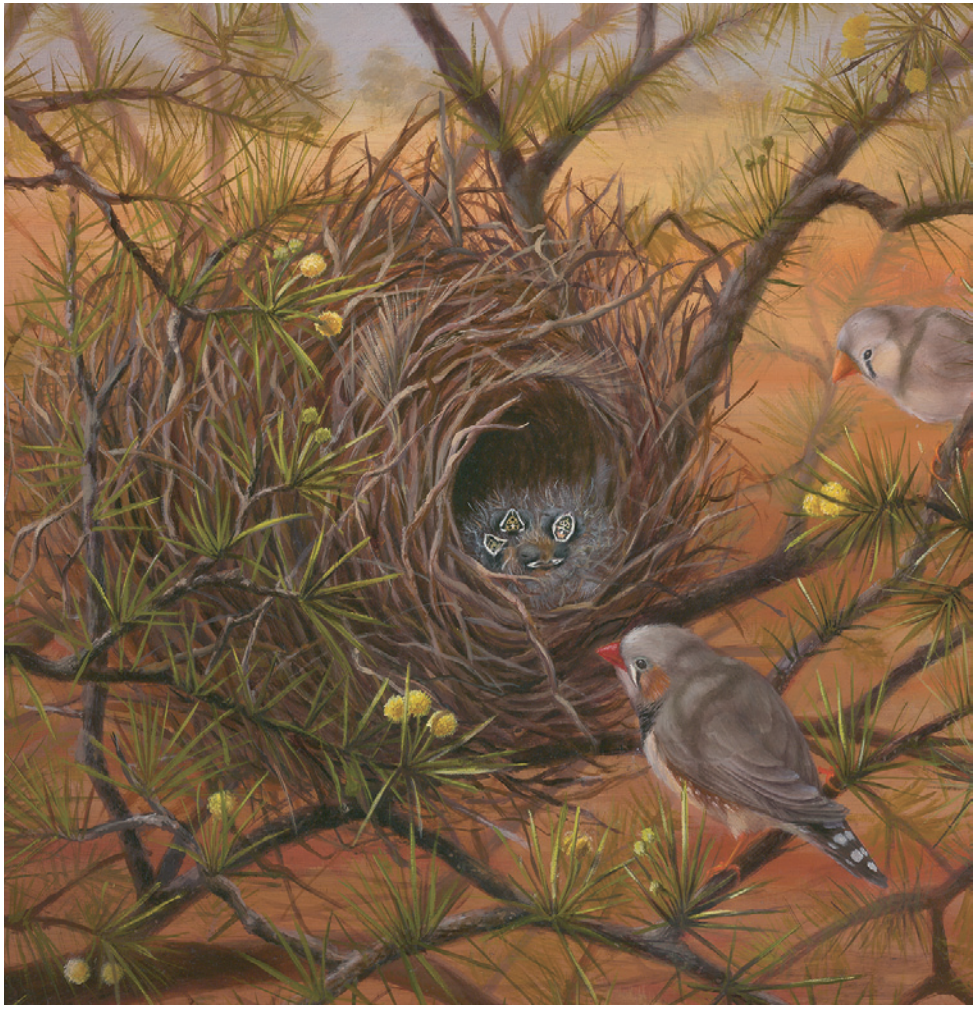
E gallery@newcastle.edu.au W www.newcastle.edu.au/universitygallery
T + 61 2 4921 5255 OPEN Wednesday – Saturday 12 noon – 6pm or by appointment

PRUE SAILER

Wild Visions: An Artistic Investigation Into Animal Vision

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE AUSTRALIA

PhD EXAMINATION EXHIBITION DATES 8 - 25 May 2013



THE UNIVERSITY GALLERY

FRONT COVER
Prue Sailer *Zebra Finch's View* (detail) 2012, oil on plywood
705 x 970 x 730 mm

RIGHT ABOVE
Prue Sailer *Chameleon's View* (detail) 2012, oil on plywood
565 x 980 x 1030 mm

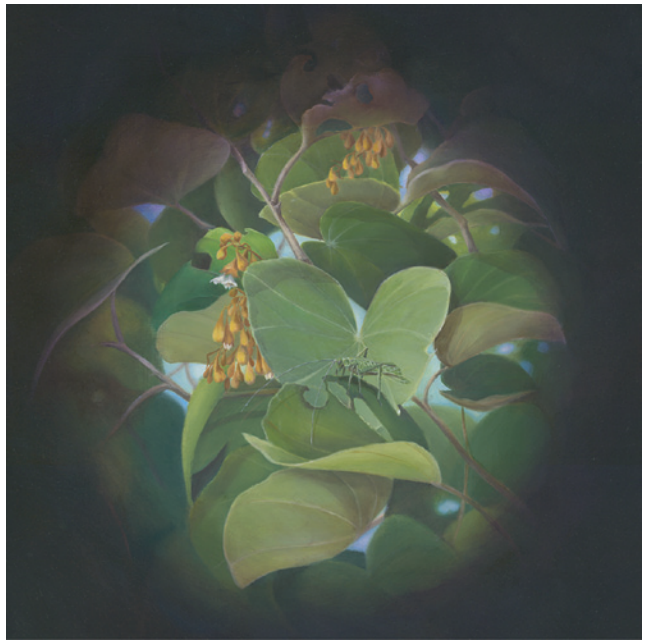
RIGHT BELOW
Prue Sailer *Dragonfly's View* (detail) 2012, oil on plywood
1215 x 980 x 1030 mm

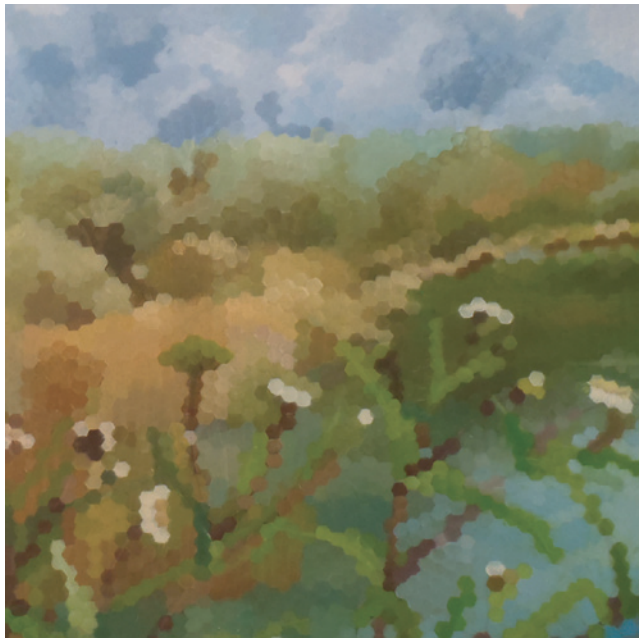
OPPOSITE
Prue Sailer *Eyes* (details) 2009-2010, oil on canvas
various sizes

BACK COVER
Prue Sailer installation view of *Wild Visions* in the University Gallery, May 2013

PRUE SAILER

Wild Visions: An Artistic Investigation Into Animal Vision





The way we see the world around us is shaped by the capabilities and limitations of our vision and this applies equally to all other animal species. If we were able to see through the eyes of animals, how might the world look from their perspective? We might be able to see predators approaching from above or behind; we may see a colour spectrum that extends far beyond our own; or we might be able to see clearly under water. This question and the creative possibilities it presents intrigues me and provided the inspiration for my PhD project.

In the research that underpins this exhibition, I have selected seven species to represent a cross-section of the animal world's optical diversity, extracting details of each animal's visual system from scientific publications. Their eye structure, visible colour spectrum, visual acuity, visual fields and typical habitat and behaviour, together determine the functionality of their vision.

Some of the unique adaptations that animals have to exist in their specific habitat include the Peregrine's 'zoom lens' that can single out a small bird from a distance of 1.5km; the ability of the Trout eye to detect both UV and polarised light; and the Tawny Frogmouth's capacity to capture six times the amount of light than the human eye in low light. I have translated these specialised capabilities into visual form, providing an interpretation of the way each species might see its own habitat.

I encourage visitors to the exhibition to step within the curved structure of these landscapes, into the perceptual space of each species, to experience the extent of their visual fields.

Familiar representations of each species accompany these landscapes to provide a comparison between ours and the animals' perspectives, while the close-ups of the eyes provide the conceptual focus.

These artworks represent just the beginning of a creative investigation that has the potential to illustrate to a wide audience the fascinating research being conducted in the field of animal vision.

- Prue Sailer, May 2013