

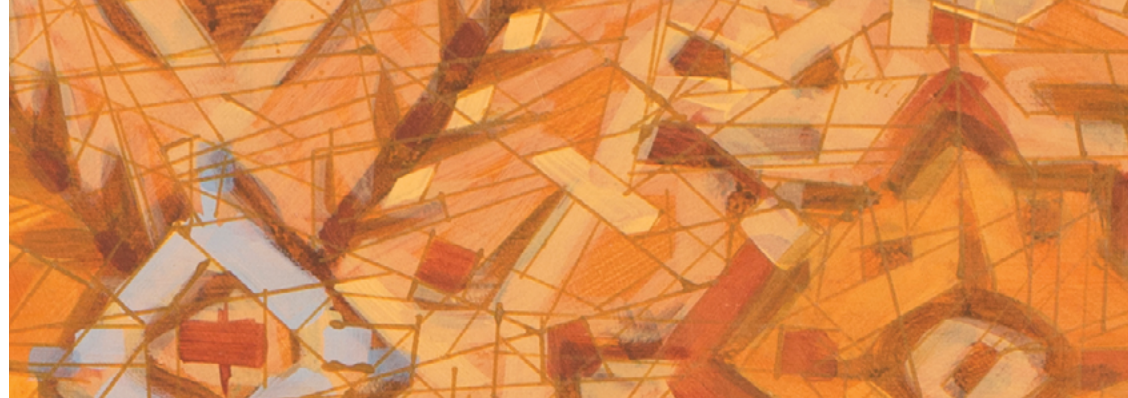


THE AMBER ROOMS

*a catalogue of mixed
media artworks*

TREVOR WEEKES
LEE ZAUNDERS
DEIRDRE BEAN
ANDREW HOWELLS





The Amber Rooms

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2018

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a catalogue of mixed media artworks

Trevor Weekes

Lee Zaunders

Deirdre Bean

Andrew Howells

Manning Regional Art Gallery
4th April - 13th May 2018



Artists clockwise from top left:
Trevor Weekes, Deirdre Bean,
Andrew Howells, Lee Zaunders.

THE AMBER ROOMS

The Amber Room is a world-famous chamber decorated in amber panels backed with gold leaf and mirrors, located in the Catherine Palace of Tsarskoye Selo near Saint Petersburg. Constructed in the 18th century in Prussia, the original Amber Room was dismantled and eventually disappeared during World War II. Before its loss, it was considered an “Eighth Wonder of the World”. A reconstruction was installed in the Catherine Palace between 1979 and 2003.

A chance viewing of a documentary on the Amber Room was enough to set the inspiration nodes on high alert. Not needing too much encouragement four artists banded together, motivated by the idea that such a place existed.

It was never intended to try and emulate the room and all its sumptuousness, opulence and

richness, rather an opportunity to take some aspect of the contents of the room and explore it on an artistic level. Each artist pursued their own interest and coincidentally the gallery that would show the work was divided into rooms, which were assigned to the individual artist. With the original Amber room spilling over with aesthetic overload and an empty gallery space in mind, the artists set about creating.

The eclectic nature of the Amber room provided scope and diversity for the new works. Producing only a minuscule portion of works in comparison, the ‘Amber Rooms’ is diverse at the very least. This variety of styles and interests by the exhibiting artists allows the viewer to respond accordingly and provides some insight into the creative process from inspiration to creative fulfilment.



TREVOR WEEKES

ARTISTS STATEMENT

I have long held a fascination for Amber and the objects that are occasionally trapped within.

The work produced for this exhibition; painting, drawing, collage and sculpture explore that phenomenon.

The subjects used for the artworks have come from many sources. Drawings, Photographic references, animal skeletons and three-dimensional curios.

The paintings explore the subject of entrapment but in this instance it is less obvious. The subjects: unusual birds, are held by a complex series of patterns and lines.

The collages of seemingly unrelated images are encased under a layer of resin, while the drawings represent a compendium of skeletons collected over the years and are buried under layers of shellac and drips of resin. The sculptural work parallels natural Amber in the way it traps fragments of bark, a dragonfly or an unfortunate lizard trying to escape the honey coloured liquid before it is encased in a transparent time capsule.



Hornbill 1
2018
Acrylic on wood panel
67cms x 96cms



Hornbill 5
2018
Acrylic on wood panel
67cms x 96cms



Specimen 1 (top)
2018

Paper, mixed media, polyester
resin and petri dish
15cm Circle



Specimen 2 (below)
2018

Paper, mixed media, polyester
resin and petri dish
15cm Circle



Amber dream 1
2018
Paper, cardboard and polyester resin
14cms x 26cms



Hornbill 3
2018
Acrylic on wood panel
67cms x 96cms

LEE ZAUNDERS

ARTISTS STATEMENT

A painted portrait can reveal the 'look' of an individual 'floating' between hardened layers of liquefied pigments.

This build up of pigmented layers over time emulates the natural evolution of rare amber 'stone'. This precious, petrified, amber coloured sap from ancient forests occurs in only a few continents, Russia being most abundant and purest in quality.

I have for this exhibition chosen to portray young women that I am acquainted with and who originate from varied ethnicities.

The biological and cultural significance of their colourings and character is as captivating and rich in its appreciation as a unique piece of amber stone.

ARTIST BIO

Lee Zaunders was born in Taree in 1958. She studied at the University of Newcastle and graduated with BA VA, Grad Dip. Fine Art. She has a Master of Fine Art and has lectured at the University of Newcastle. Lee has exhibited in solo and group shows nationally and internationally, and executed many portrait commissions.



*Chloe in the Amber Room
2018
Acrylic on archival board
40.5 cms x 51 cms*



Tania wearing amber and pearls
2018
Acrylic on archival board
40.5 cms x 51 cms



Bianca by the window
2018
Oil on archival board
40.5 cms x 51 cms



Evening light
2018
Acrylic on archival board
8.5 cms x 12.5 cms



In repose
2018
Oil on archival board
25.3 cms x 25.3 cms



DEIRDRE BEAN

ARTISTS STATEMENT

The Amber Rooms exhibition has given Deirdre the opportunity to explore her drawing practice.

Vintage mirrors were blank canvases into which she etched, painted and remounted, granting them new life. Resin cubes containing plant debris from endangered and common Casuarina species reveal permanently preserved life within. Amber-coloured resin set into impressions of rock fossils were painstakingly positioned to form a circular 'map' reveal a community of ancient life: a 'university of everything'. Dry point etchings of leaf skeletons

embellished with gold leaf refer to the celebration and rebirth of something once dead or destroyed, like the Amber Room itself.

ARTIST BIO

Deirdre Bean is best known as a watercolour artist, having exhibited widely in Australia and abroad. She has three Royal Horticultural Society medals (London) and highly commended twice at New York Horticultural Society's exhibitions. Deirdre was selected twice for the Waterhouse Prize for Natural History and was the inaugural winner of the Directors Prize at Botanica



Mirror (Lady palm) 2018 Vintage mirror, acrylic paint, metal mirror fittings. 74 cms diameter

at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney. Her work is held in public collections in London, Pittsburgh and Sydney. Deirdre has a PhD (Natural History Illustration) for her research into Australia's mangrove species. Deirdre Bean is represented

*by Stella Downer Fine Art in Sydney and Mitchell Fine Art, Brisbane.
www.botanicalartist.com.au*

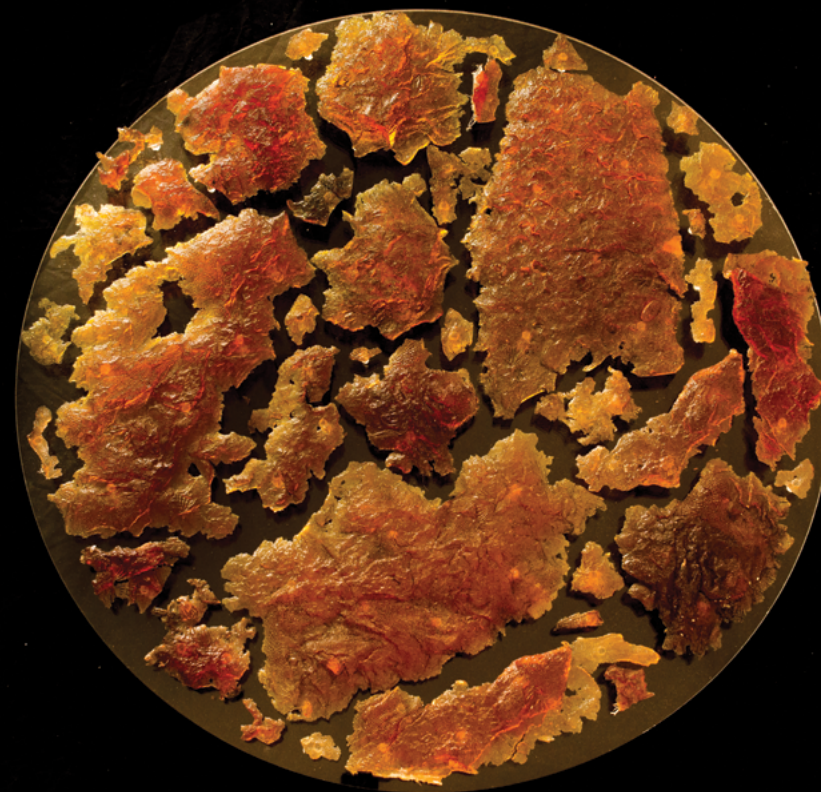


Mirror (Avicennia integra)

2018

Vintage mirror, acrylic paint, metal mirror fittings

62 cms x 46 cms oval



University of everything

2018

Resin and Perspex

67 cms diameter x 3 cms



Leaf skeletons 1 - 4
2018
Dry point etching and imitation gold leaf
9 cms x 13 cms



Permanence of life
2018
Resin, plant material
Twenty 4.5 cms x 4.5 cms x 4.5 cms



ANDREW HOWELLS

ARTISTS STATEMENT

My initial response to the Amber Room was intrigue, I wanted to know more.

I was taken aback by the opulence, beauty and glow of the warm golden tones emanating from its walls. There were so many layers to the inlaid stones, their individual colours, the detailed and decorative patterns they were composed and their cumulative presence and warmth.

In responding to this unique space through my art I wanted to explore the beauty of the amber itself, I wanted to create objects that embraced the opulence and

highly decorative nature of the original room's artefacts. I chose to make a series of walking sticks that combined an eclectic collection of animal subjects, amber resin and bamboo to create objects that could only be owned and used by someone who commissioned a space like the Amber room or who would spend time between its walls. They needed to be unique, intriguing, decorative and indulgent.

The decorative panels of the Amber Room became the next area to focus upon. The production of several panels that would not only echo the complexity of the

amber walls that were filled with a myriad of imagery but sit comfortably together. My fascination for pattern making and the huge range of warm tones of Amber provided me with a palette conducive to implementing my ideas.

Continuing the use of the eclectic group of animals and integrating them with the other important elements successfully compounded my desire to create the mysterious element and continue a sense of intrigue. The large elephant paintings provide a powerful presence in the room, their commanding stance and golden glow demand attention and add another layer to my amber room.

ARTIST BIO

Andrew Howells is an experienced illustrator, artist, graphic designer and educator who takes a multidisciplinary approach to his practice. Working professionally as a creative

for the past twenty years Andrew has produced work for private and commercial clients including the Australian Museum, Australian Geographic and many creative agencies including studio's representing licensed character brands such as Warner Brothers and Pixar. In his current role Andrew is a lecturer in Natural History Illustration at the University of Newcastle.

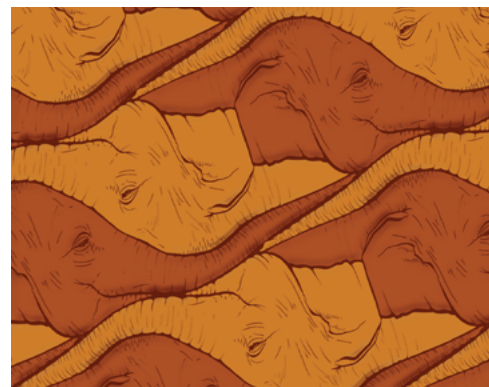




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www.lillianwebbgraphic.com

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