



Milan MILOJEVIC
Terra frieze (detail) 2005
digital print, woodcut

Courtesy the artist and
James Makin Gallery (Melbourne)

If you go down to the woods today...

The enchanted forest: new gothic storytellers

A Geelong Gallery & NETS Victoria touring exhibition

Six of Australia's most respected contemporary artists evoke a mesmerising woodland with intersecting storylines possessing both the charm and the implied menace of a Grimm's fairytale.

NETS Victoria is proud to partner with Geelong Gallery to present *The enchanted forest: new gothic storytellers*, a spellbinding touring exhibition that trails the uncanny, charmed and cursed, whilst revisiting a time when animals and trees were thought to speak, when man was at the mercy of the forest, and the boundary between civilisation and the wilderness was less clearly defined.

From sculpture, installation and painting to digital imagery and printmaking, this special touring exhibition features around 30 newly-created and existing works by notable mid-career artists **Jazmina Cininas**, **Deborah Klein**, **Milan Milojevic**, **James Morrison**, **Louise Weaver**, and **Louiseann Zahra-King**.

In *The enchanted forest*, woodland animals sport shimmering sequined pelts, fallen birds are turned to bronze amongst etched glass flowers, and moths metamorphose into beautiful women and back again. Werewolves and dingoes lurk in the wolfsbane undergrowth, giants are felled among eucalypts, while fanciful trees with nocturnal blooms are home to chimeras.

Curated by artist **Jazmina Cininas**, *The enchanted forest* is a Geelong Gallery and NETS Victoria touring exhibition that will span 19 months and travel over 4,500 kilometres to reach seven of the best galleries in regional Victoria and New South Wales.

Working across a range of mediums, the artists in *The enchanted forest* explore fables and folklore, creating their own personal mythologies to explore the socially constructed notions of nature.

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As curator Jazmina Cininas explains, “[The artists] draw on a gothic understanding of the forest, of a nature that comes with its own inherent dangers – and its own temptations to stray from the path. The precarious relationship between humanity and the natural world creates new monsters, both more dangerous and more marvellous than those in any fairytale.”

National Exhibitions Touring Support (NETS) Victoria is the peak body for visual arts touring in the state of Victoria and provides opportunities for regional Victorians to access and engage with the best contemporary art, craft and design.

Georgia Cribb, Director of NETS Victoria said, “We invite gallery visitors to encounter a fantastical world of beautiful beasts and exquisite nature created by six of Australia’s most respected contemporary artists.

“This touring exhibition will inspire curiosity and wonder in audiences of all ages across Victoria and New South Wales,” Cribb explained.

Geoffrey Edwards, Director of Geelong Gallery said, “Once again, we are delighted to join forces with NETS Victoria in a touring initiative that, on this occasion, taps into the contemporary fascination with mythic storytelling – a stream as compelling in contemporary cinema as it is here revealed in the visual arts.”

The development of this exhibition was assisted through NETS Victoria's Exhibition Development Fund (EDF), supported by the Victorian Government through Arts Victoria and the Community Support Fund. The tour of *The enchanted forest: new gothic storytellers* is supported by the Victorian Government through Arts Victoria and the Community Support Fund.

The enchanted forest: new gothic storytellers will be launched at Geelong Gallery on 12 April and will be on display until 9 June. This Geelong Gallery and NETS Victoria touring exhibition will then travel across regional Victoria and New South Wales from July 2008 to late 2009.

Destinations

> Launch venue:

Geelong Gallery (12 April – 9 June 2008)

> Host venues:

Bendigo Art Gallery (19 July – 17 August 2008)

Shepparton Art Gallery (10 October – 23 November 2008)

Latrobe Regional Gallery (21 February – 19 April 2009)

Swan Hill Regional Art Gallery (1 May – 15 June 2009)

Dubbo Regional Gallery, Western Plains Cultural Centre (4 July – 13 September 2009)

Tweed River Art Gallery (1 October – 15 November 2009)

Media enquiries

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TOURING PARTNERS



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