



## ROMANCING BOTANY

JUDY ROGERS & INVITED GUEST ARTIST STEPHEN CASTLEDINE  
GALLERY 152, YORK WESTERN AUSTRALIA

*Artist Judy Rogers has a knack for making us look, and look again.*

*Her work brings a sense of excitement, drama, tenderness and even erotica to everyday life. Perth has very few truly original artists with the ability to shock us into seeing things differently, with a visual language of their own. Rogers is in this class. From a distance her works look like photo-realist paintings. Close up they become cross-hatched drawings using lines to form faces and bodies, like the etchings of Rembrandt or Norman Lindsay. Look again and you see the drawings are on — plywood! Rogers arrived here from Hungary 24 years ago with an artistic direction and style that was already developed. She staged a string of exhibitions and won prizes for domestic scenes as she employed her unfamiliar techniques with confidence and authority.*

*Rogers has now taken to botanica, but she has not become a scientific illustrator.*

*“I don’t want to bring cuttings into the studio and rearrange them to mimic life,” she says. “The outcome looks like an open-casket funeral to me.” Instead, Rogers uses her well-honed techniques to create “portraits” of plants, just as one makes a portrait of a human being. Each portrait has an added poignancy because it is a painting of a familiar plant, just as she paints her family members. As an added twist she has taken to depicting our bushfire-resilient native flora with charcoal.*

*Geoff Vivian Seven West Media*

Image: **Awe** Mixed media on board installation, 80x80 cm, 2018.

*“From childhood I had a love affair with botanical art. Like in my portrait painting practice, I develop a close relationship with my subject. Despite the paintings’ need for botanical and scientific accuracy, there is large portion of artistic interpretation and creativity in the works.”*

ROMANCING BOTANY exhibition runs from 25 May to 14 July 2019  
at Gallery 152, 152 Avon Terrace, York WA 6302.

Exhibition of mixed media paintings on board, watercolours and digital prints on paper.

We are very happy to announce, as part of the show, invited guest artist Stephen Castledine and Judy Rogers who are exhibiting their fresh collection of contemporary botanical works on paper.

Official opening: Sunday 26 May 2019 at 11am, opened by Andrew McDonald

'Romancing Botany' 2 days weekend art workshops, designed to teach students how to approach botanical art using classical observational drawing techniques, modern technology and contemporary design principles.

Saturday 1 July, 10 – 2pm Judy Rogers and Sunday 2 July, 10 – 2pm Stephen Castledine.

For bookings: 0419 707 755

Gallery Opening Hours: Mon – Sun 10am – 3pm.

For interviews and further information call 0431 917 303 or email [pandj@myplace.net.au](mailto:pandj@myplace.net.au)

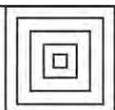


Image: *After the fire*. Mixed media on board, 50cm in diameter, 2018.  
*"I walk the dogs by this Candlestick banksia (Banksia attenuata). I remember how quickly the little wood was engulfed by the last fire. In this circular panel installation, what is not visible is as important as what you can see. Death is an essential part of the circle of life."*



Image: *Firewood Banksia Pod*. Mixed media on board, 29x29cm, 2017.  
*"I wanted to depict plants from my own surroundings, convey some of my excitement of the close study of structure, texture, colour and scale of the individual plants. I prefer painting living flora - I don't want to bring cuttings into the studio and rearrange them to mimic life, which constitutes for most botanical artists 'painting from life'. The outcome looks like an open-casket funeral to me. I am using extensive photo references to paint and I know some aspects of my work suffer because of that, but I have the actual plant nearby and I can go back and observe more. Having said that, seed pods and other dropped findings made it into the studio."*

GALLERY 152

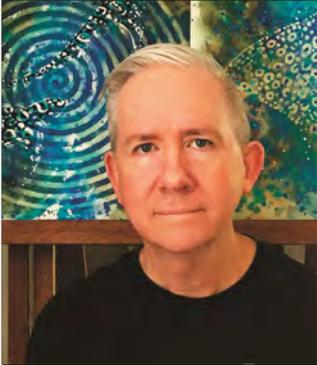




#### **ABOUT JUDY ROGERS**

Her work spans intricate mixed media works and public sculpture. She takes on a wide range of techniques from the ultra-traditional to the cutting-edge contemporary. Rogers is an awardwinning Australian artist and her works can be found in prestigious international public and private collections. March 2019, she was showing and taking part in the Sinergia International Painting Festival hosted by CETYS University, Baja California, Mexico. She represented Australia in the 18th Asian Art Biennale Bangladesh, Shilpakala Academy, Dhaka, 2018. She was awarded the Inside Out billboard commission by City of Joondalup in 2017 and the ANZAC art commission by the City of Wanneroo in 2015. In 2016 she represented Australia at the G20 Art Agenda at Hangzhou China.

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#### **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.

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