

Nicola Hensel

Almanac

22 February – 12 March 2011

Nicola Hensel appreciates the power of drawing. It helps her pay attention to the fullness of life. For her, its meditative process is a way of "being present" to aspects of the world often overlooked. Hensel's finely attuned work exemplifies the rewards of long and close observation.

As she looks for the 'prize' in nature, which is so often obscured by familiarity, her exquisite renderings reveal what gifts are offered by what may seem mundane. Using considerable technical facility, the artist works directly and immediately from the specimens she gathers to capture their transient fragility. As if adjusting a lens, the work focuses attention on the subtle extraordinariness of the ordinary.

Hensel's forthcoming exhibition continues on from a recent body of work exhibited at Lake Macquarie City Art Gallery.

"*Almanac* is a recurring motif but also a kind of modus operandi. I like that long history they have. Ground level knowledge, based on observation, gathered and shared. I particularly like the tradition of farmers almanacs where generations of crusty old blokes noted bird movements, animal habits, planetary shifts and accumulated it all in inexpensive booklets of deep understanding. I like thinking of my drawing practice like that. The more I observe and draw, the more I build my understanding of things."

Nicola Hensel - 2012

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Since attaining her Bachelor of Arts in Visual Arts, Hensel has exhibited regularly. She has realised solo shows at both public and commercial galleries in Sydney, Brisbane, Maitland and Newcastle as well as at the Seattle University in the United States.