

James Guppy

Fur Feather Scale

25 October – 12 November 2020

James Guppy's art displays courage and honesty in the way it explores human emotions, identifying and commenting on the cultural and emotional legacies with which we live. Like some theatrical dramaturge, his paintings reveal a heightened state. Guppy prefers to subvert, rather than imitate, his tools of seduction, a 'gentle absurdism' combined with a rich painting technique. Of his forthcoming exhibition *Fur Feather Scale*, Guppy writes:

"Over the last one hundred years the increasingly urban nature of modern life has eroded the intimate connection we once had with the animal world. For thousands of years, animals were our main source of food, clothing, transport and shelter. They were central to our existence.

The old stories tell us that we ate and were eaten by wild animals. Some became companions while others we 'domesticated' for their flesh and labour. Through animal husbandry we developed our view of how the world worked and we fit within it. In our early religious impulses, magic and art; animals were a central source of meaning. They were the interface we used to explain our lives.

In these works, I am exploring and playing with our close connection to the animal. It permeates our every interaction with 'nature'. Our metaphors about ourselves talk of being lion hearted, a greedy pig, a stallion, snail paced, a shark with the memory of an elephant. We read entrails, point the bone... Where do we end and animals begin?"

ABOUT THE ARTIST

London-born, Guppy gained a Bachelor of Arts and Master of Literature. He has since spent several years in the United States as a professor at Long Island University. Guppy has lectured at Queensland College of Art and Griffith University, and participated in a number of artist residencies. Guppy's work is held in many public collections, including the Queensland Art Gallery, Artbank, the Gold Coast City Art Gallery, Griffith University and Lancaster University in England. His work is held privately in Australia, Asia, Europe and the United States.