The Central Art Gallery

Old Library Building
The Arts Centre
2 Worcester Boulevard
Christchurch

Phone 03 366 3318
Email art@thecentral.co.nz
www.thecentral.co.nz

Sharing the Dry | **Bing Dawe**

1st February - 3rd March 2024

1. *Streamside Reflection - Okuti River with Tunariki and Ribbonwood, 2024*
Painted steel, copper and bronze
1300 x 400 x 100mm

   $7,900

2. *Eels Crossing - Lake Ōhau with branches Beech and Pittosporum, 2024*
Painted steel, bronze and copper
1000 x 840 x 200mm

   $12,750

3. *Above Lake Ōhau - Containers with Tunariki and branches Mistletoe and Beech, 2024*
Rimu, painted steel, bronze and copper
850 x 450 x 200mm

   $9,750

4. *Lakeside Defence - Galaxiidae with branches Matagouri and Bushlawyer, 2024*
Rimu, painted steel, bronze and copper
950 x 550 x 200mm

   $9,750

5. *At the Oxbow - Streamside Defence - Eel with branches Horopito and Tutu, 2024*
Painted steel, bronze and copper
1100 x 1000 x 270mm

   $14,500

6. *Streamside Reflection - Lake Te Waihora with Galaxiidae and Muehlenbeckia, 2024*
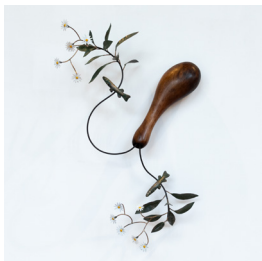Painted steel, copper and bronze
1200 x 400 x 100mm

   $7,900

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7. *Still Life - Container with Tunariki and branches Beech and Corokia, 2024*
    Rimu, painted steel, bronze and copper
    900 x 400 x 150mm

    $8,500

8. *Sharing the Dry - Mudfish under Muehlenbeckia, 2024*
    Painted steel, bronze and copper
    1000 x 550 x 100mm

    $8,500

9. *From the Constellation Aquarius - Container with Galaxiidae and Streamside Daisy, 2024*
    Rimu, painted steel, copper and bronze
    700 x 500 x 300mm

    $8,500

10. *Still Life - Container with Galaxiidae and branches Olearia, 2024*
    Rimu, painted steel, bronze and copper
    800 x 500 x 150mm

    $8,500

11. *Sharing the Dry - Mudfish under Corokia, 2024*
    Painted steel, copper and bronze
    1000 x 550 x 100mm

    $8,500

12. *Still Life Ōtākaro - Container with Tunariki and branches Kahikatea and Matai, 2024*
    Rimu, painted steel, bronze and copper
    750 x 700 x 170mm

    $8,500

Sharing the Dry is a collection of new works exploring ideas and observations around the storage and protection of water and the importance natural hydro systems play in the environment. Devices have been employed to create a visual language to communicate these ideas. Many of the devices are continuations from previous works with new ones added.

New to this collection is the use of wooden gourd-like objects which serve to represent systems of storage. These could be lakes, estuaries, wetlands, clouds, the vase in a still-life arrangement or, in the case of one work, an ancient star constellation. Each of these storage systems are part of an integrated whole but all have their own unique infrastructure which supports and provides its own character to specific areas of the landscape. These different storage systems are referenced in the works' titles.

The tree-form continues from previous works as an integrated device representing the branches of itself as well as of rivers, and waterways, and the fauna that inhabit them. The type of tree can also provide meaning to a particular work such as the protective thorns of the Matagouri, the poisonous berries of the Tutu, or the dryland shrubs such as Muehlenbeckia and Corokia.

The exhibition's title **Sharing the Dry** comes from two works in the collection, 'Sharing the Dry – Mudfish under Corokia' and 'Sharing the Dry – Mudfish under Muehlenbeckia.' These two works represent the dryland shrubs Muehlenbeckia and Corokia and the fish species of Galaxiidae (Neochanna burrowsius), or Mud fish, and the way they have adapted to survive climatically dry conditions. Surviving dry conditions emphasises the ways in which water gathers, in times of floods and freshes (or freshets, meaning snowmelt), and the ways it is stored. These highlighted works are typical of other works in this collection which stress the importance of water, both in the extremes of floods and drought and the way natural flora and fauna have adapted.

This collection of works poses the question: are we entering a new era of climate extremes and does nature's past solutions and adaptations offer us ways to learn and repair?

Bing Dawe
January, 2024