**Artist Statement**

Carolyn is motivated by the preservation of the natural world, which comes from her experience of walking in the Australian landscape. She is concerned with the raw object-ness of nature, and seeks to convey its material reality in her work. As such, she is concerned with how to convey the qualities of textures, shapes and surfaces. She is investigating natural and other materials and exploring ways in which they can be used to convey aspects of the natural world in an abstract way.

Her current focus is on the minutia of plants and seedpods from the Australian bush as she is interested in their unusual shapes, forms and textures. The biomorphic abstract forms in her recent paintings evoke the naturally occurring forms of the plants, but at the same time she is working between the seen and unseen, alluding to the real yet reimagining it. Her process involves working from drawing to painting, from observing small details to abstracting them into lines and organic shapes, which evoke the original subject matter but do not represent it exactly. Her concerns link to questions of sustainability and valuing materials.

**Biography**

Carolyn Lee completed a Bachelor of Fine Arts, majoring in Painting at the National Art School, Sydney in 2021. Prior to the BFA, from 2009 to 2017, she completed several short courses and summer schools at NAS in drawing and printmaking and at Pine Street Studios in Chippendale. Lee recently co-curated the exhibition Beyond These Walls at the Stairwell Gallery, NAS in 2020. She exhibited in the group exhibition Beyond These Walls at The Stairwell Gallery, NAS in 2020. She has exhibited in the Greenway Prize in 2017, in a group exhibition in 2017 with Pine Street Printmakers at The Shop Gallery, Glebe and a group Exhibition with WEA printmakers in 2016.

Her works are held in various private collections in Sydney.

**Curriculum Vitae**

**EDUCATION**

1970-1974   Bachelor of Arts (English and History) University of New England, Armidale, NSW.

1983-1986    Part-time Diploma in Drawing and Painting, Meadowbank TAFE, NSW.

1993-1995    Master of TESOL, University of Technology, Sydney, NSW

2018- 2021   Bachelor of Fine Arts, National Art School, Sydney.

**GROUP EXHIBITIONS**

2022   *The Grad Show*, National Art School, Darlinghurst, NSW.

<https://nas.edu.au/the-grad-show-2021/>

2020    *Beyond These Walls*, NAS Library Stairwell Gallery, National Art School, Sydney.

<http://librarystairwellgallery.blogspot.com/2021/04/beyond-these-walls-imagined-stories-of.html>

2020 *Covid Quilt*, National Art School, Darlinghurst, NSW.

<https://nas.edu.au/quilt-with-a-conscience-artists-make-covid-19-statements-in-squares/>

2017   *The Greenway Prize*, local artist section, Art Est. Gallery, Sydney.

<https://www.innerwest.nsw.gov.au/about/news/media-releases/2017-media-releases/2017-greenway-art-prize-winners-announced>

2017    *Pine Street Printmakers Exhibition*, The Shop Gallery, Sydney.

<http://theshopgalleryglebe.blogspot.com/p/pine-street-printmakers.html>

2016 *Impressions*, Willoughby Incinerator Art Space, Sydney, 2016

<https://www.willoughby.nsw.gov.au/Events/Impressions>

**CURATORIAL PROJECTS**

2020    Beyond These Walls, NAS Library Stairwell Gallery, National Art, School Sydney.

**COLLECTIONS**

Works held in various private collections in Sydney.