

James Masters

“Brandings”

REFLECTION STATEMENT

Brandings is a focus on the ‘atomic shadows’ of birds that were affected and struggled through the devastation of the ‘black summer’ bushfires of 2019-2020 in which all life suffered alike. My intention is to draw light to their beauty despite the destruction they had faced.

I chose to burn my drawings into wood to act as a tangible reference to the effect fire can have on the physical world. I used the subtle reference of the flame of my tool to the destructive flame of the bushfires, encapsulating my idea in a way that is unique and nuanced.

Aesthetically, I found that the burnt wood produces a very patterned and varied texture that adds greater depth than traditional drawing materials. This artwork is designed to be viewed closely in person, and even touched to feel the unique surfaces that have been produced. While displayed, a viewer may notice a subtle pattern that connects each piece as an ebbing flow to bring the eye around and throughout the drawn images, to further promote thought and reflection on the deep connections these birds have to both one another and the land.





