

YEAR 12 VISUAL ART BODY OF WORK

Artist Statement

NAME

Zambia Byrnes

TITLE

*Now that we See Eye
to Eye let us Converse
through Blood*

MATERIALS

*Card paper,
alcoholic marker,
pen, ink, natural
materials, foam and
felt*

We are starting to realise that we are not the sole inhabitants of this earth. The Western World has forgotten the preciousness of the perfectly balanced natural world and my artwork seeks to change that.

My Body of Work is a story of beauty and its untimely death, orchestrated by Western human hands. I was inspired by the Baroque painters and Romantic paintings as references for the hands in my artwork; poised and elegant. This is immediately contrasted by the actions of the hands, some covered in blood as they strangle, tear and crush the dead bodies of the birds.

The first board is a dramatic collage of endangered, extinct and spectacular bird species, depicted in vibrant coloured markers, chosen for their unique saturation and strong colour. The rich colour is immediately stunning, capturing the attention of the viewer with its exaggerated brightness. It is when the piece is examined closely that the subtle violence of the artwork is revealed, mimicking the ignorance of the destruction of nature in which we live daily. Each bird is unique, with humanoid eyes full of emotion and personality. Each portrays their own anger, tiredness, sadness and contempt as they look down on the audience.

The second piece likewise depicts a poised Caucasian hand ripping out the red innards of a small, lifeless bird like ribbons, winding them around their fingers. Around the centre image are two patterned structures, inspired by the work of Australian artist Del Kathryn Barton, who uses such natural imagery and patterns in her own work as symbols of life. I have appropriated her technique in my own art by mimicking bug wings and the microscopic scales of a butterfly wing or leaf. They are symbols of life, reminiscent of a set of breathing lungs, a sharp contrast to the death of the centre image.

The third structure is a naturally formed nest that fell in my garden after being blown out of a rat-infested tree. The needle-point felted eggs like the birds have lifelike, emotive eyes. The cracked egg, floating over the nest is broken, the blood and embryonic fluid entangled in the nest amongst native flora and bird feathers. Like the other pieces, motifs of death and destruction are woven throughout, the very nature of the downed nest