



LIZZIE BUCKMASTER DOVE

An End to Myth

MARCH 17 - APRIL 4, 2009

Lizzie Buckmaster-Dove's latest exhibition *An End To Myth* reads as a call toward a new recognition of Australia's natural beauty and an attempt to redress attitudes toward native flora established during this country's early colonisation.

Deliberately referencing the practices of museology and natural science Buckmaster-Dove subverts these traditional frameworks to present a new reading of our country's environmental beauty. Her paper sculptures appeal to our sense of genteel beauty and notions of wildlife neatly subdued. Drawing the viewer in by her use of these familiar terms of reference the true intention of her work becomes evident. Through these subtle forms the artist alludes to a darker truth lying behind scholastic desires to contain and control. Questions of cultural neglect emerge to challenge our methods of valuing, subjugating or exploiting our natural environment.

These works ask for an end to the belief that one can exploit or overlook the natural world; that we can neatly catalogue or ossify nature at the risk of causing extinction. They call for an end to notions of nature as 'idyllic' and endlessly resilient.

Through the act of cutting, splicing and curving pages sourced from second hand books, the very material that chronicles our written history, Buckmaster-Dove creates works that present a new reading of the fragile heart of this land. Silhouettes of native flora cut through European plant varieties and in turn peel away previously imposed attitudes and tastes to present a ghosting of what once was, before Europeans landed on these shores, bringing with them varieties of plant that would dominated our tastes and assumptions of what constitutes natural beauty.

Through her delicate treatment of fragile forms Buckmaster-Dove sensitively and gently unravels our preconceptions of natural beauty and asks us to see with fresh eyes the unique and precious life found in the Australian landscape.

Image: *On Green (detail)* 2008 hand cut paper 61 x 62 x 3 cm

137 Flinders Lane
Melbourne 3000
Hours: 11am - 6pm Tues-Fri,
11am - 4pm Saturday

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