

ART GUIDE  
AUSTRALIA

## Kendal Murray's playful miniature worlds

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FEATURE 28 September 2022

Kendal Murray's miniature sculptures are a fascinating combination of materials including repurposed domestic objects ranging from crockery and compact mirrors to children's toys. For Murray, these items become the foundation for her to create new worlds with an abundance of vegetation ready for exploration.

As the Sydney-based artist explains, her latest exhibition "looks at the significant relationship between childhood play in nature, children's wellbeing, and the cultivation of their environmental identity." There's a meticulous balance between the familiar and the otherworldly in these works—appealing to the imagination. In *Daytime Climb, High Time Rhyme*, 2022, a teacup forms a mountain that two figures have scaled—they stand at the top and gaze across the horizon. Meanwhile, *Run, Run, Fun Won*, 2022, features a figure running with two dogs through grasslands—the landscape brimming out of a clutch purse.

The rhyming titles of Murray's sculptures encourage us to embrace our curiosity and look closer at the intricate details of these creations. View, in pictures, Murray's captivating and inventive works for *In the Smile of a Tree*.

### *In the Smile of a Tree*

Kendal Murray

Flinders Lane Gallery

7 September—15 October



Kendal Murray, *Run, Run, Fun Won*, 2022, mixed media assemblage, 7 cm x 7 cm x 9 cm. Photograph: Ian Hobbs.



Kendal Murray, *Play Space, Memory Trace*, 2022, mixed media assemblage, 38 cm x 13 cm x 14 cm. Photograph: Ian Hobbs.



Kendal Murray, *Daytime Climb, High Time Rhyme*, 2022, mixed media assemblage, 11 cm x 13 cm x 15 cm. Photograph: Ian Hobbs.



Kendal Murray, *Extend, Befriend, Defend*, 2022, mixed media assemblage, 41 cm x 14 cm x 21 cm. Photograph: Ian Hobbs.





Kendal Murray, *Care, Share, Open Air*, 2022, mixed media assemblage, 21 cm x 15 cm x 11cm. Photograph: Ian Hobbs.



Kendal Murray, *Summertime, Local Time*, 2022, mixed media assemblage, 8 cm x 13 cm x 14 cm. Photograph: Ian Hobbs.



Kendal Murray, *Sunshine Bright, On Site*, 2022, mixed media assemblage, 11 cm x 11 cm x 11 cm. Photograph: Ian Hobbs.



Kendal Murray, *Parkland, Heartland, Wonderland*, 2022, mixed media assemblage, 48 cm x 14 cm x 17 cm. Photograph: Ian Hobbs.

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## SUGGESTED READING

### FEATURE

#### Melbourne Design Fair centres diverse designs and artists

As part of Melbourne Design Week, this year's four-day Melbourne Design Fair (from 18-21 May) features over 150 designers, centring women and Indigenous creators, and how "the design and making of the things we

### FEATURE

#### Ceremony with activism: The 4th National Indigenous Art Triennial

Ceremony and radical activism may seem like differing forces, but *The 4th National Indigenous Art Triennial* is showing us otherwise, centering itself on art, action and change. This touring exhibition is now on display at Araluen Arts Centre.

### FEATURE

#### Seven new and reopened gallery spaces to visit

These seven new (and re-opened) galleries represent compelling beginnings in Australian arts. Across city and regional areas, including Melbourne, Sydney, Bega, Maryborough and Barossa Valley, we've curated these recent and upcoming gallery openings to explore.

### FEATURE

#### As Julia Gutman's maverick collage wins the Archibald prize, the award is truly in the hands of a new generation

Julia Gutman's Archibald-winning portrait of

use in our everyday lives influences the way we think, feel and behave."

Timmah Ball

Barnaby Smith

the singer Montaigne and Zaachariaha Fielding's winning entry, *Inma*, in the Wynne Prize have more in common than their youth – although it is worth noting they both represent a new generation of artists, a changing of the guard at the Art Gallery of NSW's annual series of art prizes.

The Conversation

Barnaby Smith

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