

Collectors love

Here we present the work of three artists who caught the eye of collectors last year and achieved sell-out or near sell-out exhibitions.

PORTRAIT BY MIM STIRLING

Photographer Mim Stirling and artist Danie Mellor ventured out on the Box Vale track in the Southern Highlands of New South Wales for this photo shoot. With their three dogs, Mellor and his wife Joanne have explored almost every walking track in the Southern Highlands.

will travel to Melbourne and Darwin and considers, in depth, Mellor's contribution to engagement with Australia's shared Indigenous and non-Indigenous histories.

In a departure from the exquisite detail for which he is best-known (a borrowed aesthetic from British blue and white Spode china), new sculpture for the UQ Art Museum survey has a "less embellished" aesthetic, whilst retaining his thematic interests in Australia's colonial history. Mellor noted, "I am interested in the detail in nature, how you can link a clarity of vision to ideas belonging to a particular space and environment." A new kangaroo sculpture in bronze and chrome will see Mellor's more simplified and refined explorations on a larger scale.

Mellor spent significant time as a child with his grandmother in the rainforest of the Atherton Tablelands in Queensland, but currently lives and works in New South Wales. Yet he noted, "There is an element of the rainforest in everything I do". His unique approach to his own Indigenous and non-Indigenous history adds a significant individual aesthetic to a poignant, spiritual and humorous slant on Australian history.

Louise Martin-Chew

Danie Mellor: Exotic Lies, Sacred Ties runs from 18 January to 27 April 2014 at the University Queensland Art Museum, Queensland. Danie Mellor will also exhibit new work at Art Basel Hong Kong in May 2014 with Jan Murphy Gallery. In August 2014 Mellor will present a project exhibition with the National Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh in conjunction with Sir Jonathan Mills and the Edinburgh International Arts Festival through Michael Reid.



"We made the decision not to pre-sell Mellor's works ... people lined up outside, and then there was a sprint from the doors!"

15. Danie Mellor

From left:

Danie Mellor, *The Sanctuary (savage legends of life in the rainforest)*, 2013. Mixed media on paper, 80 x 153cm.

COURTESY: THE ARTIST, JAN MURPHY GALLERY, BRISBANE AND SOPHIE GANNON GALLERY, MELBOURNE

Danie Mellor, *A SuperNatural Landscape*, 2013. Mixed media on paper, 206 x 153cm.

PHOTO: NIM STERLING
COURTESY: THE ARTIST, JAN MURPHY GALLERY, BRISBANE AND SOPHIE GANNON GALLERY, MELBOURNE

