



YOUNG CURATORS: KNOX GRAMMAR SCHOOL AND NBSC MACKELLAR GIRLS

present

JOANNA BRAITHWAITE: THE ANIMALS KEEP TALKING

6 - 18 November 2023

Knox Grammar School

Knox Grammar School and NBSC Mackellar Girls Campus students visited Braithwaite's solo exhibition '*Tried and True*' at Martin Browne Contemporary, Sydney and '*Go Figure: The Germanos Collection*' at Macquarie University Art Gallery. They also met at the studio of Joanna Braithwaite and Clayton Utz law firm to plan their curation of '*The animals keep talking*'. The students involved in the Young Curators Program extend their sincere gratitude to Joanna Braithwaite and to 3:33 Art Projects for the opportunity to be involved in this unique collaboration.

Regarding Braithwaite's technique, as a group we were particularly drawn to her works being stylistically grounded in academic tradition whilst embracing a distinctly postmodern strategy of humour and a fervent desire to spark the imagination. Her characters are imbued with a certain playfulness, but they can be fickle, too, and it is this juxtaposition of the serious with the humorous that we found so appealing. We observe them jostling for attention by performing tricks and playing out social hierarchies that are not unfamiliar in a world obsessed with status and popularity. Despite the restraint of her technical approach, even Braithwaite's witty titles are 'noisy,' and one can hear the clamour of activity and din of attention-seeking as her characters strive for one-upmanship in their quest for exposure. They seek to be seen and heard.

When determining a title for the exhibition, we were keen to keep with the playful approach Braithwaite herself adopts in titling her own works. '*The animals keep talking*' suggests ideas about conversations and collusion, but also about whispers and innuendo, gossip and hearsay. Inspired by the conversations we observed between paintings at Martin Browne Contemporary, our intent in curating this exhibition was to arouse the distinct eccentricities of Braithwaite's characters - from the incessant murmurings of individuals to the earnest dialogues between characters and the orchestrated rabble-rousing of performers, constructing a fantastical and surreal cacophony of sound.

Our thematic concerns pivoted around the concepts of zoomorphism and its opposite, anthropomorphism, regarding the attribution of human characteristics, idiosyncrasies, and traits to non- humans. We drew upon literary links to Kafka's '*Metamorphosis*' and Orwell's '*Animal Farm*' but decided against the heavy political and psychological overtones of these texts. Whilst themes regarding our moral compass exist within Braithwaite's oeuvre, we wanted to curate an exhibition with a young audience in mind and set a prevailing mood of playfulness and humour, and a light-hearted optimism in keeping with Braithwaite's approach to painting.

Collaborative writing by Knox Grammar and NBSC Mackellar Girls Young Curators



Working Class

2016

oil on canvas

190.5 x 190.5 cm

\$28,500



Mind over Matter

2016-2023
oil on canvas
190 x 190 cm

\$28,500



Smorgasbord

2015

oil on canvas

198 x 168 cm

\$25,000



Telling Tales

2007

oil on canvas

112 x 137 cm

\$11,000



Influencers

2023

oil on canvas

106.5 x 91 cm

\$11,000



Diggers
2005
oil on canvas
160 x 119 cm
\$9,500



Pipe Dreams
2010
oil on canvas
111 x 111 cm

NFS



Class Act III
2015
oil on canvas
91.5 x 107 cm

\$7,000



Old Flame study

2012

oil on canvas

61 x 61 cm

NFS



Casting Couch

2021
oil on canvas
30 x 35 cm

\$3,000



Brief Encounter

2022

oil on canvas

35 x 30 cm

\$3,000



Dressed to kill study

2018

oil on canvas

35 x 30 cm

\$3,000



Drifter

2016

oil on canvas

30 x 30 cm

\$3,000



Frozen moment study

2016

oil on canvas

35 x 30 cm

NFS



Hullabaloo study I

2020

oil on canvas

30 x 35 cm

\$3,000



Hullabaloo study II

2020

oil on canvas

30 x 35 cm

\$3,000



Night Caller study

2011

oil on canvas

30 x 35 cm

NFS



Tropical
2016
oil on canvas
30 x 30 cm

NFS



Study for Explorers Club

2017-2023

oil on canvas

30 x 35 cm

\$3,000



Reflective Moment

2022

oil on canvas

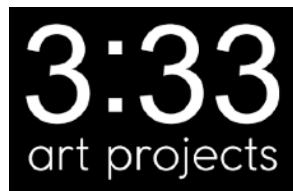
35 x 30 cm

\$3,000

Available works are subject to change, including prices and GST. All prices include GST.

Joanna Braithwaite is represented by Martin Browne Contemporary, Sydney.

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