

THE DRAWING WALL #7
20 APRIL – 15 JULY 2012

Caroline Rothwell

Born 1967 Hull, UK. Lives and works Sydney.

Murray/Darling Vista 2012

large format print on UV stable PVC

2.5 x 5 m

5 drawings, car exhaust emission and binder medium on archival paper

20 x 31 / 31 x 20 cm each

Courtesy the artist and Tolarno Galleries, Melbourne.

Caroline Rothwell is a Sydney-based artist interested in the relationship between humans and the natural environment. *Murray/Darling Vista* is a banner-collage and series of drawings created using car exhaust fume residue. The residue was collected from the exhaust pipes of local vehicles in and around Shepparton, including a tractor in daily use on a dairy farm, a prized 1969 Monaro displayed at Shepparton Motor Museum and a family Commodore. After being scraped from the exhaust pipe, the powdered residue was mixed with a binding agent to become fluid, the resulting 'pigment' varying from vehicle-to-vehicle, from rich black to slightly brown-coloured as a result of rust.

The images are of endangered plant and animal species from around Shepparton and within the Murray Darling Basin. The species are presented in documentary-style drawings reminiscent of science and natural history, then collaged together and up-scaled into a strange vista – translating a quite serious issue of endangered flora and fauna into something otherworldly and fantastical.

I thought it would be interesting to create a specimen drawing of an endangered creature using the pigment from our pollution. I don't want to be didactic though and I'm not a specimen illustrator. I want to engage with the land, history and politics, but I find my ongoing idea is to create a kind of parallel world – of the here and now but with a warp and twist. This is pseudo-science – I'm looking at endangered species but putting them into a context of the imagination, a very human place.

Caroline Rothwell, April 2012