

*The Green Room – when nature comes in*  
 Nicole Robins 26 -16 May 2021  
 Art Est Art School and Gallery, Leichhardt

LIST OF WORKS

dimensions in cm (add drop for hanging)

1



***Leaning Tower of Plantyness*** 180x45x45

1500 (au)

The result of experiments using the traditional technique of basketry looping with whole fibres, to create a unique colour and texture finish.

Locally sourced Sydney fibres: *Dracaena draco*, *Agave attenuata*, *Cordyline australis*, *Dracaena marginata*, *Yucca filamentosa*.

(Finalist Seed Stitch Contemporary Textile Awards)

Artist's profits from all works sold will be given to support the work of The Environmental Defender's Office

2

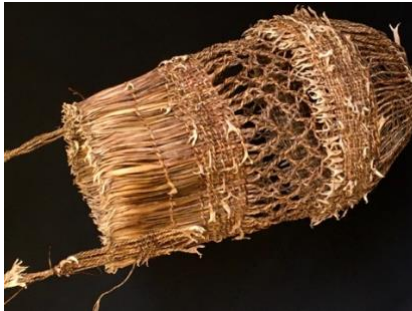


***Bottlebrush*** 120 x20 x20

560

Much of what I weave is a little prickly. I am always chasing an interesting texture and ways of showing particular fibres in a new light. Made with a looping stitch -*looping* is sometimes called knotless netting and is a traditional basketry stitch used by First Nations Peoples around the world. I really only started to teach myself looping seriously in 2016. At first I used string, then my own cordage and finally returned to what I love using the most - raw fibres.

3



***Easing Restrictions Beach Tote*** 110x40x40

840

This piece is a slow meditative pandemic piece made with *Dracaena marginata* early in 2020. I finished this piece as Bondi Beach was reopening to the public.

*This piece was selected for the Seed Stitch Contemporary Textile Awards in 2020, showing at the Australian Design Centre and then touring to Tamworth.*

4



***Stay at Home Wallflower Tote 2020*** 55x50x20

360

A shopper made at a time when nobody could shop.  
*Cordyline australis.*

5



**Spiral Tote 1** 60 x 60 cm

360

*Dracaena draco* handle, Coral Pea and Star Jasmine body.

The Spiral Totes are part of recent explorations with space and form. Spirals abound in nature and seem like a perfect mechanism to link an inner and outer world, providing fluidity and possibility.

6



**Spiral Tote 2** 80 x 50 cm

360

Mostly Star Jasmine -*Trachelospermum jasminoides* twined with *Dracaena draco*.

7



**Basket Wall Art** 70x50x10

240

Flat woven using a twill pattern. *Dracaena marginata* and waxed linen thread. Handle is Kentia Palm and Bangalow Palm inflorescence with wire.

This is really a basketry and a traditional weaving hybrid as I continue to explore #basketwallart

8, 9 & 10 plinth trio (L to R)



**Standing vessels** 8: 34x30x20, 9: 65x20x20, 10:10hx25x25

360 ea

These pieces celebrate whole fibres that I have gathered over time. I gather *Dracaena marginata* – with the small antler heads slowly as they dry and fall from my plants throughout the year. Some of these pieces are the product of months of collecting.

I tend to focus on wall art but I love doing a more traditional shape from time to time.

11



**Catch of the Day** 115x50x20

840

Bangalow Palm Spathe – a favourite fibre which literally jumps out of the palm into my waiting arms as I hunt and gather in Inner West Sydney.

Turning a spathe which is a solid lustrous fibre into an open weave form is also a new idea – it seems to enhance the natural shape and breathe a new kind of second life into it as fibre art for the wall. Here there are 5 spathes on wisteria vine. Other fibres include banana, *Dracaena marginata* and *Lomandra 'Tanika'*.

12, 13



**Individual Spathes x2** (100 x30 approx)

180 ea

Each of these pieces is made from Bangalow Palm spathe.

14



**Leaf** 110 x 50

860

(made during the U.S election period/ saga)

Star Jasmine (*Trachelospermum jasminoides*), *Dracaena marginata*, Red Hot Poker (*Kniphofia uvaria*), palm inflorescence, Jacaranda, copper wire

15



**Banana Fusilli Tote** 120x30x30

560

I made the warp from banana fibre and came up with long fusilli-like strands to weave. The closely twined section is iris from my garden and the handle is a single harakeke or NZ flax leaf.

16



**Wall Nest** 60x40x25  
A celebration of hairy. For all my bearded friends.

240

17



**Looped Wall Hanging** 120x40

840

I love the different textures and the different colours of the natural fibres here – some have first been made into cordage or string while others were only twisted.  
*Onion weed, Iris, Bangalow palm spathe, Lomandra, Dracaena marginata, Arum lily.*

18



**Bouquet for wall/ Flat weave** 60x55x15

320

The original warp is one long piece of cordage/string made from Cordyline.

19



**Jacaranda Lamp** 60x30x30

220

Jacaranda leaf stems, *Dracaena draco*, palm inflorescence, copper wire

Randing – playing with a twill pattern in *Dracaena draco* and finishing with a frill of fine date palm inflorescence where the seeds were left for maximum texture effect

20



**Frangipani Wall Hanging** 70x108

220

Frangipani seed pods, handmade cordage, date palm inflorescence

These drop in our yard from one very big white frangipani. They seemed too beautiful to ignore.

21



**Star Jasmine and copper tote** 55x60x20

320

Star jasmine twined with copper wire and a looped copper wire base

I love totes and other functional basketry shapes – so elegant in their simplicity. This one has leaves and curly vines, so it needs to stay safely on a wall where the leaves will stay put for years.

22



**Wire wall tote** 110x30x30

480

Copper verdigris and scribbly bark

Kupenga weave (see under 28 for more on this), 7 strand braiding.

Who doesn't like to mess with rust and oxidation techniques! I have put some treasured pieces of scribbly bark in, but you could add your own leaves and treasures too.

23



**Agave wall tote** 70x50x30

320

*Agave attenuata* has been a fun discovery for me. It is the landscaper's delight in a country prone to long dry spells. After drying it has a texture that is incredibly tough and durable – evoking a Mexican landscape - and a love of tequila! The leaves take what feels like months to dry on the plant before I can clip them off, sheath intact. In Sydney with its humid Summers this can present a challenge as the tips – which dry first - begin to decline. I have a few plants that I visit which are in very dry places.

24



**Vulva La Revolucion** 120x90x20

580

Finished just after the women's marches across Australia in March 2021. One fibre, *Dracaena marginata*, collected over many months.

We all have the right to feel safe and respected by others, encircled by a caring community. Some of us understand this more readily. But it's everyone's work to ensure it, no matter how we identify.

25



**Open Weave Dracaena Draco Wall Vessel** 120 x 55 cm

440

Acknowledging teachers is very important to me as a maker. In August 2019 I attended a workshop with Maori weaver and artist Alice Spittle. I went because I wanted to connect with Alice and learn this specific open weave technique called 'kupenga' weave. Lace makers in many cultures use a similar pattern but I really wanted to learn kupenga from another basketmaker. I have been experimenting ever since with a variety of my favourite fibres. This wall weaving is *Dracaena draco* fibre.

The four-strand braid handle like many basketry techniques also has several origins. It's 'mekameka' braid in New Zealand, while in Europe it's known as the Tyrolean plait. I learnt it first from Glenese Keavney at Basketry NSW.

26



**Banksia wall vessel** 80 x20 cm

240

Apparently, we have around 170 species of Banksia in Australia. I only grow 4 but I'm working on it. These leaves are from *Banksia serrata* and *Banksia prionotes*.

OTHER local fibres in this twined piece: *Yucca filamentosa*, *Gynerium* Lily, *Lomandra*, *Dracaena marginata*, *Bangalow palm spathe*. Also green and blue hemp and waxed linen thread.

CARE: LIKE A STRAW HAT OR TOTE THAT HANGS ARTFULLY FROM A HOOK, FIBRE ART NEEDS LITTLE CARE. PIECES WILL LIVE ON INDEFINITELY IF YOU CAN KEEP THEM OUT OF DIRECT SUNLIGHT AND AWAY FROM DAMPNESS. PERHAPS A GENTLE DUST WITH A SOFT PAINT BRUSH EVERY YEAR IF YOU THINK IT NEEDS IT. DON'T HESITATE TO CONTACT ME IF YOU HAVE ANY QUERIES.

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