



Objects and Ornithology

Deb Mostert

The Boyd Gallery

Friday 8 August - Sunday 12 October

The works in *Objects and Ornithology* are born out of my love of studying objects and bird life. My practice has revolved around still life for many years, I feel driven to investigate objects and what they mean to us.

I am deeply interested in collections and collecting and have always been intrigued by Bowerbirds and the way they gather objects to decorate their bowers. While researching these enchanting birds I discovered that different species of Bowerbird collect different coloured objects, they steal from each other and they arrange their objects with a very deliberate use of optical illusion. To find a bird species that collects, covets and has a clear aesthetic was fascinating and it seemed a natural step to extend that towards other bird species. What if other birds started collecting particular objects?

This body of work is a light hearted, whimsical look at birds interacting with manmade objects. By projecting the human foible of possession and collection onto birds, it may throw up questions about what we value and why.

Deb Mostert, February 2014

The artist gratefully acknowledges the support of Barnes.



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*'I guess I'll never be satisfied because there are always more out there',
Kingfisher and Fish Knife (detail) 2013*

oil on linen

35 x 35cm