



Zoonoses

Nicola Hooper

The Boyd Gallery

Friday 2 March – Sunday 20 May 2018

Nicola Hooper explores concepts surrounding 'zoonoses' or animal diseases that cross over to humans. Her works, created mainly on paper, include prints, artist books, sculptures and wallpaper. She uses these to examine how visual narratives, myths and rhymes can help in providing understanding of the perception of animals in the context of fear of disease.

75% of all new human diseases have their genesis within animal hosts. These hosts play an important role in maintaining diseases in nature with some, frighteningly, having the potential to be pandemic. Zoonotic hosts come in many shapes and sizes, and Hooper explores both historical and contemporary zoonoses and the hosts that act as reservoirs for these diseases.

Hooper's lithographic sculptures explore size versus ratio of health risk. She creates rhymes to illustrate within her artist books, several being mosquito repellent, created using citronella oil combined with printing ink.

The works have mainly been created using lithography, a methodology important to her work because of associated links historically to publishing and storytelling. She explores frightening and emotive issues related to zoonoses in a visually subversive, euphonic way. This enables visitors to potentially engage with what would otherwise be frightening subject matter.

Nicola Hooper

Giant Flea & Zoonotic Wallpaper 2017

hand coloured lithographs digitally printed onto paper and board and wires
135cm × 135cm, wallpaper variable