



## **Floral Appreciation**

Judy Oakenfull

**Macnaughton Focus Gallery and Kelly Wall**

**Friday 21 February – Sunday 3 May 2020**

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One of the best things about visiting the beach is the fabulous welcome you get from coastal banksias. I love their furry yellow flowers, silvery olive leaves and misshapen cones. I started painting these, and then other varieties, drawn to their earthy colours, geometric shapes, internal patterns and charismatic forms. Inspired by modernist and contemporary approaches to painting my work tends towards flatter compositions, imagined colour, solid forms and a combination of the representational and the abstract.

Flowers have often been thought of as symbols of the feminine and I have been considering what the increasing popularity of native flowers suggests about contemporary femininity. Margaret Preston painted them in the 1920s and '30s, when women were establishing a new found assertiveness. Not dainty and fragile like traditional flowers, banksias work equally well as a signifier for femininity in the current age of #metoo. They appear to have the toughness and resilience required of current times and changing climates.

Judy Oakenfull, 2019

An outcome of the Community Access Exhibitions Program.

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### **Judy Oakenfull**

*Coastal Welcome* 2019

oil on canvas, 40 × 40cm

Image courtesy the artist