

LUKE SHELLEY

ARTIST STATEMENT

Natural science is a subject that I have always held immense passion for. I was fortunate enough to be raised on the Central Coast where the ocean was a major influence. The ocean and estuary system around my home was a source of education. Here is where I gained foundational knowledge of this delicate ecosystem. Holding such a strong influence it is only natural that the marine world had consumed my early practice as an artist.

The element of discovery through my passion and connection to nature is a strong aspect of my practice. It underpins all the works I create. Like an amateur naturalist, I record the effects of time and elements as well as interpret the alchemy of the collected found objects and seasonal changes, and my works reflect this inquisitive and passionate research, interpretation.

Pursuing this concept has involved experimenting and developing numerous ways of directly exposing etching plates to the elements of the ocean. These plates endure the elements through different tides, for different time periods which in turn cause the unique state and natural markings recorded on each etching plate. These marks that appear on the plates capture the movement of tiny particles caught in the surge and turbulent waters which naturally erode or etch the plate emulating the unique state of our Australian coastline.

My artist practice still involves initial artistic processes and concepts of recording various elements of nature, broadening to incorporate other environments within Australia, in particular the Australian Outback. These experiences are translated through my drawings incorporating natural mediums, and developing various works on paper.

Nature, my inspiration, has always demanded discovery from me. I feel my work reflects this sense of discovery, and possibly reflects a passion similar to what you would find in the records of an amateur naturalist. It is through this urge to discover that I gain an intimate understanding of the varied environments, elements, and habitats of Australia.

NOELLA LOPEZ GALLERY 2014