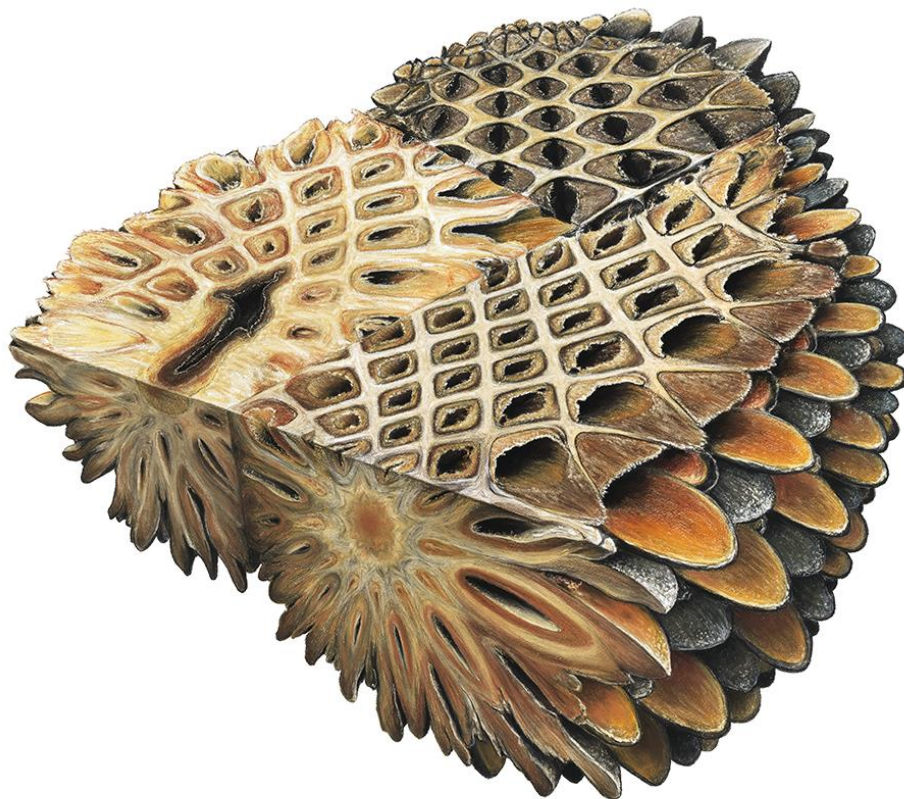


Oliver Ashworth-Martin

Beneath the Surface

9 January — 17 February 2019

Yering Station Art Gallery / Main Gallery



Augmented Study — Sheoak 2018, Pastel on cotton paper, 125 x 125cm

Since U.K. born artist Oliver Ashworth-Martin moved to Australia in 2014, the formal diversity and visual poetry of Australian native seed pods have become ever more central to his work. Thus, inspired by the rich symbolic language these temple-like forms embody, *Beneath the Surface* is an

investigation of hidden complexities, correspondences and unsuspected spatial depths.

As pure forms, especially when cross section views are exposed, these seed pods resemble multi-dimensional models generated by certain branches of theoretical physics; as vessels they house and protect new life and embody nature's ongoing cycles of renewal, growth and decay; and like great temples and cathedrals, they celebrate geometric harmonies. Certainly in scale, and often through choice of medium, these works transcend traditional botanical studies, re-awakening our appreciation and fascination for the natural world.

Through processes of magnification, abstraction and forceful intervention, Ashworth-Martin has created a journey into the magnificent fractal order present within all life, and as viewers proceed, the mysterious movement of life is quietly borne down upon them, as life flows into form, moves through form, and eventually leaves form behind.

Originally from the Cotswolds in the U.K., Oliver Ashworth-Martin completed a Fine Arts degree at Cardiff School of Art and Design in 2008, after which he worked as production manager for Tom Price Studio's in London. He now lives in Melbourne and works out of a studio surrounded by native trees and plants from which he sources seeds and pods.



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