An open book is shown from a top-down perspective, lying flat. The pages are white and feature detailed botanical illustrations in a dark ink or purple hue. The illustrations consist of various types of leaves and stems, some with small flowers or buds. The book is slightly open, showing the gutter in the center. The background is a plain, light-colored surface.

THE PASSIVE SPECTATOR

RHI JOHNSON

12 OCTOBER – 10 NOVEMBER 2019



The Passive Spectator exhibition is an extension of a previous, ongoing series of works entitled *Dream Diaries* (2011 – present). This development, which includes works made since the beginning of 2019, consists of a series of artist's books and related works that reflect the artist's revisiting of subconscious experiences, of personal trauma, memory, dreams and errant thoughts.

Visually, the works consist of fragmented text, remembered imagery and intuitive mark making. While the resultant imagery often deliberately seems ambiguous, there are many clues that allow the viewer to reflect on their own unique but related experiences.

Overall, the imagery of *The Passive Spectator* is a record of a variety of expected and unexpected experiences. Through the artist's intuitive reflection and interpretation, we are led to a convoluted range of experiences. The outcome is mirrored in the human tendency to forget or conflate dream sequences or other subconscious information, rendering them as fragments or mere traces of initial occurrences.



ABOUT THE ARTIST *BY STEPHEN SPURRIER*

Rhi Johnson's sense of adventure, combined with her natural curiosity, has allowed her to evolve as a wise individual and as a unique artist. The range of her study, from a degree, to honours, and subsequently a PhD has fed her interest in developing a range of technical skills together with a philosophical approach to all of her activities.

Rhi is able to work across a range of media; in this instance, works on canvas and artist's books. Her skills in both media have developed effectively since her early student days and continue to grow as is evidenced in this exhibition.

Her recent lecturing at USQ, and her ongoing conducting of local workshops in the medium of artist's books, has led to some excellent outcomes for students and participants. Her teaching is not just process – Rhi has a philosophical approach to education, encouraging experimentation and innovation in her students while concurrently recognising each person's unique qualities. Her mild temperament and bright wit are important aspects of this process.

As well as this, she is a great survivor, and contributor as a mother and family member, who is able to balance this with her career as both artist and educator. Rhi is highly respected for her courage and commitment.

"The job of the artist is always to deepen the mystery" Francis Bacon

Dr. Rhi Johnson is a Toowoomba based artist and educator who works primarily in the fields of Printmaking, Artist's Books and Mixed Media art. She has been involved in group and solo exhibitions both nationally and internationally.



MIND GARDEN

2019

COPTIC BOUND ARTIST'S BOOK



HAZE

2019
CONCERTINA ARTIST'S BOOK



THE LEFT WINDOW

2019
CONCERTINA ARTIST'S BOOK WITH TUNNEL BOOK INSERTS



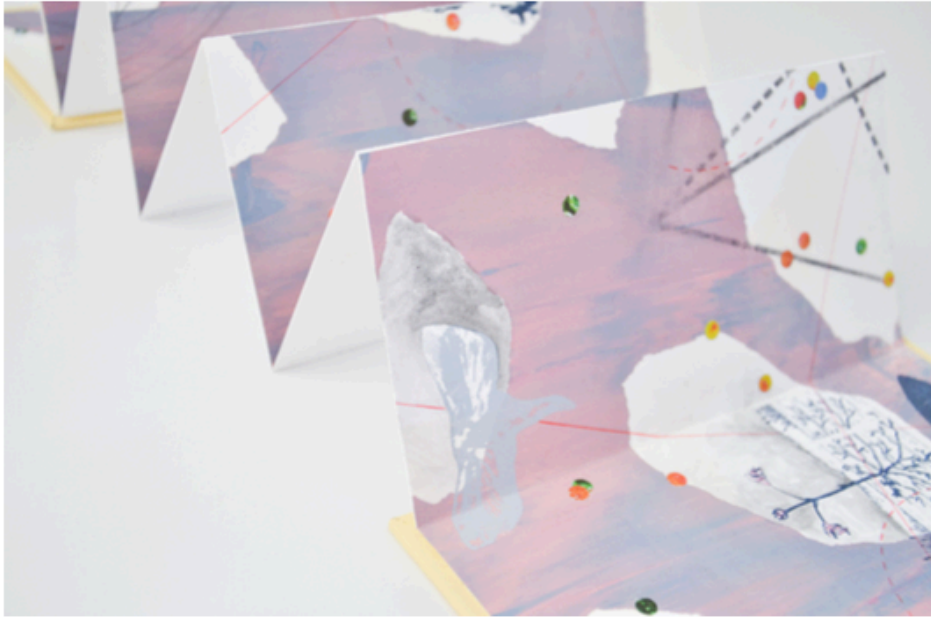
FEED THE HAND THAT BITES YOU

2019
CONCERTINA ARTIST'S BOOK



MIND GARDEN (REPRISE)

2019
STAB BOUND ARTIST'S BOOK



SIDE VIEW

2019
CONCERTINA ARTIST'S BOOK



NEST

2019
CONCERTINA ARTIST'S BOOK



DIGESTION

2019
COPTIC BOUND ARTIST'S BOOK



A BIOLOGICAL HISTORY

2019
COPTIC BOUND ARTIST'S BOOK



A FRANK STUDY (FRAGMENT)

2019
COPTIC BOUND ARTIST'S BOOK



THE THIRD GATHERING

2019
TUNNEL BOOK



LOOKING GLASS

2019
TRADITIONALLY BOUND ARTIST'S BOOK

RETREAT

2019
CONCERTINA ARTIST'S BOOK



BLUE CIRCUS

2019
TRADITIONALLY BOUND ARTIST'S BOOK



MIND MAP #1

2019
MIXED MEDIA ON CANVAS (FRAMED)



MIND MAP #2

2019
MIXED MEDIA ON CANVAS (FRAMED)



MIND MAP #3

2019
MIXED MEDIA ON CANVAS (FRAMED)



MIND MAP #4

2019

MIXED MEDIA ON CANVAS (FRAMED)



MIND MAP #5

2019

MIXED MEDIA ON CANVAS (FRAMED)

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Thank you to Simeon Johnson and our tribe, for the support they offer every day.

rhijohnson.weebly.com

@artist_rhi