

Freeform Freedom
Heather Matthew, Australia

I have always wanted to free my paper from the paper 'frame' and in 2021 I discovered a way to do this which fit really well into my conceptual thinking at the time.

In March 2021 I returned to the Blue Mountains in Sydney to resume my artist residency at BigCi, Bilpin. I was originally going to make artworks which responded to the regeneration of the bush after the devastating bushfires of 2019-2020, however I found my attention caught by the minutia of plant life, specifically fractal patterns on tree bark.

Wild, improbable, quirky fractal figures emerged from the paper frame with their own character traits and lifeforce. They were of the bush, yet of our family as well and were influenced by a few drawings I did during the lockdowns in 2020 as our three generational family of five adapted to all living together in close proximity.

When I returned home after BigCi, I no longer had that free expansive thinking so easy to find in an artist residency. Forest figures alluded me, so I turned to the sea.

I created weird anamorphic deep sea creatures who were choking on a plastic tsunami of floating rubbish. Then a water dragon appeared to help put out the Californian bushfires and a fire dragon was born to balance the elemental forces at work in the world.

In October I was unexpectedly asked to exhibit in a disused warehouse for a private event. All my paper artworks which I had been making for the past 18 months were able to be exhibited together in one place, on one long wall. It gave me the total freedom to pin all the weird and wonderful paper works together for the first time, unframed.

I realized after I had installed them, how the story "hung together".

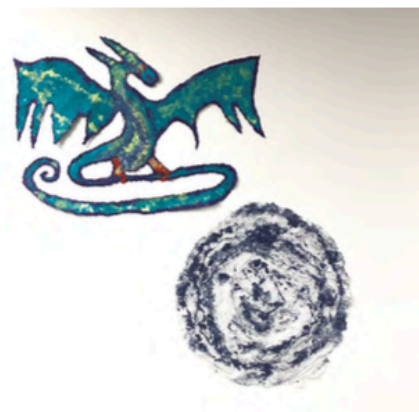
Starting with the huge world I made in 2020 as the central point, then the worlds in crisis and global hotspots on either side. On either side of these worlds I installed work about the forests and the subsequent work about marine pollution and sea creatures. Topping off both elements of fire and water, were two dragons, Hester the water dragon and Brynnir, the fire dragon. An exhibition celebrating the world through the freedom of freeform papers.



Brynnir: Fire Dragon
84cm w x 67cm h
Global Hotspots
52x52cm



Fractal Family I, 73cm w x 68 cm h.
Fractal Family II, 53 cm w x 70 cm h.
Heather at BigCi



Hester: Water Dragon
89 cm w x 60 cm h
Polar Melt, 60x60cm