

Old Books New Looks

Old Books New Looks is a digital exhibition reimagining Annabella Boswell's archives by artist Mic Rees. Mic Rees is a local practising artist and Graphic Designer living in Lake Cathie. He works in video and digital artwork, illustration, and experimental digital work. Mic works with local and nationally based clients, and also teaches Graphic Design and Arts.

Artist Statement

Looking through all the high-resolution archival scans of the diaries, notes and artwork what appealed to me right from the onset as an artist was Annabella Boswell's beautiful drawings, sketches and watercolours. My focus quickly was decided to re-tell the story through Annabella's wonderful pieces of artwork - so the testing and experimenting on the best way to tell the story began. After receiving high resolution scans of the artwork, I chose 7 artworks to retell in animation.

My digital process involved first experimenting and researching different processes and delivery methods to suit the museum space. Once the delivery method was decided I set to work on how the story would be told.

The idea was to introduce the diaries and surround the artwork animations with some shots of the physical diaries and written transcripts written by Annabella and then move to a more visual presentation where the 7 chosen artworks would come to life. The artworks would have the appearance of being re-drawn in front of the viewer, then digitally framed and an appropriate quote from Annabella would accompany the artwork.

The process to make the painting appear to be redrawn was produced using an iPad and a digital pencil and is essentially a slow erase of the digital scans in a reverse order to how it may be produced or how it may best come to life in front of the viewer. The process is then sped up and adjusted to flow better then reversed to give the final effect. This artwork then comes together with all the other visual components elements in video editing suite to produce a 4K presentation for the museum.

The invitation to be involved with Port Macquarie Museum and the Museums and Galleries NSW *Let's Get Digital* initiative for this digital story telling project was a wonderful opportunity and a privilege to present and bring together this amazing body of local historical work, in a way that hasn't been seen before.

Mic Rees

This project is part of Museums & Galleries of NSW's *Let's Get Digital* initiative, proudly supported by the NSW Government through Create NSW as part of Arts Restart.



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