

WILLIAM
ROBINSON

Nocturne

17 September 2021 – 11 September 2022

William Robinson Gallery



Join our planetary advisor,
Penelope Pademelon, as she
explores William Robinson's
nocturnal artworks...

ACTIVITY KIT Ages 6 – 12





William Robinson is an Australian artist. He was born in Brisbane in 1936. He creates artwork about his life, places he has lived, his wife Shirley, their children and animals.

In this exhibition, you will see artwork made by William (Bill) Robinson. In his artwork, Bill explores the idea of time passing by showing both day and night in the same picture. This has been a main theme in his artwork since the late 1970s.

Bill is fascinated by the shimmering night sky and the colours at twilight. He often paints the stars and moon at the base of a landscape, where it shows both the night sky and the reflection of the night sky in a pool of water. A lot of his landscape artworks use a multi-point perspective, which means we are looking at different angles – up, down and around – all at the same time. This technique captures the size of the landscape and makes it feel like we are surrounded by nature.

Bill has spent a lot of time living in the Gold Coast hinterland. In his work, you can see the fauna and flora of the place he lives in. The pademelon is a favourite forager at night in this region and so, Penelope Pademelon will be our planetary advisor, helping us walk through the *Nocturne* exhibition and explore the night sky.

ABOVE: William ROBINSON
William by lamplight 1990
stoneware with
handpainted glaze
potter: Errol BARNES
Ipswich Art Gallery Collection,
acquired with funds donated
by Mr John M Michelmores
in memory of Dr Peter Foote
through the Ipswich Art
Gallery Foundation, 2000
© courtesy the artist and
Philip Bacon Galleries.
Photo: Carl Warner



“Nocturnal means something that occurs at night. I’m a nocturnal feeder – I sleep most of the day and like to come to graze on the grass at dusk.”

Imagine if...

You could decide on the name for one of Bill’s artworks, what would you call it?

Name for the artwork: _____

Current title: _____

You are inside one of the artworks. Describe what you are doing and what you experience.

Artwork title: _____

What is your experience? _____

You could display one of the artworks in this exhibition in your home or school, which one would you choose and why?

Artwork title: _____

Why did you choose it: _____

You could select a soundtrack to an artwork in the exhibition. What type of music would you choose and why?

Artwork title: _____

Song or type of music, and why you chose it: _____

ACTIVITIES IN THE GALLERY









“One of the places I live is in the rainforest along the eastern coast of Australia, and I like to feed along the forest edge. Bill also lived in the rainforest in the Gold Coast hinterland, where he liked to go for long walks among the trees, using his sketchbook to record not only what he saw, but how the place made him feel.”

Bill often paints himself and his wife Shirley in the landscape in his artwork, along with their animals.

Find an artwork in the exhibition with Bill and Shirley and write a short story about it. What happened before this image, and what will happen after?

How would you describe the feeling in this artwork?

		
HAPPINESS	LOVE	JOY
		
SURPRISE	SADNESS	ANGER



William ROBINSON,
Beechmont landscape, early evening 1985, coloured pastels. QUT Art Collection. Donated through the Australian Government's Cultural Gifts Program by William Robinson, 2009.

In this artwork, the starry night sky seems to merge with land. Are we looking up through a gap in the trees, or is this a reflection in a stream of water? Distorting the perspective so that we are looking up and down at the same time helps show the size of the landscape and the sky. Distorting means to twist, warp or change the original shape.

What else does this unusual viewpoint of the landscape make you think about?

Draw your own picture with stars.

ACTIVITY AT HOME OR SCHOOL

“The word nocturne is often used to describe a piece of music that is inspired by night-time.

As well as being an artist, Bill plays the piano. Sound is important to me too – it’s the main way I communicate, and I make soft clucking noises, or thump my hind feet!”



Write an acrostic poem from the word ‘Nocturne’ or ‘Moon’. (An acrostic poem starts each line with a letter that together builds a word). Here is an example of an acrostic poem for ‘Nocturne’:

Now it’s your turn!

Night is cold,
Overall,
Cold as the sunshine sleeps.
Time for bed now,
Under the sheets.
Resting eyes,
No one stirs,
Evening cradles as daytime turns.

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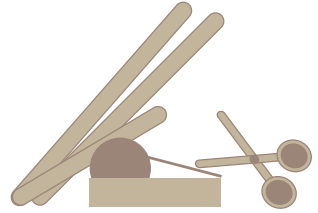
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FURTHER ACTIVITIES AT HOME

With your parent or guardian's permission, make a telescope at home using the utensils found in your kitchen. Draw a picture of your telescope below:



With your parent or guardian's permission, can you create a sculpture from objects and furniture in your home to create your own *Nocturne* masterpiece? Make a list of the items or furniture you would use:



Publisher

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www.wrgallery.qut.edu.au

FRONT AND BACK COVER IMAGE: William ROBINSON, *Starry night* 1978,
gouache on paper. Private collection, Brisbane.

Workshop resource written by Francesca Edwards with Sarah Barron, acrostic poem and Penelope Pademelon artwork by Francesca Edwards (2021), designed by Lisa Rafferty. Thanks to Sofia Mavropoulou, Rachel Aberdein and Beth Sagggers for their feedback. © QUT and contributors. Apart from fair dealing for the purposes of private study, research, criticism or review as permitted under the Copyright Act, no part of this publication may be reproduced without permission of the publisher. CRICOS No. 00213J