The Threatened

Madeleine T. Kelly
University of Wollongong, mkelly@uow.edu.au

Publication Details
M. T. Kelly 2015 The Threatened Gold Coast City Gallery Gold Coast Gold Coast City Gallery 5 December 31 January 2015
The Threatened

Abstract
Drawing upon the traditions of natural history illustration, painting and tapestry, this work represents threatened birds of the Illawarra, NSW.

Keywords
threatened

Disciplines
Arts and Humanities | Law

Publication Details

This creative work is available at Research Online: http://ro.uow.edu.au/lhapapers/2604
The Threatened

Drawing upon the traditions of natural history illustration, painting and tapestry, this work represents threatened birds of the Illawarra, NSW. A vintage linen fabric, Cluny, featuring birds scattered across a light background, is over painted with real birds.

Inspired by this richly coloured imagery, the real birds – species that may well become the content of fiction or myth – weave alongside idealised animals, while a disfigured character taken from Wilhelm Hauff's (1802 – 1827) fairy tale Dwarf Nose further embellishes its fantastic content.

Pictorial references to this character imbue the narrative with a moral element, where long noses have often been associated with betrayal, lies and punishment.
In this context, current humanity is playfully pictured as complicit with yet concerned by the disruptive energy and entropy of progress. Here, forces of development, land clearing and loss of habitat are evoked through the cross sections of timbre and spiral configurations of draining systems.