

NELL

*OLD
NEW
WAVE*



IMAGES > [Front cover] Nell, *A line of poetry* [detail], 2021, walking stick, giant clam shell, gold-plated bronze, 97 x 25.3 x 35 cm, 3 parts. Image courtesy of the artist. Photograph: Jenni Carter.



IMAGE > Nell, *Two Stories* [installation view], 2023, epoxy clay, glue and found ceramic tile from Linden, 7 x 3.4 x 4.9 cm. Photograph: Liam James.

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OLD NEW WAVE

Nell's artistic practice is multifaceted and interdisciplinary - traversing painting, sculpture, performance, installation, video, wearables, collaborations, community projects and public art. Underpinning all her work is an exploration of the thresholds of binary opposites such as the ancient and contemporary, individual and communal, feminine and masculine, sacred and profane. From an antipodean vantage point, she uses the language of art history, popular music and spiritual traditions to amplify the tensions or marry the differences between these binary positions, so that new objects and rituals are born.

Old New Wave brings together works spanning fifteen years exploring Nell's central conceptual concerns while also responding

to place. The title of the exhibition, *Old New Wave*, plays on the musical term New Wave and pays homage to St Kilda as one of Australia's most important musical suburbs; the home of bands such as Hunters and Collectors and The Birthday Party and iconic venues including The Crystal Ballroom, the Espy and Prince of Wales. It reflects on St Kilda's bayside location and changing history as well as Linden's building, a site that for over a century has welcomed waves of people as it transformed from a private dwelling to a boutique hotel and now a contemporary art gallery.



IMAGE > Nell, *A white bird flies in the mist, a black bird flies in the night, a woman walks, wild and free, she is not afraid to die* [installation view], 2008, bronze, mother of pearl, resin, hand-blown glass, dimensions variable. Photograph: Liam James.



IMAGE > Nell, *On a withered tree, ghosts bloom* [installation detail], 2023, stainless steel, hand-blown glass, dimensions variable. Photograph: Liam James.

On a Withered Tree, Ghosts Bloom, a new work for this exhibition, a large leafless tree rises out of the building's foundations. It acknowledges the palimpsest of place embedded in this location; a plain populated with trees and vegetation, cared for by First Nations People prior to settlement and a building built by migrants and named after a German lime tree. It is a tree that welcomes us under its canopy and while dormant remains in a state of growth and flux.

Ideas of change and time are also evident in the 2008 work, *A white bird flies in the mist, a black bird flies in the night, a woman walks, wild and free, she is not afraid to die*. A solitary figure walks towards the window, followed by thirty-three ghosts, one for each year of the artist's life at the time of the work's creation. The work remains open-ended, encouraging us to interpret the relationship between the multiple aspects of the installation, while also prompting us to see our own ghosts: our histories and transformative experiences. In this exhibition it also asks the artist if they are

same person who realised this work fifteen years earlier.

Nell's practice is informed and begins from the personal; her love of music, knowledge of art history, her Buddhist practice and an ongoing self-reflection. However, it is also universal. It highlights that while everything is unique and special it is also interconnected. It dances between ideas of similarity and difference. It reveals that while birth and death are opposites, life remains eternal.

OLD
NEW
WAVE

WHAT IS OLD AND WHAT IS NEW?

OLD WORK. NEW WORK.

OLD WAVE. NEW WAVE.

OLD SOUNDS. NEW SOUNDS.

OLD PLACE. NEW PLACE.

OLD HOME. NEW HOME.

OLD GROWTH. NEW GROWTH.

- NELL, 2023



IMAGE > Nell, THE GHOST WAS ME [installation view], 2023, crystals, epoxy clay, glue, varnish and acrylic paint on slate from South Eveleigh, 30.5 x 22.5 cm. Photograph: Liam James.



IMAGE > Nell, *On a withered tree, ghosts bloom* [installation detail], 2023, stainless steel, hand-blown glass, dimensions variable. Photograph: Liam James.



IMAGE > Nell, *On a withered tree, ghosts bloom* [installation view], 2023, stainless steel, hand-blown glass, dimensions variable. Photograph: Liam James.



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Nell is represented by STATION Gallery,
Naarm / Melbourne & Gadigal / Sydney.
[@nellartist](#)

IMAGE > Portrait of Nell. Image courtesy of the artist. Photograph: Cherine Fahd.

LIST OF WORKS

Nell <i>A white bird flies in the mist, a black bird flies in the night, a woman walks, wild and free, she is not afraid to die</i> 2008 bronze, mother of pearl, resin, hand-blown glass dimensions variable	Nell <i>A line of poetry</i> 2021 walking stick, giant clam shell, gold-plated bronze 97 x 25.3 x 35 cm 3 parts	Nell <i>The Ghost Was Me</i> 2023 crystals, epoxy clay, glue, varnish and acrylic paint on slate from South Eveleigh 30.5 x 22.5 cm
Nell <i>On a withered tree, ghosts bloom</i> 2023 stainless steel, hand-blown glass dimensions variable	Nell <i>Two Stories</i> 2023 epoxy clay, glue and found ceramic tile from Linden 7 x 3.4 x 4.9 cm	



Director + CEO: Vincent Alessi
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