

Stella Downer Fine Art

Dealer Consultant & Valuer

Member of the Australian Commercial Galleries Association
ABN 86 229 108 803

Artist Statement – Justina Legoe

Justina Legoe has always been captivated by the magic of fairy tales and the quiet poetry of nature. Beginning art classes at a young age, Legoe developed a deep affinity for visual storytelling through printmaking, ink illustration, and painting. Largely self-taught, Legoe's work takes inspiration from mythology, nature, outsider art and botanical illustrations.

Legoe explores the delicate balance between imagination and ecology, probing into themes of species scarcity, environmental fragility and the tension between the natural world and urban expansion. Her pieces invite viewers into curious, dreamlike worlds—where threatened species take centre stage, and each line tells a story of wonder, resilience, and quiet urgency.

In Maligned, the focus is on Australia's native species that have been cast aside, misunderstood, or labelled as pests. Through detailed printmaking, ink illustration, and painting, she reclaims the narratives of animals like the Grey-Headed Flying Fox, the Australian White Ibis, the Crested Pigeon, and the Brushtail Possum—creatures that once thrived but are now vilified, displaced, or quietly disappearing.

This body of work challenges viewers to reconsider the language and judgments we place on wildlife, especially those forced to coexist with sprawling urban landscapes. Legoe invites us into an evocative and often whimsical world where these maligned beings are restored with dignity, reverence, and storybook wonder.

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