

Carriers of memory, 2016

Burnt books, corrugated iron, wings, lantern

This 3D work is a reflection on the recent and ongoing cultural transition from books to digital media as primary form of information.

It consists of burnt books, wings of steel and paper, a lantern with a light inside and a large piece of corrugated iron.

I prefer to have a lit candle inside the lantern for the honest, flickering light it gives, but if this is not possible because of safety policies, it can be replaced by a battery operated light (which I will provide). I would like to have some burnt pieces lying on the floor around the work to create a feeling that the work is still in progress.

It has some interesting light and shadow qualities and may contrast well with contemporary nature of Nishi Gallery and the general character of the New Acton Precinct.

The burnt books refer to the loss of value of books as a primary source of information, the light to my own acceptance of the new digital forms of research and access to knowledge, and the idea that knowledge will continue regardless of the nature of the carrier. The wings are about transition and freedom, choice and growth.

I grew up with a great, inherited respect and enjoyment of books, and transferred this love to my own kids. I will always love books and own books, no matter how efficient and available information is via digital resources. The smell and textures of the old pages in my grandmother's library room are treasured memories, ones that will remain despite my own reluctant acceptance of digital media.