

PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



ROSIE WEISS

Do you still love me?
(asked the earth)

22 May - 13 June, 2021

Silver Leaf Art Box is excited to present a solo exhibition of new works on paper and a project-box installation by Mornington Peninsula-based artist Rosie Weiss. The exhibition will coincide with *Rosie Weiss - Collected Works*, showing at Mornington Peninsula Regional Gallery, highlighting a suite of recently acquired works that provide an overview of the artist's practice from 1979 - 2018.

The depiction of plant remnants has been central to the artist's practice for many years, and two distinct series come together in the current project, both created during the Covid-19 lockdowns of 2020. Weiss states, "*The works from this time have an almost playful thread for me, the fire plants are there, but there are also other images appearing. A seahorse my father left me, an image of an unfurling fern I took thirty years ago, and the repeated forms of ever spreading couch grass. Images close to home, with a concentrated focus, but also an experimental freedom.*"

Weiss visited the east Gippsland fire grounds in early 2020 and collected charred plant fragments that recur throughout this body of work. *Do you still love me? (asked the earth)*, a poignant question the artist poses in a poem about the work of the same title, encapsulating the essence of this exhibition and cutting to the heart of our relationship with the earth.

A series of smaller works titled *Breath fracture* sit alongside the fire pieces. These works were made in response to the death of the artist's father last year, and delve into bodily notions of mortality, loss and renewal. Plant fragments float and glide in visceral internal spaces, drawing connections between the physical structures of plants and those of the body. Weiss's use of pigments and metallic inks create an iridescence that is mysterious, liquid and alive.

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Image: *Do you still love me? (asked the earth)* 2020, pencil, Chinese & pigmented ink on Arches paper, 56 x 76 cm