

*Study for provocateur* is a work referencing the genres of still life and natural history painting. It is drawn from observation and modified by imagination.

The work is a synthesis of a number of things, human and animal, life and death, beauty and the macabre, nature and 'nature morte', among others.

The lyrebird is a symbol of beauty, mystery and exuberance and the tail feather skulls reference the idea of opposing realm of mortality.

When these opposites are distilled in the imaginative space, the synthesis results in ambiguity and irony, a slightly vexed expression of reality.

It is a metaphysical reality, an underlying reflection on the nature of, and vital connections that exist in the world we inhabit.

Martin King 2020