

Beeing Artist Statements

Dr. Julie Bartholomew

The ceramics practice of Dr Julie Bartholomew has been inspired by cultural issues and social debates. Over her career, Julie has explored communication technology, global branding and female identity. Since 2010 her work has responded to environmental concerns and associated cross-disciplinary research with the intention of creating conversations around species extinction and our climate emergency.

Previous projects, such as *Endangered, Rarely Seen*, and *Subversive Botanica*, investigated the perilous existence of threatened Australian birds and flora. *Climate Scrolls: Antarctic Ice Memory* was a project that combined Julie's practice with scientific research by responding to the work of Australian scientists extracting ice cores from Antarctica for climate research.

Beeing continues Julie's interest in species extinction, in this case the decline of bee populations, as well as a belief in the power of art and exhibitions to transform debates about environmental challenges.

Mahala Hill

Compromised environments, The new normal.

Skeletal bees, triumphantly surmount the contaminated geological forms/landscapes, creating their new world order.

The bees embody the living dead, a ghostly shell of their former selves. They are constructed by the meaning of and process behind the 'burn out'—the remnant form after plant matter is asphyxiated in clay and incinerated. Hollow but uncomfortably resilient, they simultaneously evoke traces of life and loss.

The compromised environments have taken on a life of their own, growing, adapting. Illustrating the disfigurement of the natural world and the increasing adversities that the Australian bee populations face.

These sculptures challenge the anthropocentric view, depicting 'the rest' as the sole survivors of our conceivable environmental demise. Stressing the need for action to prevent the continued loss of these critical creatures.