



Cockatoos 2022 acrylic, oil, mixed media on canvas diptych 1525 x 1015mm Cover: detail of **Salsa/Salseros** 2022 acrylic, oil, mixed media on canvas diptych 1525 x 1015mm

A Diary of Events The paintings of Philippa Blair

This series of paintings by Philippa Blair is a record of the thoughts, feelings, and events that motivated, inspired, and, at times, horrified her over the past 18 months.

The paintings in this show offer an incredible insight into the artist's creative process: nothing is hidden, the immediacy is the message. As it has been throughout her long career, Blair continues to challenge herself – she draws on her reserves, harnesses energies, and she pushes firmly against any casual acceptance of the status quo.

Avoiding easy categorization, Blair's work comes to us as a series of heightened discoveries, explorations into the infinite possibilities of mark making and painterly expression.

In A Diary of Events we see a world subject to competing forces, tensions and fractures, climate change, rising sea levels – there is an explosive energy, an urgency about the work. The 'times' require more than passivity, casual acceptance, or the detachment of acquiescence, the times require a more radical response, a fearless breaking of old rules to create new solutions. The role of the artist is to change and adapt, to reflect on the changing world we inhabit. Nature changes, adapts, and evolves. It cannot stand still, or be disconnected, and neither can Philippa Blair. She has dedicated her career to making connections – to place, to nature, to the viewer, and to recognising that chaos and calm are vital elements in the evolution of change. "I develop with the painting, it's as if the DNA of the painting and my own DNA somehow combine to create a new lifeform" says Blair.

This body of work reflects the external and the internal imperatives that drive this artist to confront the challenges of today's world. We can look at the paintings as a new life form, one that has not only adapted to change but is drawn from it, one that tells us something new about the world and how we can be a part of it.



Score 36 pieces mixed media on paper A4 297 x 210mm



Salsa/Salseros 2022 acrylic, oil, mixed media on canvas diptych 1525 x 1015mm



Dancing Off Score 2022 acrylic, oil, mixed media on canvas diptych 1525 x 1015mm



Digging for Gold 2022 acrylic, oil, mixed media on canvas diptych 1525 x 1015mm



Sunflower 2022 acrylic, oil, mixed media on canvas diptych 1525 x 1015mm



The Swan Plant and the Butterfly 2022 acrylic, oil, mixed media on canvas diptych 1525 x 1015mm



Weather Report 2022 acrylic, oil, mixed media on canvas diptych 1525 x 1015mm

orexart

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