



Kay Gibson

Short Artist Statement

I am an artist with a passionate interest in the natural environment always looking for ways to express my concern for habitat preservation. Some of my work utilises plant material from local sites. I have blind embossed printmaking paper, made mono prints and etched soft ground plates which later become backgrounds for my work. Many of the works are 2D and incorporate both printmaking and painting. A couple of years ago I ventured into sculpture using paper maché. On numerous occasions I had tried to represent my concern about the loss of our unique mammals drawing cats and their prey. These drawings have remained in my planning drawers never being particularly successful however sculpture has opened up more possibilities for me.

The sculptures allow me to convey the size of the cats especially feral cats and I can also depict the size of their prey in relation to their bodies. I love working on paper and paper maché proved to be the perfect medium for me. The sculpture starts out with an armature from discarded cardboard, reinforced it with fencing wire, bulked out with newspaper and using a basic paste to adhere yet more layers of newspaper making it a strong structure. I also use a hot glue and masking tape. In the sculpture 'On the Prowl' I made dry-point etchings from plastic plates of the Western Quoll, Numbat and Brushtail Phascogale. I also made a soft ground etching on a zinc plate using plants from my local area and printed it onto some beautiful rice paper. All this was then collaged onto the sculpture and sealed with a wax varnish.

