

# Somewhere In Between

## Marina Mavritsky

Strathfield Library & Innovation Hub

31 August - 29 October 2023

*Somewhere in Between* is an exhibition which explores the ambivalence between perceptions of 'good' and 'bad'. Using cyanotype printmaking as the primary media, and entomology as the subject matter, Marina invites the viewer to reflect on bugs as an inspiration for artmaking as well the vital role that insects serve to our very survival.

We live our life somewhere in between pollination and decomposition. Insects and bugs are paramount in both processes. They play a vital role in the production of life-sustaining produce; without their pollinating powers our food choices are much limited. Insects also work hard at processing death; without them we would be knee-deep in rotting plants and animals. They also work to produce fabrics for clothes, recycle nutrients, produce healthy soil and can control pests.

Insects are the blueprint of our natural environment, so it seems apt to celebrate the humble bug using cyanotype printing. The process of producing cyanotypes first started back in the mid-1800s and the method of producing prints has remained relatively unchanged since this time. Cyanotype combines elements of photography, printmaking and science. It is reliant on the power of sunlight, water and time; the conjunction of these elements produces the deep Prussian blue of the cyanotype print.

The monochromatic format of exhibition, along with references to historical recording of entomology and play with scale, invites the viewer to reflect on the aesthetics of the humble bug, along with the varied symbolic and cultural values we place on insects.

Marina's artmaking practice pays homage to diverse artists both historical and contemporary. These include Maria Sibylla Merian (1647-1717)- artist, scientist and adventurer who dedicated her life to the observation and illustration of insects and botanist Anna Atkins (1799-1871), the first to develop the aesthetic side of the cyanotype. Contemporary Australian artists Judy Watson (b.1959) and Fiona Hall (b. 1953) provide continual inspiration in both concepts and forms including the incorporation of multimodal elements, such as embroidery, into the cyanotypes.

*"My artmaking practice is my attempt to make sense of the physical environment, experiences and metaphysical world. Like it or not, we are all linked. Our primal need for survival along with shared experience means that every little moment is important and with this, so is every little creature. I hope this exhibition gives the viewer a moment to reflect on tiny moments and tiny creatures that, although often, may give us the 'eeks', are so important to our very survival."* Marina Mavritsky