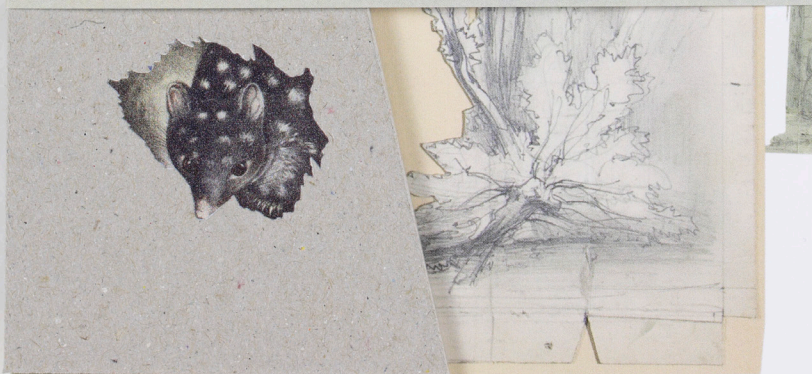




A HEMLINE OF
SKY, FOREST, AND WATER
THROUGH SMOKE

Gracia Haby & Louise Jennison



[Collages pulled from] *the snare of words*
[read at the time, and belonging to other
people, in news articles, and a collection
of books on the bedside table].

[...] intense and widespread bushfires, and the smoke
which billows from them.



Gracia Haby & Louise Jennison

A Hemline of Sky Through Smoke
A Hemline of Forest Through Smoke
and A Hemline of Water Through Smoke
2020

Because through action comes hope, we've created a series of artists' books which the reader needs to take action with in order to see the full collage clearly. The reader will need to tear open the perforated fore-edge of each page spread to see through the smoke, to see what lies beneath, or ahead, or in the past.

gracialouise.com/smoke

Echoing Sir David Attenborough's words that "If we don't take action, the collapse of our civilizations and the extinction of much of the natural world is on the horizon"ⁱ, without action, all will be lost.

The hemline of smoke is both a representation of bushfire smoke caused by the megafires of the last four months, and a reference to the disappearance of our natural world due to land clearing, species extinctions, and the climate change emergency.

From the critically endangered Swift parrot (*Lathamus discolor*) to the vulnerable Long-nosed potoroo (*Potorous tridactylus*), and with Australia's woeful conservation track recordⁱⁱ, all of the species within these pages were once common, where they were observed and drawn.

Within the pages, through the smoke, you can see stage sets by Eugène Cicéri (1813–1890), from The Elisha Whittelsey Collection in The Metropolitan Museum of Art; and from the digital archives of State Library Victoria and National Library of Australia, Australian birds from the Port Phillip District of NSW, from the sketchbook of John Cotton, and illustrations by Harriett Scott and Helena Forde from *The Mammals of Australia* (Sydney: Government Printer, 1871).

Featured within the 300+ digital layers, engravings by James Sowerby from *Zoology and botany of New Holland and the isles adjacent* (London: J. Sowerby, 1794); and Sarah Stone from *Journal of a Voyage to New South Wales: With Sixty-five Plates of Non Descript Animals, Birds, Lizards, Serpents, Curious Cones of Trees and Other Natural Productions* (London: J. Debrett, 1790); alongside those accessed via the digital collections of Biodiversity Heritage Library and the Rijksmuseum. These early European depictions of Australian natural history are common to our own memory bank. These hand-coloured observations of our trespass, a reflection about history and memory — from where we have come, where we now are, and where we are headed — as descendants of the colonisers.



We will be donating 5% of each sale to Bush Heritage Australia, to help protect that which inspired the work. Bush Heritage Australia is an “independent not-for-profit that buys and manages land, and also partners with Aboriginal people, to conserve our magnificent landscapes and our irreplaceable native species forever” (Bush Heritage Australia).

We will be launching these artists' books from our stall at the 2020 NGV Melbourne Art Book Fair.

[#AHemlineofSmoke](#)

ⁱ David Wallace-Wells, 'Time to Panic: The planet is getting warmer in catastrophic ways. And fear may be the only thing that saves us', *The New York Times*, 16th February 2019, accessed December 2019

ⁱⁱ Chief Climate Councillor, Professor Tim Flannery, 'New Report: Unique Aussie wildlife threatened by climate change', *Climate Council*, 17th September 2019, accessed December 2019



[NGV Melbourne Art Book Fair](#)

Great Hall, NGV International
180 St Kilda Road, Melbourne

Friday 13th March

10am–5pm and 6–10pm (ticketed, as part of NGV Friday Nights)

Saturday 14th – Sunday 15th March

10am–5pm

[A Hemline of Sky, Forest, and Water Through Smoke set](#) \$125

[A Hemline of Sky Through Smoke](#) \$40

[A Hemline of Forest Through Smoke](#) \$40

[A Hemline of Water Through Smoke](#) \$40

Unopened artists' books, 12 double-sided Indigo Digital CMYK pages with perforated fore-edge and 8 double-sided Indigo Digital CMYK and black pages on 118gsm Mohawk Superfine Smooth Ultra White, with Indigo Digital CMYK covers on 148gsm Mohawk Superfine Smooth Ultra White.

Including a waistband on 118gsm Mohawk Superfine Smooth Ultra White, and paper knife on 1400gsm boxboard.

Printed by Bambra; bound by the artists

(Each an) edition of 100, with 10 artists' proofs

2020

Editions 1–75 sold as sets, with waistband and paper knife;
editions 76–100 sold individually.

Artists' book photographs by Tim Gresham

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