

Riparian Vases

Artist notes

Assemblages mixed media (including wood, clay, ceramic plaster, glass bottles and jars, river water and plant matter, drawings, fabric). Dimensions variable

These hanging and embedded glass bottles and jars: ***riparian vases*** allude to various kinds of human encounters with creatures, plants, water and places along the shores of a river, from its catchment in mountains to where its wetlands join the sea.

The glass jars have been collected from here and there, because I like the shapes. A few have been salvaged for another use from detritus left carelessly from a picnic, overflowed from suburban storm waters or from farmhouses in a flood.

Perhaps a glass jar is brought to a pool in a river to collect tadpoles or water plants. A handful of wild flowers or paddock weeds, picked on a ramble is plonked in a jam jar in the kitchen sunlight or taken into the studio to be painted.

I write and speak of glass nostalgically because it holds water and light beautifully.

As I walk along the shores of the Cook's River in Marrickville, the dominant rubbish caught in the mangrove mud is too many plastic water bottles, too cheap to make, too easy to carry, too easy to discard, not easy to clean up, not easy to recycle.

Toni Warburton 17th September 2011