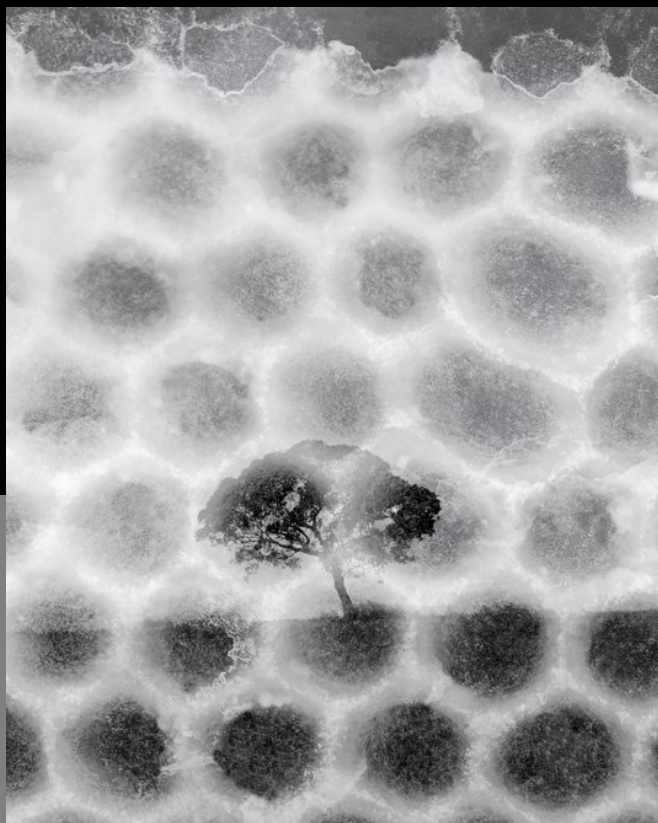


Goulburn Regional Art Gallery presents...

22 nov. — 1 feb. 2025

Sammy Hawker Conversations with bees



Education Kit



About the Education Kit and Sammy Hawker

Conversations with bees

Conversations with bees features photography, text and moving image work by Kamberri/Canberra-based artist Sammy Hawker.

Hawker uses a process of multidisciplinary research to explore the relationship between people and the natural world. Hawker experiments with new techniques, and collaborates directly with the natural world. In this exhibition Sammy Hawker engages with two hives cared for by local beekeeper, Oli Chiswell, to develop her photographs. In doing this, Hawker incorporates perspectives which are beyond our own.

Hawker's works encourage us to increase our awareness of the natural world.

This resource has been created by Education Officer, Samantha Wiltshire, and includes practical and theoretical activities for all ages. It can be used before and after visiting the Gallery.

Sammy Hawker Word Scramble

For any age or stage

Unscramble the letters to make some key words relating to Hawker's work.

RISYITUCO	-----
COGELOY	-----
PETICREPSVES	-----
TECSINS	-----
GRAPPOTYHOH	-----



Sammy Hawker. Portrait. Photograph by Sami Harper

One Off Wonders

For any age or stage

Sammy Hawker experiments by collaborating with the natural world to produce her original photography works. This means that Hawker and the natural world work together to make photographs which tell us a story about the environments they were inspired by, and the natural elements from those environments that Hawker used to create them.

The stories that Hawker's photographs tell us are a bit different each and every time.

When Hawker allows bees to create honeycomb on her photographs, for example, they leave different traces and patterns on each photograph, never creating the exact same outcome twice. Can you think of any other types of artmaking that cannot be reproduced the exact same way twice?

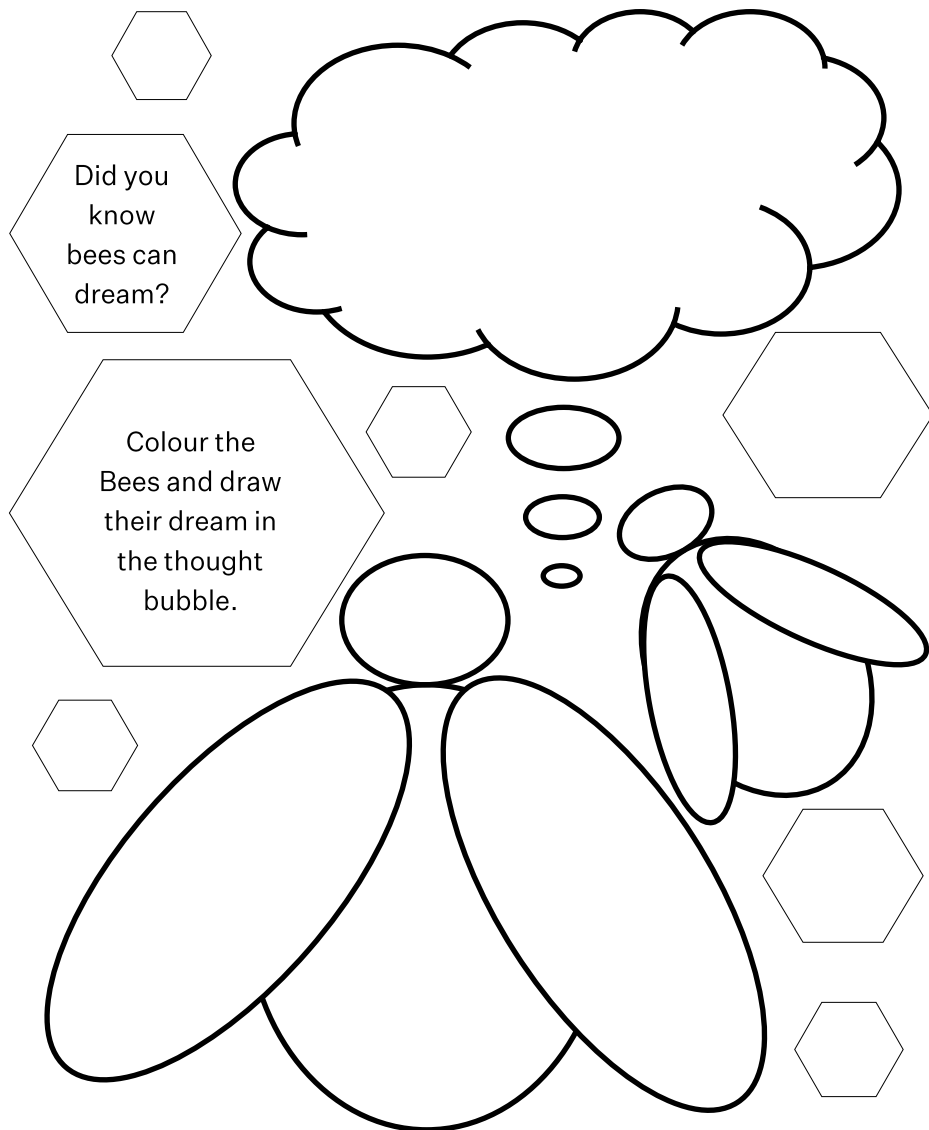


Sammy Hawker, Telling the bees progress image, Courtesy of the artist and Richard Mockler.

For the Littlest Ones

Preschool and early stage 1, 4-6 years olds (support required)

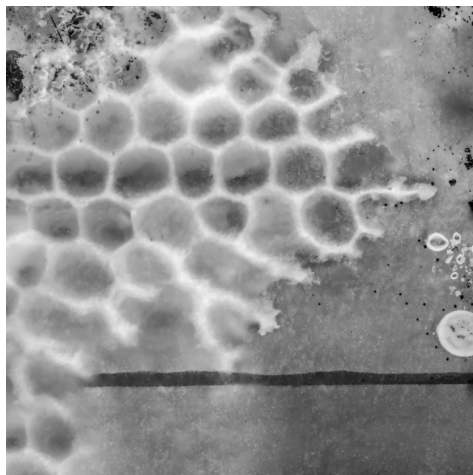
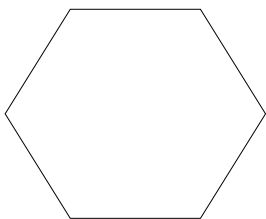
Dreaming of Honey



Hooray for Hexagons

Sammy Hawker reflects the patterns that bees use when they build honeycomb in her artworks. This pattern is made using a shape called a hexagon.

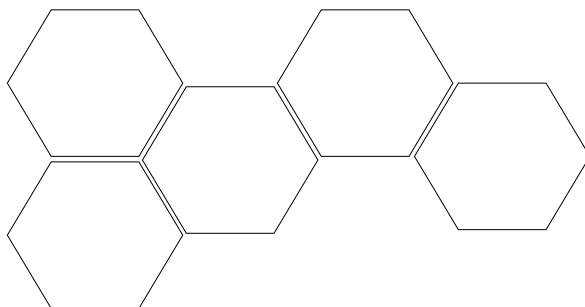
How many sides does a hexagon have? Count the sides on the hexagon below and write your answer inside the hexagon:



Sammy Hawker, *Honeycomb #2*, 2023, pigment inkjet print on archival cotton rag, 110x110cm, Courtesy of the artis. Collection of the artist.

Honey Helper

Some bees have been building honeycomb out of hexagons below. Can you help them to fill the space and finish their honeycomb using your pencil?



For the Young Ones

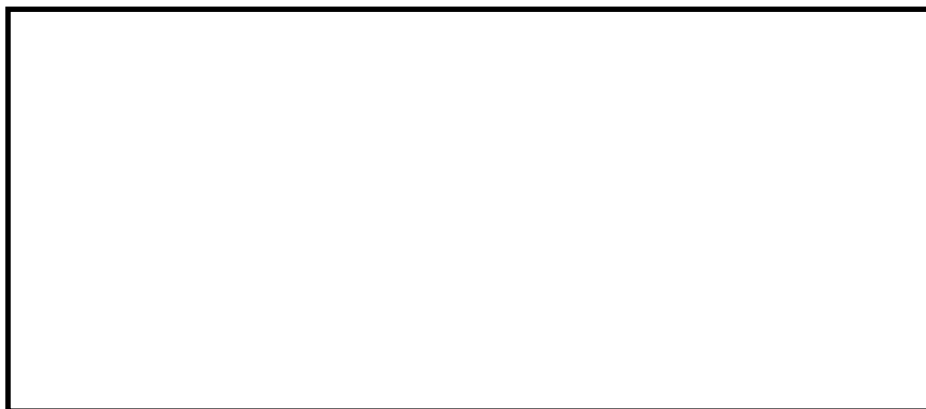
Stage 1– stage 2, 6-9 years old



Sammy Hawker, *Chromatogram of Four-Leaf Clover (diptych)*, 2024, pigment inkjet print on archival cotton rag, 20.32 x 25.4 x 2cm. Courtesy the artist. Collection of the artist.

Nature Forensics

Sammy Hawker makes chromatograms—a chromatogram is created using a technique which was originally used for scientific testing. When this technique is used on treasures we can find in nature, like the clover above, a unique and special colour and pattern forms. Our finger prints also have patterns which are one-of-a-kind. In the box below, create an artwork using fingerprints from everyone in your family.



For Those in Between

Stage 3, 10-12 years old

Research Challenge

Sammy Hawker,
*Conversations with
bees* (detail), video,
Courtesy of the artist.
Collection of the artist.



In the video still pictured above, Sammy Hawker helps us to understand the world from a bee's perspective. With permission from an adult, research your favorite animal online. Try to find out as much as you can about the way that they experience the world.

In the box below, draw the world through the eyes of the animal that you have researched.

For the Teens

Stages 4 and up. 12+ years old

PROCESSING AND DEVELOPING IMAGES

Hawker partially processes the images she creates in the field where the photographs were taken, and partially in the studio. A photograph can sometimes go through multiple stages of developing, soaking and scanning before it is ready. Hawker often uses found elements from nature, including water sourced from the locations where the photographs were taken, to process the images. Sometimes natural elements, such as salt crystals from lakes and oceans for example, create unexpected and unpredictable outcomes.

Hawker enjoys the unpredictable element of her practice, she says: “...that's kind of the point, to recognize this perceived mastery we have over the outside world is actually, an illusion.” (*Developing photographs with the help of bees: Sammy Hawker, Old Artforms, New Tricks, ABC Arts*)

COLLABORATING WITH INSECTS

In order to collaborate with bees Hawker puts photographic negatives in bee hives and allows the bees to build their honeycomb on top of the images.



Sammy Hawker,
Conversations with bees
(detail), video, Courtesy
of the artist. Collection
of the artist.



Sammy Hawker, *Telling the bees #2*, 2023, pigment inkjet print on archival cotton rag, 48 x 60cm, Courtesy the artist. Collection of the artist.

In Sammy Hawker's practice some factors are controlled and some are not. In the artwork on the left we can see that on top of the image composed by the artist there are unpredictable markings left as a result of exposure to bees.

Experimenting to create unexpected outcomes can be a fantastic way to create artworks. Think of a way that you could let go of control and experiment in your own artmaking, or maybe even collaborate respectfully with nature yourself.

For example you could:

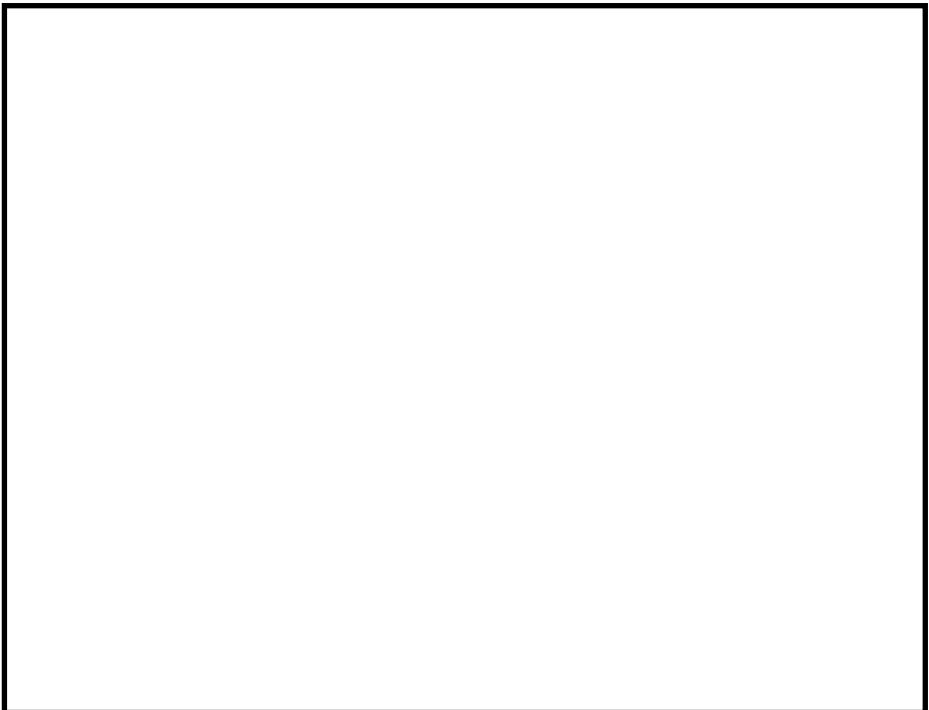
- Expose your artwork to a natural element such as rain.
- Allow birds and insects to impact your work.
- Use elements found in nature, for example soil, as an ingredient to create your work.

Explain your idea below:

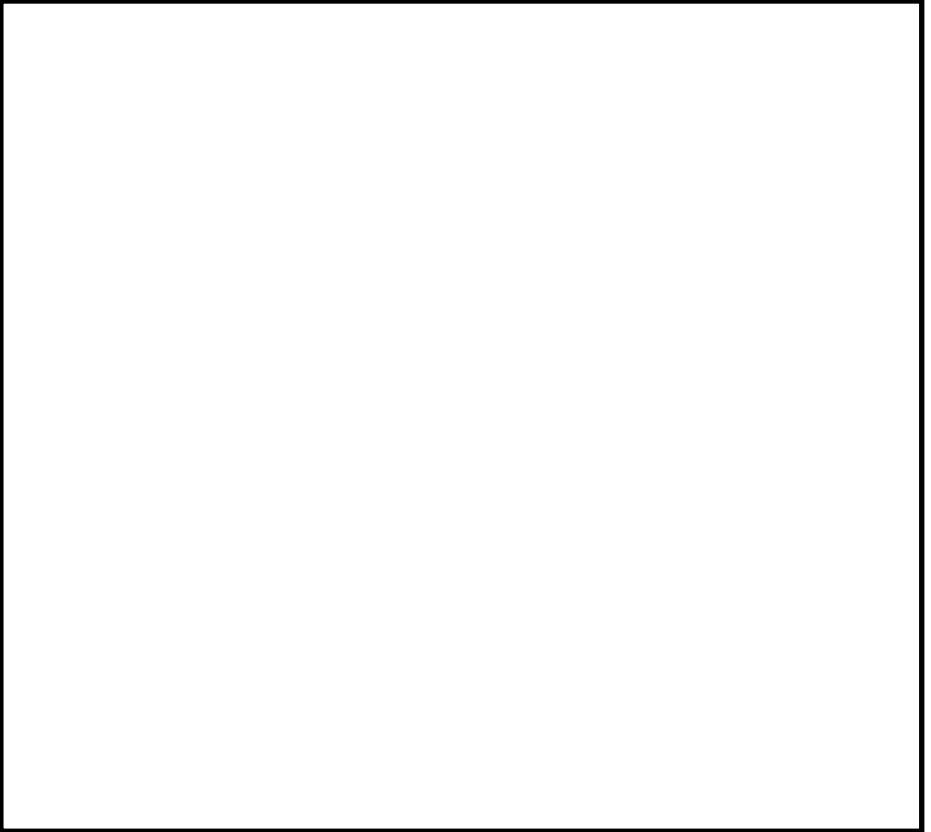
Photography Frenzy

Think about the natural world around you. What makes you curious in nature? Is it the way that spider webs are built, or the way that flower buds open? Explain your answer below:

Engage in practice-led research. Grab any camera that is available to you—it does not need to be a professional camera. Take photographs of a natural curiosity like a sunset, rain, or a spiders web. Your goal is to understand how the natural phenomenon works, or how it may look from different perspectives. Draw a picture of your natural curiosity in the space below. On the next page you will be asked to turn your photographs into a collage.



On the previous page you were asked to do some practice-led research, in other words experimentation and investigation, into a natural curiosity using photography. In the empty space below, create a collage of the pictures that you have taken to explore your curiosity:



Sammy Hawker,
Conversations with bees
(detail), video, Courtesy
of the artis. Collection of
the artist.

Goulburn Regional Art Gallery acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land where Goulburn Regional Art Gallery operates today and pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

Cover Image: Sammy Hawker, Honeycomb #3, 2023, pigment inkjet print on archival cotton rag, 110 x 136cm. Image courtesy the artist. Collection of the artist.



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Goulburn Regional Art Gallery is supported by the NSW government through Create NSW