Brolgas

Oil on Canvas

90 x 60 cm

2020

This painting was inspired by an associate of mine, Lynn, an outstanding leader in the sustainable management of the Great Artesian Basin, Lake Eyre Basin and fierce advocate for the protection of GAB springs, who sadly passed away toward the end of 2019.

Before he died, I had been helping Lynn out with his last project. This help started as a bit of advice, but eventually turned into a co-authorship role and a proxy speakership at a national groundwater conference in Brisbane. Coming back from that conference, I had dropped into the State Art gallery and had viewed "Spirit of the Plains" by Sidney Long. It reminded me of some work undertaken by another colleague, who captured images of Brolgas at a spring site they were monitoring. Later, at Lynn's "farewell" party, I was chatting to Lynn's wife, describing my time in Brisbane, when she mentioned that "Spirit of the Plains" was their favorite painting. The final piece of inspiration was a painting of a pair of cranes by my aunt Mary. Like Lynn, my aunt was also taken too soon.