

MEET THE MAKER

Hannah Fox

Most people can nominate their favourite type of landscape. For some, it's an ocean view or a beach expanse. For others, a vista of rolling hills, perhaps. But for Melbourne artist Hannah Fox, it's the shimmering silvery grey of the Australian bush.

"I love the texture of the bush and the way the light falls through the gum trees," says Hannah. "I love the sound of the bush underfoot, too."

Hannah's paintings are mesmerising works that explore the atmospheric – the light, colour, texture and space – of the native bush environment. She works mainly with oil paints on canvas and linen ("oils have such a luminosity and depth"), and her colour palette is a direct response to the natural world, featuring dusty pinks, ochres, terracotta reds, deep indigo blues, gumtree greys and rich olive greens. These "abstract interpretations of the bush landscape", as she describes them, clearly speak to others as well: her five solo exhibitions have all been sell-out successes.

One of Hannah's favourite Australian artists is the late Fred Williams. "He was less about creating visual reproductions of the bush and more about the way it 'felt'. That resonates with me," she says.

Hannah Fox with some of her sought-after artworks in her studio.



A mum to three boys (aged eight, seven and five), Hannah works from a backyard home studio and manages to schedule three to five painting sessions a week. "The juggle of painting and raising the family is very real!" she says. "Unfortunately, creativity doesn't always slot into business hours."

Fortunately, Hannah has found time to design and create a spiral-bound calendar for 2019, featuring 12 prints of paintings she has produced over the past two years. Each image is printed in full colour on quality matte stock (100 per-cent recycled, FSC-certified paper), and at 23cmx23cm they are thoughtfully sized to fit into Ikea's 'Ribba' and 'Hovsta' frames.

The 'Seasonal Shift' calendar, \$39, is available from Hannah's website and selected retailers. hannahfox.com.au



Australian story
CORBAN & BLAIR

H&G salutes this trailblazing stationery and homewares brand as it celebrates a milestone birthday.

Beloved for its beautiful stationery, Corban & Blair has clocked up 30 years in business. Founded by creative cousins Gillian Corban (above left) and Amanda Blair (right), the brand launched long before 'journaling' became a verb.

"We realised there was a gap in the market for environmentally friendly designer stationery that was also authentically Australian," says Gillian, a former art teacher. Once she and Amanda, then a fashion designer, joined forces, there was no turning back. Since their 1988 launch they've produced designs ranging from their iconic journals to leathersgoods, art and homewares, with a commitment to devising useful, innovative and eco-aware solutions. "Our values have changed very little in 30 years," says Gillian.

Recent ventures include working with indigenous artists and artists living with intellectual disabilities. "Our collaborations are part of our strategy to tell authentic Australian stories," she says. Gillian and Amanda now employ 12 people and retail all around the globe.

In 2013, the two were inducted into the Businesswomen's Hall of Fame. The key to their survival? "Being curious, open, adaptive, constantly learning and having a talented team who are willing to change and experiment," says Gillian. ▶ corbanblair.com.au

Damian Showyin/Studio A
Collaboration polyurethane pouch,
\$46, Corban & Blair.



Text by Elizabeth Wilson. Photograph by Martina Gemmola (Fox) & Matthew Duchesne/Fancy Boy (Corban & Blair).

CRAFTY DESIGN

Those who love to make and be surrounded by beautiful things will not be disappointed.

Boxes in Lime Paint in Sapphire, \$120/4L, Bauwerk Colour. ON WALL 'Ombre' polyester fabric in Fjord (as backdrop), from \$72/m, Sparkk. Garland with glass balls and LED lights (1m), \$40, Ivory House. ON SHELF Sunset print, \$140, Amalfi. 'Futuro' stoneware vase, \$275, Young Vessels+Objects. House Doctor steel toolbox in White, \$100, Telegram Co. Winsor & Newton oil paints, \$98 each, and 'Otto' recycled-plastic storage drawers, \$25, all Officeworks. 2019 'Seasonal Shift' recycled-paper art calendar, \$39, Hannah Fox. ON BOXES 'Mode' velvet backpack, \$110, Eadie Lifestyle. Wooden palette, \$4.50, and synthetic-fibre filbert brush in size 12, \$42, Officeworks. Oil paint (as before). Octaveo waterproof paper vase \$40, Telegram Co. 'Eucalypt Crescent Moon' stoneware vase, \$40, Woodfolk. OPPOSITE Hardwood and rope ladder, from \$70, Swingz & Thingz. 'Falling Star' fabric garland, \$50, Kido. Wall in Lime Paint in Sapphire (as before). ON LADDER Hellolulu polyester backpack, \$119, Telegram Co. Boy's denim shorts, \$12, Best&Less. Aussie child's cotton T-shirt, \$17, Bonds. ON BOXES Lilu wicker suitcase in White, \$185, Happy Go Ducky. Banwood ABS children's helmet, \$70, Kido. For similar miniature Christmas tree, try Koch & Co. Baubles from the Australian House & Garden range at Myer. Pig the Elf book, \$17, Scholastic. Wooden toy truck, \$59, Pottery Barn Kids. Cotton toy whale, \$175, Kido. ON FLOOR Wooden toy caterpillar, \$35, Happy Go Ducky. 'First Go' steel-framed balance bike, \$290, Kido. Polaroid OneStep2 instant camera, \$199, Officeworks. 'Twinkle' LED string lights (3m), \$5, Kmart. Saltwater sandals in Patent Yellow, \$75, Kido. Blueant 'Pump Soul' wireless headphones, \$169, Officeworks. Porcelain Christmas snow globe, \$149, Wedgwood. Wicker stool with cotton cover in Heather, \$110, Happy Go Ducky. 'Seated Unicorn' cotton toy, \$15, TK Maxx. ▶