

CITY OF YARRA ACQUISITIONS 2015

ARTIST STATEMENT

As I Knew It

I & the Others 2105

As I Knew It comprises of two ink portraits on paper, representing the lives of two teenage girls who lived at different periods in time on the grounds where the Abbotsford Convent now stands.

These works delve into the history of the site on an individual level. The Abbotsford Convent in it's present incarnation is a hub for creative and cultural events. Comprised of studios, galleries and cafés it draws many locals and visitors each year. Historical tours can be taken on Sundays and it is during one of these tours I gained an insight into the rich history of the buildings and was inspired to represent a small part of that history through my work.

Kathleen Kelly, now 92 years of age was a resident at the orphanage at the Convent between 1934 - 1938. She was 11 years old when she was taken to live there after her mother passed away. The portrait I have created represents her during that time and focuses on the faith she found while living there, as well as the shyness she had to tackle as a teenager with a stutter.

The second portrait represents a young girl from the Wurundjeri tribe who lived along the Yarra River before the land was settled. Life for a young teenage girl in the tribe would have involved tasks such as gathering food. An important food source for her people was the Murnong Yam Daisy, which grew along the banks of the river, but is now scarce.

Both portraits were originally created for Abbotsford Convent's Spiritous initiative (2015) and were heavily researched via interviews and historical study so as to accurately represent the subjects.

The portraits have been created with high quality archival materials - 640gsm Fabriano Artistico hotpress paper and archival inks.