

BEN TOOTH

DORRIGO PLATEAU AWARDS NIGHT!

New England Regional Art Museum 30 September – 13 November 2022

After spending the last ten years living, working, and sculpting on Dhungatti country at Walcha, Ben Tooth and his family moved east. Now immersed in a contrasting landscape, Tooth has created this series of sculptures on Gumbaynggir country, tucked in the back of the Dorrigo Plateau.

Although this is not unfamiliar country to Tooth, it has had a resounding effect on his state of mind. Plagued by the destruction of recent weather events, Tooth's new home has been through devastating fires and raging floods. Despite these perilous events, this resilient country and its ecology have bounced back into full swing.

Tooth's studio is in heavily timbered country on the banks of the Nymboida River. This affords a generous supply of salvageable timber from the abundant selection of hardwoods on the farm. Tooth's work reflects the gratitude he feels for the incredible bush he is so lucky to find himself in. Tooth likes to steal shapes from the negative space spotted within tree canopies and aims to turn that beautiful gap into a solid, to abstract it from the trees and dress it up a bit.

Trophies have existed since Roman times. They are the validation of conquest, the prize of battle or a symbol of achievement. As humans we are always striving for recognition, whether it's 1st place in the 100 metre sprint at the school athletics carnival or a Nobel Peace Prize. We have created awards for all skill levels and age brackets of our population.

In this series 'Dorrigo Plateau Awards Night' Tooth metaphorically gifts these sculptures as prizes to the natural world. Each sculpture is named after locations around the Dorrigo Plateau, with each trophy a fabricated prize. These trophies are a symbolic gesture, a small contribution to recognise his appreciation for, and love of, the natural environment.

For sales enquiries, please contact NERAM Front of House on 02 6772 5255 or email office@neram.com.au





Wooden spoon, Cascade Rally 2022

38 x 10 x 9 cm

Stringybark

\$550



Joker draw, Billy's Creek Post Office 2022

53 x 11 x 11 cm

Stringybark

\$750



Red ribbon, Muldiva Show 2022

60 x 12 x 10 cm

Stringybark

\$850



Jack Pot at the Kalang General Store 2022

114 x 18 x 17 cm

Tallowwood

\$1500



Most Valuable player, Clouds Creek Singles Tennis 2022

196 x 20 x 20 cm

Tallowwood

\$2800



Dead last at Bald Hills trout muster 2022

137 x 31 x 29 cm

Stringybark

\$2200



Lucky door, Briggsvale bore baths 2022

29 x 15 x 8 cm

Tallowwood

\$450



Meat raffle, Tyningham Inn 2022

30 x 13 x 9 cm

Tallowwood

\$450



Best and Fairest, Brooklana Brown shield 2022

29 x 17 x 8 cm

Tallowwood

\$450



Catch of the week, Lavenders Bridge 2022

20 x 14 x 10 cm

Tallowwood

\$450



Minor Premier, Bostobrick Bears 2022

31 x 9 x 7 cm

Tallowwood

\$450



Bronze, Nymboida Regatta 2022

25 x 8 x 6 cm

Messmate

\$400



Silver, Tin Hut open 2022

44 x 15 x 15 cm

Tallowwood

\$650



Gold, Darkwood Darts 2022

54 x 17 x 16 cm

Tallowwood

\$750



Blue ribbon, Long Point Campdraft 2022

55 x 14 x 11 cm

Stringybark

\$750



Most improved, Argents Hill Kite club 2022

82 x 14 x 16 cm

Stringybark

\$1050



Participation, Never Never Nippers 2022

114 x 12 x 12 cm

Stringybark

\$1400



Did not finish, Thora Cup 2022

117 x 11 x 10 cm

Stringybark

\$1400



Dux, Dundurrabin Primary 2022

124 x 18 x 18 cm

Tallowwood

\$1600



Life Member of Marengo Dingos 2022

226 x 20 x 17 cm

Tallowwood

\$3400