



Stephen McLaughlan Gallery

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Level 8 Room 16 Nicholas Building 37 Swanston Street Melbourne 3000
On the corner of Flinders Lane

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Gallery Hours: Wednesday to Friday 1pm-5pm. Saturday 11am-5pm.

Felicity Spear

August 14-31 2019

Umwelten – eco-fields & other universes

Clockwise from the windows:

Wall 1	Umwelten 5\$3,000.00 2018-2019 oil on wood 900 diameter Umwelten 6\$2,000.00 2018-2019 oil on wood 600 diameter Umwelten 7\$900.00 2018-2019 oil on wood 200 diameter Umwelten 8\$3,000.00 2018 oil on wood 900 diameter
Wall 2	Umwelten 2\$3,000.00 2018-2019 oil on wood 900 diameter Umwelten 3\$3,000.00 2018-2019 oil on wood 900 diameter Umwelten 4\$3,000.00 2018-2019 oil on wood 900 diameter (Acknowledging Jakob von Uexküll, Hugh Everett & Pierre Huyghe)
Wall 3	Honeycomb Conjecture\$2,500.00 2019 bees wax & acrylic on wood 600 diameter x 60 deep (Acknowledging Johannes Kepler, T.C.Hales & Olafur Eliasson) IBB – International Bee Blue\$1,650.00 2019 oil on wood 500 diameter (Acknowledging James Clerk Maxwell, Yves Klein, 'Blue is the invisible becoming visible', & Gaston Bachelard, 'First there is nothing, then a depth of nothingness, then a profundity of blue.') Black Hole Conjecture\$1,650.00 2019 charcoal & archival digital print on cotton rag paper 780 x 560 (Acknowledging John A.Wheeler, the Event Horizon Telescope & Jan Vermeer) Umwelten 1\$3,000.00 2019 oil on wood 900 diameter

Sizes are nominal. Prices are GST inclusive. Delivery can be arranged at cost.

This exhibition contains paintings and other media on circular wood panels. These works outline the profile of the human skull to encircle and contain what might be imagined as non-human worlds at either a micro or macro level. The collective thought processes of bees have long been studied in the context of relationships to human political and social organization. These art works are speculations on the possibilities for different modes of existence or intelligence, and other habitats or universes beyond our sensorium.

In 1909, the biologist Jakob von Uexküll introduced the concept of the *umwelt* to describe the small subset of the world which an animal is able to detect; its particular sensed and perceived environment. *Umwelt* expresses a simple but often overlooked observation; different animals in the same ecosystem tune in to different environmental signals which are fundamental to their communication and signification. While we accept the reality of the world with which we're presented, so much goes undetected in our lives. Would a heightened awareness of this endow us with the humility to preserve planet Earth's biodiversity for all living things?

Referencing art history, biology, astronomy and philosophy these speculative works suggest an interplay between the world of the senses, remote sensing and unseen signs and networks of connections beyond the human sensorium. They map an eco-field of the imagination suggesting other possible universes