



Del Kathryn Barton: The Nightingale and the Rose

The Artists

Celebrated Australian artist Del Kathryn Barton created a series of paintings in which she reimagined Oscar Wilde's classic story *The Nightingale and the Rose*. Having become interested in the possibility of turning her paintings into an animated film, Barton was delighted that filmmaker Brendan Fletcher wanted to work with her on the project. Despite neither having an animation background, Barton and Fletcher were inspired by their shared vision to offer something new and special to the field.

Over the next three years, Barton and Fletcher worked with award-winning post-production house Method Studios to create their 14-minute animation. The collaboration combined Barton's extraordinary feel for the handmade with Fletcher's dynamic directing skills, while remaining true to Wilde's story.

With a stirring score by Australian singer-songwriter Sarah Blasko and voiced by some of Australia's most celebrated actors, *Oscar Wilde's The Nightingale and the Rose* is a feat of multidisciplinary, collaborative art practice.

The Nightingale and the Rose

First published in 1888 as part of *The Happy Prince and Other Stories*, Oscar Wilde's *The Nightingale and the Rose* is a tale of unrequited love, radical transformation and extraordinary sacrifice. With a cast of enchanting characters, including animals, trees and flowers, *The Nightingale* presents an elaborate world that delicately blurs the real and the imagined. Del Kathryn Barton drew on Wilde's symbolic universe to create an abundant, bold and vivid imaginative world, blending realism and fantasy with her inimitable aesthetic style.

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While you are in the exhibition consider:

In 2010, Del Kathryn Barton was asked by publishing house Art & Australia to reimagine a timeless fairytale. Having always loved Oscar Wilde's writing, Barton chose *The Nightingale and the Rose* as inspiration. What elements of this story inspired Barton's visual imagination?

What different mediums has Barton explored as part of the collaborative animation process?

How did the film make you feel? Explain how these feelings are elicited by the work. (Use some of these words in your description: line, tone, shape, colour, texture, character, setting, story, sound, music, framing, movement, lighting)

How does Barton communicate her own interpretation of the story in her reimagining of *The Nightingale and the Rose*? How do her ideas connect today's audience with Wilde's 130-year-old story?

Drawing inspiration from Barton's use of pattern, create a distinctive pattern of your own

The animation is a collaboration based on Barton's unique visual imagination. How do you think the collaboration process might have affected, challenged or enhanced the work?

