

# WILL MAGUIRE

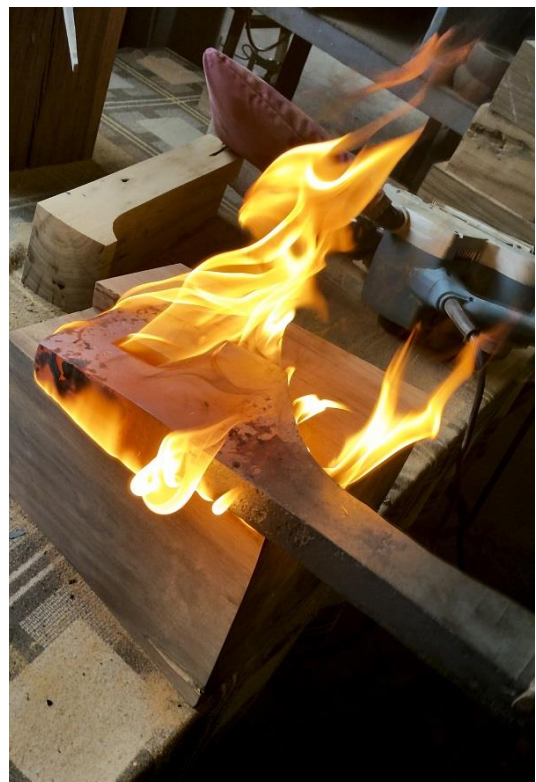
## 'Leaning in to Letting Go'

Will Maguire is one of very few contemporary blacksmiths in Australia. Working with, hot steel, forging and manipulating it, striving to create forms that are beautiful, genuine and new. He brings blacksmithing into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, with a combination of striking contemporary design whilst keeping the integrity of the craft intact with his use of traditional skills learnt from masters overseas.

I am a blacksmith based out of country New South Wales. Initially I trained as an industrial blacksmith before travelling and working overseas for many wonderful contemporary smiths. Since then I have studied botanical drawing at the University of Newcastle and hold a keen interest in design. For over ten years now I have worked on a beautiful property from an old converted dairy in the Hunter Valley.

Will's work has an individual depth, texture and feeling embedded in it creating iron with personality.

The idea of blacksmithing is steeped in myth and history but essentially as a skill-based craft. The tangible shaping of hot metal with the craft of blacksmithing forms a medium for expression through sculpture. My attachment with iron is not clear, it provides a real permanent directness while being soft and eminently pliable while hot. This combination continues to be tantalizing and, at its best, ultimately rewarding.





## IRONBARK CONSTRUCTION 2

36 x 58 x 23cm

forged steel and ironbark

\$ 2,500.00

Winner Sculpture Section of the Newcastle Show 2020

These works have a deeply personal root as well as a metaphysical one.

On the one hand, they represent a personal process of letting go, something that causes great angst. Steel and natural timbers hold a life of their own. I have spent many years driving for personally crafted expression through my work, and call me slow, but I am gradually coming to see the need to consciously act in collaboration with my materials to produce work which can speak back to me in a language beyond the carefully crafted texts I painstakingly embed into it.

On other hand, they grapple with questions around the nature of material being and the essence expressed by a process of physical manipulation. Questions of material utility and the attitudes we bring to bear on the elements of our environment.

UNKNOWN EUCALYPT STUDY 1

74 x 17 x 23cm  
forged steel and unknown eucalypt

\$ 700.00



TURPENTINE STUDY 3

47 x 14 x 12cm  
forged steel and turpentine

\$ 700.00



TURPENTINE CONSTRUCTION 5

30 x 57 x 20cm

forged steel and turpentine

\$ 1,500.00



SHEOAK STUDY 1

46 x 18 x 12cm

forged steel and sheoak

\$ 700.00



IRONBARK STUDY 1

31 x 24 x 25cm

forged steel and ironbark

\$ 700.00





Will's work in progress

The timbers used were ironbark and turpentine over a hundred years old from an old wharf, the sheoak is from my parents' property from a tree which came down in a storm.

The blackened areas are various forms of interaction with the environment but it's direct and intentional burning of the steel element to seat them into the timber, similar to how a farrier hot shoes a horse shoe onto a horse. Also, some of the blackness is caused from reactions of the steel with the natural tenons of the timber which are particularly striking in the turpentine works.

TURPENTINE CONSTRUCTION 1

122 x 18 x 18cm

forged steel and turpentine

\$ 2,200.00



TURPENTINE CONSTRUCTION 3

44 x 15 x 18cm

forged steel and turpentine

\$ 800.00





#### TURPENTINE CONSTRUCTION 4

15 x 14 x 70cm

forged steel and turpentine

\$ 800.00



IRON MASK 1

38 x 10cm

forged steel angle iron

\$ 690.00



IRON MASK 2

23 x 18cm

forged steel angle iron

\$ 690.00



IRON MASK 4

26 x 23cm

forged steel angle iron

\$ 690.00



For more images, works or information about commissions please contact the gallery

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