

Picture books

A Short Overview of Narelle's Publications

Narelle Oliver's published works are predominantly children's picture books which she has conceptualised, written and illustrated, including:

Leaf Tail (1989)
High Above the Sea (1991)
The Best Beak in Boonaroo Bay (1993)
The Hunt (1995)
Sand Swimmers (1999)
Baby Bilby, Where do you Sleep? (2001)
Mermaids Most Amazing (2001)
The Very Blue Thingamajig (2003)
Dancing the Boom-cha-cha Boogie (2005)
Home (2006),
Twilight Hunt (2007)
Fox and Fine Feathers (August, 2009)
Don't Let a Spoonbill in the Kitchen! (April, 2013)

Many of these titles have won or been short-listed for major Australian picture book awards.

A number of Narelle's picture books have been inspired by natural environments she has explored, and a continuing interest in natural history – especially adaptation of animals to their specific habitats through camouflage or other physical characteristics such as beak shapes. In other titles, the story and illustrations have been informed by various mathematical, social, mythical and historical concepts.

Most of the illustrations in Narelle's picture books have been undertaken using linocut prints and linocut rubbings often combined with other media such as coloured pencil, water colour, pastel, collage and even photography – depending on the feel required for the story.

The style of the linocuts has also varied in keeping with the essence of each story – from intricate realistic images revealing camouflage to the eclectic old-world style suited to medieval mermaid stories, to the bold mambo-inspired creatures in later imaginary works. Most markedly different are the collages of linocut rubbings and hand-coloured photographs created to capture the lightness and movement of the birds in contrast to solid city landscapes in **Home**.

The original illustrations from Narelle's picture books have been exhibited in group and solo exhibitions throughout Australia, including Fremantle Children's Literature Centre, WA, Dromkeen Children's Literature Centre, Vic., Books Illustrated, Vic., and the State Library of Queensland.