



Title	<i>Returning Song (Honey Eater)</i> , 2025
Gallery	STATION (Sydney)
Date of purchase	18/11/25
Buying Circle	Fiona Hardie, Wendy Kozica, Sarah George
Shadow members	Susan Jones, Fiona Edwards, Fiona Brockhoff
Dimensions	61.0 x 46.0 cm canvas, 65.0 x 50.0 cm frame
Medium	Oil and synthetic polymer on canvas

CONTENT/SUBJECT/AESTHETIC QUALITIES

Adam Lee is a mid-career artist working with inks, water colours and oils on both paper and canvas. Very well credentialed with a PhD and Masters in Fine Art from RMIT, Lee began his training as a painter and the exhibition *I am the Hermit, You Are the Cave / You Are the Wind, I am the Song*, is Lee's ninth solo exhibition with STATION and includes works on paper and canvas.

'Contemplative and expansive, this series extends the central concerns of Lee's practice: memory, imagination, transcendence, and the quiet spaces between them. *I am the Hermit, You Are the Cave / You Are the Wind, I am the Song* unfolds as a meditation on solitude, spirituality, and the layered nature of human experience.' Lee's practice presents the viewer with intimate experiences layered with sensual backgrounds, with texture, colour and narrative.'

CONTEXT/TECHNIQUE

Lee skilfully layers texture and colour by combining expressive mark making with organic pooling pouring and bleeding techniques. The result are dynamic, resolved and balanced works that are delicate yet bold, abstract yet structured with a complexity and depth. Although Lee's works are largely abstract he does include some figurative elements that are often partially present or distorted they seem to emerge and then disappear between the layers as if leaving a trace.

COLLECTION STATEMENT

The Buying Circle identified Adam Lee as an artist of interest from the beginning and we have been in ongoing contact with STATION Gallery about a suitable work. STATION presented Adam Lee at Sydney Contemporary and while there were many beautiful works on paper on display, we couldn't find one that we all felt was right and decided that we would prefer to acquire a painting. As a lovely coincidence, while we were in Sydney for Sydney Contemporary we had a chance encounter with Adam Lee and his wife over breakfast at the Ace Hotel. We had a wide ranging chat with them both about Adam's practice and his show with STATION in Sydney later in the year. In November Wendy was in Sydney again and managed to get a sneak peak of the exhibition *I am the Hermit, You Are the Cave / You Are the Wind, I am the Song* while it was being installed. So with Wendy in Sydney and Sarah and Fiona on face time we toured the exhibition (some pieces still being unwrapped) and agreed on a small oil on canvas, *Returning Song (Honey Eater)*, 2025, \$7,000. The canvas measures 61 x 46cm and is framed in a shadow box.

We feel this work is an excellent example of Lee's practice and we are all drawn to the overall composition with layers of neutral grey texture in the background balanced by bright foreground colours. It also gave us great pleasure on closer inspection to discover the beak and head of the Honey Eater bird in the centre of the composition. We think this is a beautiful addition to the Circle Collective Collection.