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# Artist recreates a walk in the Black Forest

By Ross Kay and Wayne Shearman

**There is very little green in the dark forest artist Simone Eisler has created. It is a dark place with a dark story to tell.**



Artist Simone Eisler has created a miniature forest in the Bundaberg Regional Art Gallery. (ABC Open:Brad Marsellos)

It is hard to tell if the images of gnarled tree trunks that surround you are made of bark or feathers, and the figures that cling to the walls seem otherworldly.

In the Bundaberg Regional Art Gallery, the exhibition space known as the Vault has been transformed into a dark, brooding forest by the Sunshine Coast-based artist.

The installation is the last in the Literary Notions series put together by exhibitions officer Trudie Leigo, where artists are paired with books, plays, or in this case a fairytale, and create installations based on the written work.

The work in question is a Brothers Grimm fairytale called All Kinds of Fur or 1,000 Furs, where a beautiful princess runs away into a forest with a cloak made of different animal furs.

"It's quite a dark tale because... her mother dies and her father the King then tries to find a woman as beautiful as his wife who has passed on, and he can't so then he decides he is going to marry his daughter," Simone said.

"She basically is horrified and sets him this impossible task of making her a cloak of 1,000 furs from all the animals of the kingdom, and if he can provide her with this cloak she will marry him."

In The Vault, Simone has created dolls that have been covered in animal materials like fur, in order to hide in the forest.

"The installation is called 'Allure', which is kind of a play on a few things, particularly to do with attraction," she said.

"They [the dolls] possibly appear a bit creepy, to me they're not. Maybe that's because of the materials that I used, and that fact that you realise they're dolls."

## Digging up family roots

Each artist in the series chose the stories they would work with. For Simone it was an easy choice after a recent bit of undiscovered family history.

"My [Romanian] grandfather came on the wrong ship, he actually thought he was going to America and then he ended up in Australia," she said.

"But we've traced [the family] back to Transylvania where we travelled two years ago to meet relatives.

"They told us that originally we came from the Black Forest mountains in Germany which is where a lot of the Grimms' fairytales originated."

The installation will be on display in The Vault until November 30.

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