

Blue Mountains Cultural Centre celebrates the Year of Print

As far as the eye can see

12 November 2016 - 15 January 2017



As far as the eye can see is an exhibition of works by prominent Australian printmakers investigating their local landscapes. It celebrates the breadth and depth of printmaking practice in Australia today and is a stunning reflection of Australia's unique and varied geography. The artists express their stories and relationships to the land through a variety of print media, describing the vast scale or intimate detail of our diverse natural environment.

Printmaking has a history of being a dynamic and innovative media that is constantly embracing new technologies. The exhibition includes printmakers working in traditional print mediums such as etching, woodcut and lino block. It also showcases some of the innovative print techniques currently being used by printmakers. This includes sculptural forms, installations, collage, monotypes and digital technologies. Australian printmaking is flourishing as can be seen by the quality and diversity of the prints in this exhibition, which brings together a small sample of what is currently being produced.

A Blue Mountains Cultural Centre exhibition curated by Rilka Oakley association with the Print Council of Australia's 50th Anniversary celebrations

The artists

The show features 22 artists representing all Australian states and territories including seven Blue Mountains based artists. Featured below are three of the participating artists.

Julie Paterson

Julie is an award winning textile designer, artist and published writer. She is the founder, owner and designer of ClothFabric a textile company she began in Sydney in 1995.

“I am a textile designer - I commercially hand screen print fabric, using the Australian landscape as my source. I begin with observation, always seeking to reduce what I see to simple forms in preparation to develop textile designs that are able to be printed using a low tech flat bed screen printing technique. Using offcuts of the commercially produced fabric as my canvas, for the exhibition I have reinterpreted the landscape a second time, overprinting the fabric designs using cut paper stencils and reducing shapes I see in the landscape to create simple layered images connected to process and place.”

Chris Tobin

Chris Tobin is a practicing Blue Mountains artist from the Darug people. He incorporates traditional motifs into his designs to tell important stories of the country from a local Aboriginal perspective. Chris' work has been used in a number of public art works around Western Sydney but his favourite medium remains the ochres which he is often using in the painting up of trees.

“Looking at or interpreting country is different for everyone. Country for me is bound up with its Aboriginal significance as a place we have belonging to and responsibility to look after.

For many of us, looking through Aboriginal eyes, the natural world is the way the world was designed to be; but even with the dramatic and destructive changes brought to bare as our country continues to undergo 'development', it remains still our country. Fortunately in the Blue Mountains we live surrounded by National parks which help us maintain a strong connection with the natural world our ancestors engaged with. In my practice for the exhibition I am seeking to share some of those significant teachings from the old culture which we would do well to consider today.”

Janet Parker-Smith

Janet Parker-Smith is a Sydney based artist who works with Printmedia, Sculpture and Altered books. She has been exhibiting nationally and internationally for 20 years. Janet is represented by Van Rensberg Gallery, Hong Kong and supported by Brenda May Gallery, Sydney where she has had several solo exhibitions, and M Contemporary Gallery, Woollahra, Sydney.

“My approach to the work for this exhibition has revolved around my concern for our natural environment and the often indifferent attitudes towards it in pursuit of higher states. The hybrid creatures/curios in their declining landscapes explore a state of loss. The works reference nature, history and culture and the concerns with changes we unconsciously make to our natural environment. There is multiple layering of fragmented and reconstructed images. Using parts of the natural world there is a duality in the relationships that are constructed. Landscapes are forever changing and we often swing with these changes between suffering and joy.”

MEDIA RELEASE



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Hours: 10am - 5pm Monday - Friday, 10am - 4pm Saturday - Sunday
10am - 2pm Public Holidays (closed Good Friday, Christmas Day)
Admission: \$5 adults / \$3 concession. Members & under 16 free