

MEDIA RELEASE

Tuesday, 13 January 2015

You are invited

The Blue Mountains Cultural Centre is please to invite you to a special joint exhibition opening of two new exhibitions on **Friday, 20 February 6pm.**

Native Grid II: James Blackwell

**A Blue Mountains Cultural Centre
Expose Exhibition**

Exhibition Dates
31 January 2015 –
22 March 2015



JAMES BLACKWELL *Pod Cluster*, mixed media, photography by Graeme Wienand

Native Grid II is a humble salute to the intriguing and surprising forms found in nature. By utilising natural materials Blackwell infuses the work with the essence of harmony, repetition, symmetry and the shapes, colours and form which may be found in the infinitesimal level.

The Green Desert by Peter Elfes

A Touring Exhibition by Peter Elfes

Exhibition Dates
21 February 2015 –
29 March 2015

A journey through time into the ancient world of Australia's desert interior with its infinite horizons and the ever changing landscape by an Australian award-winning photographer.



PETER ELFES *A topographical view of Siltcrete Island in Kati Thanda-Lake Eyre 2012*, metallic print on aluminium 150 x 80 cm.

Please continue reading for further information about the exhibition and artist statements. See attached for high resolution copies of the images.

MEDIA RELEASE



Native Grid II: James Blackwell

A Blue Mountains Cultural Centre Exposé Program Exhibition

Exhibition Dates 31 January 2015 – 22 March 2015

"Nature is an endless combination and repetition of a very few laws. She hums the old well-known air through innumerable variations."

RALPH WALDO EMERSON

ARTIST STATEMENT

The onslaught, pace and ubiquity of change in modern life has said to have altered the way our brains are being wired. Our ability and need to adapt to this continuous flux leaves us reaching out for something concrete, something familiar, and something certain. My art practice is an attempt to re-establish a connection with nature and offer pause and reflection in an intimate space as an antidote to the barrage of stimulation, which has taken host in our ever evolving technological world.

My anchor is the landscape in which I live, the Blue Mountains of NSW. Here, the seasons are distinct, reliable and inevitable. This landscape adapts to the backdrop of seasons and offers inspiration in its repetition and symmetry, a value embodied in the artwork I create.

Using natural materials found from the landscape, I 'play' with symmetry and form using paper as a support to create 3 dimensional assemblages, which require an intimate viewing. I am aware of repetition and symmetry in my life on many levels; from the continuance of daily life and the activities which we need to carry out repetitively, such as bathing and brushing ones teeth, to the reiteration of form found at the intrinsic and infinitesimal level of nature. The elements, which make up the matrix of my work, represent our interconnectedness with our environment.

My artwork is not representational in any sense, but still it represents to me, the landscape in its undulating form, colour, symmetry and rhythm. There is a relationship between the collecting, sorting, cutting and arranging of found materials on the surface of the artwork and the internal processes, which seek to find some kind of equilibrium and internal tangible aesthetic.

Paper is a reconstitution of fibres found in nature, and a wonderfully diverse medium to use. The textural quality of paper complements the materials woven and constructed on the surface of the work. Sometimes, I may remain with a theme and variations of a particular way of folding paper to reveal a structural representation of simplicity, elegance, and quietude. Symmetry is the vehicle by which I strive to attain this.

James Blackwell

The Green Desert by Peter Elfes

A Touring Exhibition by Peter Elfes

Exhibition Dates 21 February 2015 – 29 March 2015

This exhibition presents the Australian Outback in spectacular colour, featuring aerial images with intricate detail that capture the beauty and remoteness of this environmentally and culturally significant part of Australia.

MEDIA RELEASE



Inspired by the fragile beauty of *Kati Thanda* - Lake Eyre, a normally dry eco-system, in flood, acclaimed award-winning Australian landscape photographer, Peter Elfes is pleased to be presenting *The Green Desert* exhibition at The Blue Mountains Cultural Centre from 21 February – 29 March 2015.

For the past five years Elfes has documented *Kati Thanda* - Lake Eyre, its receding waters that change the local landscape on a daily basis and the Central and Eastern desert regions of South Australia and New South Wales. These works which form *The Green Desert* exhibition also form the basis for his book *The Green Desert: The many spectacular faces of Lake Eyre*. Published by Harper Collins in November 2013 this book is described as 'A journey through time into the ancient world of Australia's desert interior with its infinite horizons and the ever changing landscape.'

The sudden and dramatic change to this desert landscape are presented with exquisitely prepared large format prints. As a result the exhibition is both a beautiful visual record and also serves as an educational tool of an event that is viewed with equal importance by Indigenous and non-Indigenous people of Australia. The flooding of the Australia's largest lake still remains a fascination that is felt in our nations psyche.

In 2011 Peter was recognised by NSW Parliament and was awarded the top honour in the Plein Air Prize for landscape photography for his picture of Sturts Meadow in Northwest New South Wales also titled *The Green Desert*. His work also features in the collection of the National Gallery Australia and other major institutions including The Power House Museum.

ARTIST STATEMENT

This exhibition chronicles my five year odyssey to a place the Arabana people call 'The heart of the desert'. The things I have seen and been privileged to photograph, has completely altered my perception of our arid interior. With or without water, this is an incredible part of Australia and the world, and is a place worth preserving for future generations.

Peter Elfes

MEDIA CONTACT

Media Contact: Rose Stibbard
Phone: (02) 4780 5523.
Email: rstibbard@bmcc.nsw.gov.au

BLUE MOUNTAINS CULTURAL CENTRE

Address: 30 Parke Street, Katoomba NSW 2780
Telephone: 02 4780 5410
Website: www.bluemountainculturalcentre.com.au
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