

Murmurs of the Heart

Alex Byrne

Exhibition at Gaffa Gallery, Clarence Street, Sydney
February 2016

The heart is the popular source and symbol of love but also a portent of mortality. It can be stopped, started, dissected reconstructed. Its pulse tells us we are alive, racing when we are excited, faltering when we are weak. Symbolically it unites us with others as friends and lovers. Its warmth spreads through our bodies, its shape and beat move us.

A popular image in art and kitsch and chocolate, the heart was considered the seat of all emotions. Early medical ideas saw it as the source of the body's heat and we now know it to be the organ that circulates our blood and sustains life. The many expressions that include *heart* show how central it is to our lives and culture: *heart's desire, break my heart, sob my heart out, dear heart, do your heart good, eat your heart out, have a heart, heart attack, heart chakra, heartbeat, heart murmur* and so on.

This exhibition explores the many layers of meaning of *heart* through a selection of editions of etchings, aquatint, linocut and woodblock prints. Some of the print series have been bound into editions of small books and others made into zines and cards.

Alex Byrne

A long practicing printmaker across the media, I am now focussing on intaglio and relief techniques. I have exhibited in group shows in Townsville and Sydney and have works in private collections in Australia and overseas.

I love the tactility, process and accidents of printmaking. In applying varied techniques to the traditional arts of printmaking, surprising results can emerge.

The authenticity of my work emerges from my deep love of Australia and its landscapes and peoples. I have lived and travelled over all of Australia and internationally, fuelling my preoccupations with language, history, the land, indigeneity and diversity.

Recent work has included a series of seven prints exploring the story of the Dunera Boys, Jewish refugees brought to Australia during WWII. That and my other work explores history and relationships taking innovative approaches to the use of materials. Extending beyond the history, the Dunera series relates to the development of multicultural Australia and the current treatment of refugees which has echoes of those long ago events. We continue to retrace our history but fail to learn from it.

The Works

1

Heart words, 2015

Etching on Hahnemuhle paper

Edition of 5 + 1 AP

(1 framed edition available)

20 x 29 cm

\$90 (unframed \$55)

5

Heart Rush, 2015

Etching on Hahnemuhle paper

Edition of 3 + 2 AP

(1 framed edition available)

29 x 20 cm

\$90 (unframed \$55)

2

Braveheart, 2015

Etching on Hahnemuhle paper

Edition of 3 + 2 AP

(1 framed edition available)

20 x 29 cm

\$90 (unframed \$55)

6

Heart thrilling, 2015

Etching on Hahnemuhle paper

Edition of 5 + 1 AP

(5 editions available)

39 x 57 cm

\$190 ((unframed \$160)

3

My heart bursts, 2015

Etching on Hahnemuhle paper

Edition of 3 + 2 AP

(2 editions available)

20 x 29 cm

\$90 (unframed \$55)

7

Heart fretting, 2015

Woodcut on Hahnemuhle paper

Edition of 3 AP

(2 editions available)

40 x 57 cm

\$200 (unframed \$160)

4

Dear heart, 2015

Etching On on Hahnemuhle paper

Edition of 3 + 2 AP

(1 framed edition available)

20 x 29 cm

\$90 (unframed \$55)

8

Heart ease, 2015

Woodcut on Hahnemuhle paper

Edition of 10 + 2 AP

(10 editions available)

15 x 20 cm

\$90 (unframed \$55)

9

Murmurs of the heart, 2015
Etching on Hahnemuhle paper
Edition of 8
(1 framed edition available)
91 x 16 cm
\$250 (unframed \$173)

15

Sweet heart, 2015
Etching on Hahnemuhle paper
Edition of 5 + 1 AP
(5 editions available)
31 x 41 cm
\$125 (unframed \$94)

10

Je suis Charlie, 2015
Etching on Hahnemuhle paper
Edition of 20 + 3 AP
(15 editions available)
29 x 20 cm
\$120 (unframed \$55)

16

Heart tug, 2015
Embossed paper
Edition of 3 AP
(2 editions available)
40 x 58 cm
\$160 (unframed \$120)

11

Murmurs of the heart 2, 2015
Etching on Hahnemuhle paper
Edition of 2 + 1 AP
(1 framed edition available)
81 x 61 cm
\$350 (unframed \$314)

17

Heartzine, 2015
Aquatint on Hahnemuhle paper
Edition of 3 + 1 AP
(2 editions available)
41 x 61 cm
\$180 (unframed \$160)

12

Heart tickle, 2015
Etching on Hahnemuhle paper
Edition of 2 AP
(1 edition available)
29 x 40 cm
\$125 (unframed \$94)

18

The heart still beats, 2015
Linocut on Hahnemuhle paper
Edition of 5 + 1 AP
(4 editions available)
57 x 39 cm
\$200 (unframed \$160)

13

Heart fashioned, 2015
Woodblock on Hahnemuhle paper
Edition of 3 + 1 AP
(2 editions available)
29 x 40 cm
\$125 (unframed \$94)

19

Heart chakra, 2015
Linocut on paper
Edition of 3 AP
(2 editions available)
40 x 58 cm
\$160 (unframed \$120)

14

Heart match, 2015
Etching on Hahnemuhle paper
Edition of 8 + 3 AP
(6 editions available)
31 x 41 cm
\$125 (unframed \$94)

20

Do my heart good, 2015
Etching on Hahnemuhle paper
Edition of 3 + 4 AP
(2 editions available)
40 x 61 cm
\$200 (unframed \$160)

21

Put my heart in it, 2015
Woodcut on Hahnemuhle paper
Edition of 2 AP
(1 edition available)
20 x 29 cm
\$90 (unframed \$55)

22

Concertinazine, 2015
Etched zine on Hahnemuhle paper
Edition of 8, folded
(6 editions available)
91 x 16 cm
\$30

23

Blue heart, 2015
Aquatint zine
Edition of 12
(8 editions available)
7 x 15 cm
\$15

24

Heart bound, 2015
Artist Book of etchings on Hahnemuhle paper
Edition of 10
(7 editions available)
22 x 32 cm
\$55

25

Heart in a sleeve, 2015
Wrapped etching on Hahnemuhle paper
Edition of 10
(8 editions available)
8 x 20 cm
\$12