

26 Views of Uluru

by Alex Byrne

These works were created on Gadigal land. I acknowledge the Gadigal people and pay my respect to the Elders, past, present and future. Always was, always will be Aboriginal land!

Uluru epitomises the spirit of Australia's ancient land and people in this series of 26 etchings and aquatints by Alex Byrne. Accompanied by several distressed books, they present both an artistic critique of Australia's colonial and post colonial history and attempt a corrective to the oblivion of Indigenous Australia in our literary classics, a whitewashing that continues to shape our public discourse.

Referencing Katsushika Hokusai's famous series of woodblock prints, *Thirty-six Views of Mount Fuji*, the etchings and aquatints present a white Australian's graphic interrogation of the shameful national history of white-black relations. From the inscription of new names onto the land to 'dispersal' of peoples, removing children, forbidding language and 'intervention' into contemporary communities, White Australia has attempted to destroy, diminish and demean Black Australia. Few whites have recognised – and recognise – the courage and resilience of the response to that wilful ignorance and brutality.

The exhibition challenges attitudes that continue to be widely held on the eve of the 250th anniversary in 2020 of the charting and claiming of Australia's east coast by James Cook. Despite his achievements as a great navigator and mapmaker, Cook opened the Pacific to colonial exploitation and oppression and he has come to be viewed as a symbol of the invasion of traditional lands and cultures that followed.

In Australia, that invasion was followed by 'the great Australian silence' about Indigenous people and their cruel dispossession. Our writers participated in that silencing when they ignored, minimised or disparaged first nation experience and culture. This exhibition challenges that silence via the prints and by showing a random sample of literary classics that have been 'distressed' by including pop-ups and words from the most relevant Indigenous language to 'correct' each book's omissions. Notes on the books and the sources of the languages are on my website.

I am most grateful to Indigenous individuals and organisations who responded to my requests for advice on the content of this exhibition. I have followed that advice.

Exhibitions

2016 Murmurs of the Heart at Gaffa Gallery, Sydney
2018 Dunera at Hay Shire Library, Hay

Prints and artists books in private collections and the State Libraries of Queensland and NSW.

Practice

Recent work has focussed on exploring an artistic perspective on Australia's history and our treatment of Indigenous peoples. Currently working on a series of prints dealing with our rivers, their history and the environmental crisis caused by long term mismanagement.

ETCHING & AQUATINT

Nothing to see here, 2019

Etching & Aquatint, 25 cm x 35 cm
Edition of 10 + 1 AP
\$130 (unframed \$100)

The Wave, 2019

Etching & Aquatint, 25 cm x 35 cm
Edition of 10 + 1 AP
\$130 (unframed \$100)

Endeavour, 2019

Etching & Aquatint, 25 cm x 35 cm
Edition of 10 + 1 AP
\$130 (unframed \$100)

Renaming, 2019

Etching & Aquatint, 25 cm x 35 cm
Edition of 10 + 1 AP
\$130 (unframed \$100)

With the Consent of the Natives, 2019

Etching & Aquatint, 25 cm x 35 cm
Edition of 10 + 1 AP
\$130 (unframed \$100)

Dispersal, 2019

Etching & Aquatint, 25 cm x 35 cm
Edition of 10 + 1 AP
\$130 (unframed \$100)

<Untitled>, 2019

Etching & Aquatint, 25 cm x 35 cm
Edition of 10 + 1 AP
\$130 (unframed \$100)

Majesty, 2019

Etching & Aquatint, 25 cm x 35 cm
Edition of 10 + 1 AP
\$130 (unframed \$100)

Pemulwuy, 2019

Etching & Aquatint, 25 cm x 35 cm
Edition of 10 + 1 AP
\$130 (unframed \$100)

Heart of the Desert, 2019

Etching & Aquatint, 25 cm x 35 cm
Edition of 10 + 1 AP
\$130 (unframed \$100)

Discovery, 2019

Etching & Aquatint, 25 cm x 35 cm
Edition of 10 + 1 AP
\$130 (unframed \$100)

Our Heart, 2019

Etching & Aquatint, 25 cm x 35 cm
Edition of 10 + 1 AP
\$130 (unframed \$100)

Stolen, 2019

Etching & Aquatint, 25 cm x 35 cm
Edition of 10 + 1 AP
\$130 (unframed \$100)

Native Police, 2019

Etching & Aquatint, 25 cm x 35 cm
Edition of 10 + 1 AP
\$130 (unframed \$100)

***'An Outcast in her own Country'*, 2019**

Etching & Aquatint, 25 cm x 35 cm
Edition of 10 + 1 AP
\$130 (unframed \$100)

Emu in the Sky, 2019

Etching & Aquatint, 25 cm x 35 cm
Edition of 10 + 1 AP
\$130 (unframed \$100)

Belief, 2019

Etching & Aquatint, 25 cm x 35 cm
Edition of 10 + 1 AP
\$130 (unframed \$100)

Pearling, 2019

Etching & Aquatint, 25 cm x 35 cm
Edition of 10 + 1 AP
\$130 (unframed \$100)

Remembering William Cooper, 2019

Etching & Aquatint, 25 cm x 35 cm
Edition of 10 + 1 AP
\$130 (unframed \$100)

Maralinga, 2019

Etching & Aquatint, 25 cm x 35 cm
Edition of 10 + 1 AP
\$130 (unframed \$100)

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Mon-Fri: 10-6pm, Sat: 11-5pm, Sun and Public Holidays: Closed

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YOUNG HENRYS

Returning, 2019

Etching & Aquatint, 25 cm x 35 cm
Edition of 10 + 1 AP
\$130 (unframed \$100)

Safe Harbour, 2019

Etching & Aquatint, 25 cm x 35 cm
Edition of 10 + 1 AP
\$130 (unframed \$100)

Cultural Tourism, 2019

Etching & Aquatint, 25 cm x 35 cm
Edition of 10 + 1 AP
\$130 (unframed \$100)

End of the Chain, 2019

Etching & Aquatint, 25 cm x 35 cm
Edition of 10 + 1 AP
\$130 (unframed \$100)

Welcome to the Block, 2019

Etching & Aquatint, 25 cm x 35 cm
Edition of 10 + 1 AP
\$130 (unframed \$100)

Clearing, 2019

Etching & Aquatint, 25 cm x 35 cm
Edition of 10 + 1 AP
\$130 (unframed \$100)

A set of the 26 prints is available for \$2,000 (unframed) or \$2,600 (bound in book).

MASK

Death mask, 2019

Ink jet printed papier mâché, 22cm x 15 cm
Edition of 1, \$150

DISTRESSED BOOKS

Australia Felix by Henry Handel Richardson 1917, distressed 2019
Distressed book, 20 cm x 13 cm, \$150

The boundary riders by Joan Phipson (1962)
Distressed book, 20 cm x 13 cm, \$150

A house is built by M. Barnard Eldershaw (Marjorie Barnard & Flora Eldershaw) 1929, distressed 2019
Distressed book, 19 cm x 12 cm, \$150

Man-shy by Frank Dalby Davison 1931, distressed 2019
Distressed book, 19 cm x 13 cm, \$150

No barrier by Eleanor Dark 1953, distressed 2019
Distressed book, 22 cm x 14 cm, \$150

On our selection by Steele Rudd (Arthur Hoey Davis) 1899, distressed 2019
Distressed book, 22 cm x 14 cm, \$150

Rigby's romance: a "Made in Australia" novel by Tom Collins (Joseph Furphy) 1921, distressed 2019
Distressed book, 22 cm x 14 cm, \$150

Robbery under arms; a story of life and adventure in the bush and in the Australian goldfields by Rolf Boldrewood (Thomas Alexander Browne) 1888, distressed 2019
Distressed book, 15 cm x 10 cm, \$150

Under capricorn by Helen Simpson 1937, distressed 2019
Distressed book, 20 cm x 13 cm, \$150

Winged seeds by Katharine Susannah Prichard 1950, distressed 2019
Distressed book, 20 cm x 13 cm, \$150