Alex Byrne, *Barka 2 - Sturt Desert Pea*, 2020

Aquatint; Barka/Darling series on Hahnemuhle 300 gsm 1 AP + 5; 160 x 220

> Sturt's Desert Pea, *Swainsona formosa*, is a perennial plant with silky grey-green foliage arising from prostrate stems. The flowers are usually blood red or scarlet with a glossy black swelling or 'boss' at the base of the uppermost petal. The species is confined to Australia and the first European collection was made in 1699 by William Dampier:
> > *a creeping vine that runs along the ground ... and the blossom like a bean blossom, but much larger and of a deep red colour looking very beautiful.*
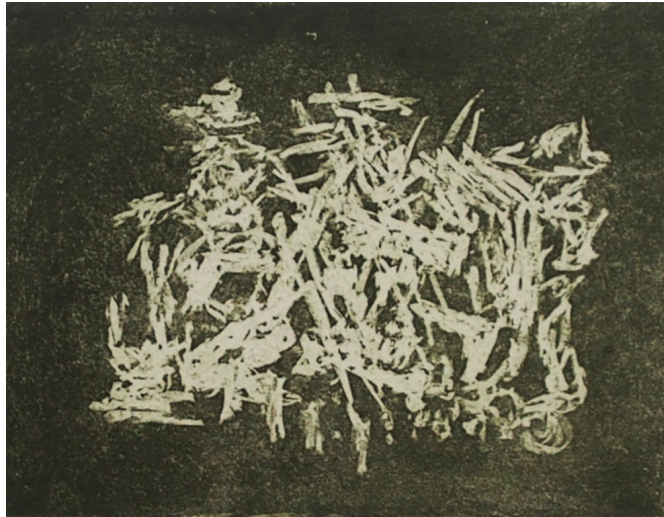
Alex Byrne, *Barka 3 - Darling Loop*, 2020

Aquatint; Barka/Darling series on Hahnemuhle 300 gsm 1 AP + 5;
350 x 250

> Seen from above, the Barka's course twists and turns,
> loops back on itself and spreads into clay pans. Old
> courses create lagoons that fill after good rains and may
> be covered with lilies.

Alex Byrne, *Barka 4 – Massacre*, 2020

Aquatint; Barka/Darling series on Hahnemuhle 300 gsm 1 AP + 5;
260 x 220

> Confrontations between colonists and Aboriginal land
> owners often led to violence and frequent massacres. As
> early as 1836, in an area he named Mount Dispersion,
> Major Mitchell armed his men (against New South Wales
> Government orders) and ordered an unprovoked ambush
> of warriors. He wrote to Governor Bourke:
>
> *... Numbers were shot swimming across the Murray, and
> some ever after they had reached the opposite shore...
> and we pursued our journey unmolested.*

Alex Byrne, *Barka 5 - Big Sky*, 2020

Aquatint; Barka/Darling series on Hahnemuhle 300 gsm 1 AP + 5; 395 x 310

> The plains of western New South Wales are characterised by their enormous expanse of sky uninterrupted by mountains or structures. At night distant stars and constellations are visible with only the occasional passing satellite or plane. By day, the deep blue extends over everything except when the clouds mass for a storm or everything is blanketed in the red of a dust storm.

Alex Byrne, *Barka 6 – Ibis*, 2020

Aquatint; Barka/Darling series on Hahnemuhle 300 gsm 1 AP + 5;
220 x 220

> Reviled as dirty 'dustbin chickens' in the cities, the ibis of
> inland Australia are striking birds. With their curved beaks
> and white plummage, the Australian white ibis,
> *Threskiornis molucca*, is widespread across much of
> Australia. They inhabit wetlands and are found wading
> along the muddy shores of the Barka.

Alex Byrne, *Barka 7a – Shingleback*, 2020

Aquatint; Barka/Darling series on Hahnemuhle 300 gsm 1 AP + 5;
260 x 210

Tiliqua rugosa, the shingleback or sleepy lizard, is a member of the blue-tongue lizard genus (Tiliqua). The tongue is dark blue and the lining of the mouth is bright pink. They crushing snails and beetles with their strong jaw muscles. Shinglebacks live alone for most of the year, but between September and November reunite as monogmous pairs and may be seen crossing roads in pairs, the male following the female.

Alex Byrne, *Barka 7b – Bluetongue*, 2020

Aquatint; Barka/Darling series on Hahnemuhle 300 gsm 1 AP + 5;
260 x 210

When threatened, blue-tongues, *Tiliqua scincoides*, turn
towards the threat, open their mouth wide and stick out
their broad blue tongue that contrasts vividly with the
pink mouth. If the threat does not go away, blue-tongues
may hiss and flatten out the body, making themselves look
bigger. Blue-tongues live alone for most of the year but
between September and November males pursue females
for mating. Mating may be rough, with females carrying
scrape marks from the male's teeth.

Alex Byrne, *Barka 8 - Macquarie Perch*, 2020

Aquatint; Barka/Darling series on Hahnemuhle 300 gsm 1 AP + 5;
220 x 280

> The Macquarie perch, *Macquaria australasica*, is a native
> fish of the Murray-Darling river system which originally
> came from the coastal Shoalhaven River and colonised the
> Murray-Darling Basin some 657,000 years ago. Murray-
> Darling Macquarie perch are now listed as endangered
> due to competition from introduced trout species.