



AUSTRALIAN GALLERIES

DERBY STREET

GEOFFREY RICARDO

Ad Absurdum

MEDIA RELEASE

Exhibition Dates: 5-24 August 2014
35 Derby Street Collingwood VIC 3066
Open 7 days 10am to 6pm

Through acute observations of the world around him and with considered introspection, Geoffrey Ricardo creates detailed intaglio prints which comment on the human condition as he sees it. Depicting dystopian communities populated by darkly surreal characters, he employs wry humour and astute satire to engage the viewer in a dialogue of broad social, political and environmental issues affecting man today.

With Ricardo's idiosyncratic style *Ad absurdum* pushes the follies of human behaviour to the point of absurdity. Shadowy landscapes set the stage for inferred narratives. Like the dark works of Francisco Goya or Hieronymus Bosch's descent into hell, Ricardo's figures are trapped in barren landscapes of their own making, consumed by greed in troubling visions of Dionysian madness.

Ricardo is a master of tonality, utilising a scraped 'black' maniere noire technique to create expressive images, executed with precision and subtlety. The artist works from dark to light, beginning by roughening a copper plate to create a rich dark background then picking out the image with a burnishing tool. The dramatic contrast and moody lighting achieved with this process serves as the perfect backdrop for Ricardo's dramatic portrayal of humanity.

Ad Absurdum is current until 24 August 2014.

For more details or images contact:
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