



RAYMOND ARNOLD

Etchings and Paintings

AUSTRALIAN GALLERIES
MELBOURNE

MEDIA RELEASE

Exhibition Dates: 1 - 20 May 2018
35 Derby Street Collingwood VIC 3066
Open 7 days 10am to 6pm

Raymond Arnold's intaglio prints and paintings are explorations of the dynamic natural environment and the ways in which we interact with it. The effects wrought on our landscape by the forces of nature and man echo poignantly through his powerful imagery. This exhibition showcases Arnold's deft technical skill across a range of media and result from his participation in various prominent environmental and artistic projects.

In late 2016, early 2017 The Tasmanian Land Conservancy together with Bett Gallery facilitated the *Poets and Painters* project, which brought together eighteen painters and poets to collaborate across varied creative disciplines. Raymond Arnold and poet Sarah Day were among the artists who immersed themselves in the potent landscape of The Big Punchbowl Reserve on Tasmania's Freycinet Peninsula to draw inspiration for their collaborative work.

'The dark power in that damaged country came through even stronger. Trees bent double by the heat shimmered in the haze and breeze. I wanted to make a real time response to the site, leave with something tangible and not just a feeling that some terrible things might have happened in that place. I chose a reasonably claustrophobic thicket of bush where branches, blackened dead timber, ground detritus, tree trunks and spiky foliage pressed into my view field. I found myself in another type of 'blind' or vantage point. It was all about some prospect but also refuge.' Raymond Arnold, 2018

This exhibition also presents a series of works made in collaboration between Raymond Arnold and printmaker Ian Westacott, which began as part of the Lake Mungo Project in outback Victoria and were completed by the artists together in early 2018 at Ian's home in Scotland. These prints will be displayed as part of a major exhibition for the 2018 Australian Print Triennial.

Raymond Arnold has lived in Queenstown, Tasmania for more than a decade and has come to know and identify with its wild and distinctive landscape. This exhibition showcases an engaging and evocative series of works created in his Queenstown studio, which poignantly capture this unique place and lead the viewer to reflect upon the power and fragility of the natural world, the passage of time and transience of life.

Etchings and Paintings is current until 20 May 2018.

For more details or images contact:
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