

Raymond Arnold/Ian Westacott - Double Vision project



The modern world comes to us faster than we can analyse it. In fact, A N Whitehead expresses it clearly when he said 'We experience far more than we can understand'.

Ian Westacott and Raymond Arnold have been working on an etching project for thirty years in different parts of the world. They have been trying to fix, through the etching process, a series of precise moments in 'that tumultuous world'. It is at once an analytical process of observation and structured line – 'looking and putting' as it were – but there is also much more, however, in the serendipitous nature of the project where chance and coincidence come into play. The copper etching process, that 'niche craft', is an ideal medium to bridge these different qualities. Within its autographic and signatory nature it allows for complex rendering, calligraphic gesture, a woven/textural display and confirms the capacity of the print to 'shadow the world.' This iteration of Double Vision etchings by Ian and Raymond comes out of several artist camps adjacent to the Richardson River in Victoria's Wimmera region. Ian and Ray would sit side by side for hours, in front of spectacular river red gums, drawing on to grounded etching plates. Following the experience of working 'en plein

air' the plates were etched and printed together in Raymond's Tasmanian studio in small editions.