

CARLTON COX

'Close to Home, and Far Away' print exhibition



EXHIBITION:

1 March 2020 – 27 March 2020

A collection of 40 linocuts produced over the past two years, consisting of a several distinct themes.

Close to home are architectural images from northern Tasmania. Sometimes these scenes are recognisable to the viewer, but more frequently they are a less familiar view or an observation of some architectural elements. Growing up amidst the colonial architecture of the northern midlands, Carlton has developed a keen eye for our built heritage.

Far away is a series of Italian scenes that document a month spent in the Italian summer. Carlton's mission during this recent holiday was to translate the images of earthy Umbrian tones into a personal pictorial journal.

Another major theme is a collection of botanically inspired linocuts. Many of the images are of plants that seemed to be popular during the 1960s and 1970s and have a hint of retro about them. Carlton's professional training is horticulture and plant science, so his interest in botanicals is never far away. A number of these pieces are created using a complicated single block technique where the surface is gradually carved away for each layer of colour to be printed. 'It's a risky strategy as one simple error makes the entire edition redundant, says Carlton.'

The remaining linocuts are comprised of various themes, but include a favorite subject, the Tasmanian Native Hen.

The whole process of assembling an exhibition is a long and slow process. Once a design is prepared the printing process begins where each colour is applied separately, allowing several days between each inking to allow for drying time. A limited edition of images, generally ten or twenty, are hand printed using tradition techniques, and once complete there are no more images produced from the carved blocks.