



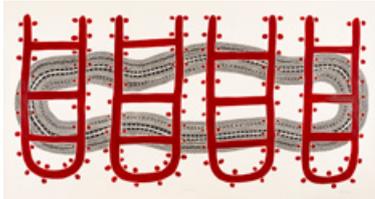
Media Release

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Winners announced— 2019 Geelong acquisitive print awards

Geelong Gallery
Open daily 10am to 5pm

Free entry
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Teho Ropeyarn
printed by Theo Tremblay, Editions Tremblay
Lukuyn Apudthama 2017
vinylcut; edition 1/5 (state II)
Geelong acquisitive print award (winner), 2019
Reproduced courtesy of the artist
Photographer: Michael Marzik

Geelong Gallery Director & CEO, **Jason Smith** has announced **Teho Ropeyarn** as the 2019 recipient of the *Geelong acquisitive print award*, **Brian Robinson** as the recipient of the *Ursula Hoff Institute award* (acquisitive), and **Marian Crawford** as the winner of a 5-day printmaking residency at Queenscliff Gallery & Workshop.

Teho Ropeyarn's winning relief print *Lukuyn Apudthama* (2017) refers to the blood connection maintained through the Injinoo Ikyā Aboriginal Language. The work emphasises the ancestral connection of the four Injinoo clans who have lived on traditional lands for thousands of years. Injinoo is home to the traditional owners of Northern Cape York. The vast land mass is divided into four clans groups: the Ankgamuthi, the Yadhaykana, the Atambaya and the Gudang. These four clans willingly came together in the 1900s at Injinoo to live together in harmony. It is believed to be the only recorded reconciliation movement in early Australian history.

According to the artist: 'The four clans are represented through the four large red male ceremonial 'U' shaped markings: these same marks were painted onto me when I participated in traditional Injinoo dances. The spirit stream depicted contains the totems from each clan including the freshwater turtle of the Ankgamuthi nation, the crocodile of the Yadhaykana nation, the dingo of the Atambaya nation, and the land goanna of the Gudang nation.'

Of the winning work, the judging panel said: 'We found the quality of Teho's print outstanding—it was a work that we kept coming back to for its visual power and strength of storytelling. It elicited a strong physical and visceral response due to its complex visual language and its themes of connection and reconciliation which are more important than ever.'

Brian Robinson's *Ursula Hoff Institute award* winning work, *Bedhan Lag: Land of the Kaiwalagal* (2019) makes reference to a small island in the north of the country, Bedhan Lag (also known as Possession Island), which was the site at which British navigator Lieutenant James Cook hoisted English colours in 1770 and in the Name of His Majesty King George III took possession of the Eastern Coast under the name of New South Wales.

According to the artist, 'The Kaurareg people of the *Kaiwalagal* nation have maintained links with *Bedhan Lag* through traditional lore and customs since *Bipotaim*, the time before. They have continued to live on or close to their traditional country, despite forced removal to Moa Island in 1922, and make use of the land and sea resources, according to their traditional customs and knowledge'.

The judging panel said: 'In this impressively-scaled print, Brian successfully brings together past and present, fact and fiction—incorporating traditional motifs of the Kaurareg people, cartography and contemporary GPS coordinates, references to Cook's navigational exploits and imagery from popular culture in the form of aliens from 1970s arcade game *Space Invaders* and the starship from *Star Wars*—to critique the history of colonialism and dispel the myth of *terra nullius*.'



Brian Robinson
printed by Theo Tremblay, Editions Tremblay
Bedhan Lag: Land of the Kaiwalagal 2019
linocut printed in black from one block;
edition 5/10
Ursula Hoff Institute award, 2019
Reproduced courtesy of the artist and
Mossenson Galleries, Perth



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Drop-in tours
Saturday and Sunday



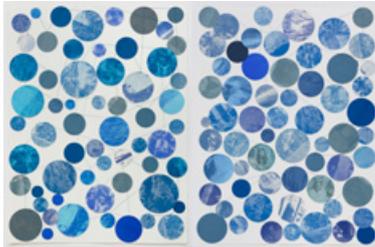
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Marian Crawford
Diffraction 2018
intaglio and relief prints on cut paper, thread;
unique print
Courtesy of the artist

The **Queenscliff Gallery & Workshop** residency was awarded to **Marian Crawford** for *Diffraction* (2018), a diptych comprising intaglio and relief prints on cut paper. Using historical images from the State Library Queensland's collection that link to Marian's early experiences on the Central Pacific Ocean island Banaba (once known as Ocean Island).

This non-acquisitive prize provides the artist with the opportunity to complete a five-day print residency at the Queenscliff Gallery & Workshop.

The selection panel for the *2019 Geelong acquisitive print awards* included **Danny Lacy** (Senior Curator, Mornington Peninsula Regional Gallery), **Trent Walter** (Director, Negative Press), and **Lisa Sullivan** (Senior Curator, Geelong Gallery). The judging panel commented on the 'extraordinarily high quality of works in this year's prize, with many in strong contention for the three prizes on offer. The works by Teho and Brian acquired for acquisition will make exceptional additions to the Gallery's rich collection of Australian printmaking.'

Geelong Gallery wishes to thank the **Colin Holden Charitable Trust**, the **Ursula Hoff Institute (UHI)**, and **Queenscliff Gallery & Workshop** for generously sponsoring this signature event, which assists with the development of the Gallery's collection while fostering Australian artists and contemporary printmaking practice in general.

Background

The *2019 Geelong acquisitive print awards* continues a long tradition of prize exhibitions staged by Geelong Gallery as well as a longstanding commitment to the acquisition and display of prints.

36 works by 37 leading and emerging Australian artists have been shortlisted for the *2019 Geelong acquisitive print awards* including works by Alison Alder, Rosalind Atkins, GW Bot, Susanna Castleden, Tony Coleing, Christine Courcier-Jones, Marian Crawford, Phil Day, Marieke Dench, Clive Dickson, Dianne Fogwell, Graham Fransella, David Frazer, Silvi Glattauer, Jackie Goring, Gracia Haby and Louise Jennison, Rew Hanks, Kyoko Imazu, Locust Jones, Martin King, Barbie Kjar, Steve Lopes, Tim Maguire, Marion Manifold, Jordan Marani, Laith McGregor, Glenn Morgan, Stieg Persson, Brian Robinson, Teho Ropeyarn, Jonas Ropponen, John Ryrie, Heather Shimmen, Ruth Stanton, Anne Starling, and Joel Wolter.

—Ends—



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