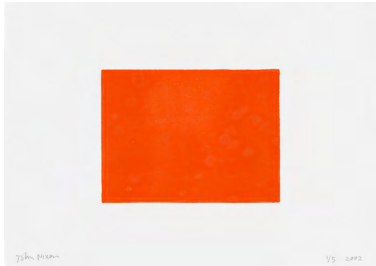




John Nixon—Four Decades, Five Hundred Prints

A Geelong Gallery exhibition
18 November 2023 to 11 March 2024



John Nixon
Untitled 2002
woodblock; edition of 5
Courtesy of the Estate of John Nixon and Negative
Press, Melbourne



John Nixon
Study with coloured paper 2016
woodblock; edition of 5
Courtesy of the Estate of John Nixon and Negative
Press, Melbourne

John Nixon—Four Decades, Five Hundred Prints is the first comprehensive survey of prints by **John Nixon** (1949–2020), one of Australia’s most distinguished artists. Nixon’s extensive body of abstract prints will be presented exclusively at Geelong Gallery from 18 November 2023.

An artist who worked across many different mediums, Nixon is best known for his abstract paintings. Until now, few people have had the opportunity to appreciate the diversity, extent, and individuality of Nixon’s contribution to the field of printmaking. Geelong Gallery is excited about this rare opportunity to present an in-depth exploration of an artist’s entire oeuvre in a single medium.

Drawn from the artist’s estate, this survey reveals Nixon’s inventive use of varied techniques. His prints range from simple woodcuts, potato prints and stencils, to more complex screenprints, stone lithographs and etchings. True to the experimental spirit of his art, Nixon freely expands the category of printmaking, by incorporating collage into his work, or by printing onto everyday objects such as paper bags or newspapers.

Geelong Gallery Director & CEO **Jason Smith** says “Geelong Gallery is delighted to be working towards the presentation of this major survey in collaboration with our external curatorial team comprising Nixon’s wife **Sue Cramer**, his daughter **Emma Nixon**, and print publisher **Trent Walter** who worked closely with Nixon. The opportunity to present the entire printed oeuvre of John Nixon is art-historically important, not only for our understanding of this vital aspect of John’s practice, but in the exhibition history of Geelong Gallery.”

Nixon’s first exhibition was at the Melbourne avant-garde gallery Pinacotheca in 1973 and throughout his influential career he exhibited widely both in Australia and internationally until his death in 2020. In 1996, Nixon was the recipient of Geelong Gallery’s *Geelong Contemporary Art Prize* for his painting *Black + Orange Cross* 1995.

-ENDS-

About the artist:

John Nixon (1949–2020) was a highly respected and influential Australian abstract artist who lived and worked for much of his life in Melbourne, until his death in 2020.

Nixon was an exceptionally innovative, multidisciplinary artist whose prolific output ranged across printmaking, painting, drawing, collage, photography, experimental music and film, publishing and design. He transformed our understanding of abstraction and its connection with daily life through his wonderfully diverse, yet always aesthetically refined use of materials and form.

As the title of this exhibition suggests, Nixon’s printmaking encompassed four decades of his career and ran simultaneously with the painting practice for which he is so well known.

Exhibition partner:

The William Angliss Charitable Fund