

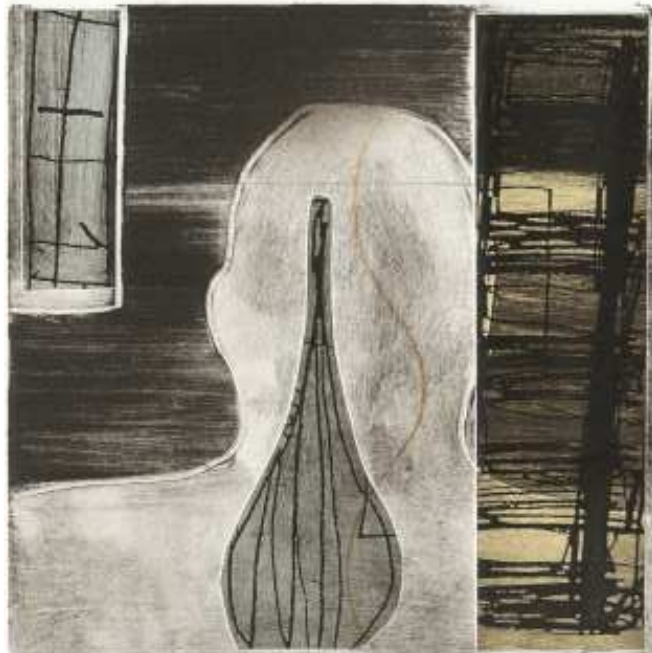


SOPHIE ELSON

37 Albany Road, Walton on Thames, Surrey KT12 5QG
Tel: 01932 224945

MAIN AREAS OF PRACTICE:

Painting, Printmaking, Teaching, Workshops, Artists' Books and Illustration



The Lost Gaucho 1998

10 x 10cm

Monoprint & Chine Colle

Landscapes are the main inspiration and theme of my work. The type of landscapes that inspire me and haunt me are the open plains. Vast, open spaces stretching endlessly to the horizon. Experiences and memories that I have drawn from my work include travelling in Argentina and Australia; witnessing the scale and awe-inspiring beauty of the pampas and the outback. The histories and myths of these landscapes, the stories that lie beneath the soil are commanding and compelling.

In 1997 I wrote a thesis on 'Outlaws of the Open Plains' centred around two major literary characters: the fictional Argentine gaucho, Martin Fierro and the legendary Australian bush-ranger, Ned Kelly. The essay discussed their poetic significance as solitary figures surviving within a hostile landscape and as heroic and mythical figures associated with national identity. These characters and themes have featured in recent work.

In 1998 I spent a month in Australia researching my thesis on 'Contemporary Australian Printmakers and the Landscape of the Interior' and in 1999 I returned to carry out research for Ann Westley whose book *Relief Printmaking* will be published by A & C Black in 1999/2000

TRAINING / AREAS OF STUDY / QUALIFICATIONS

1996-1998 MA Printmaking, Camberwell College of Art, London

1991-1995 BA Hons Graphic Design, Central St.Martin's College of Art, London

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

1999 *Graphic! British prints now*, Yale Centre for British Art

1998/9 *Scratch* - An exhibition of 3 printmakers' work, Modern Gallery, London W1

1998/9 Kew Studio printmakers, Greenhouse Cafe, Kew, Richmond

1998 Contemporary Artists' Book Fair, The Dean Clough Art Galleries, Halifax

1998 *The National Print Exhibition*, The Mall Galleries, London

1998 *Art Bound*, Blackwell's Book Shop, Oxford

1997-1999 The Artists' Book Fair, Barbican Art Gallery, London

1996 Artists' Books, The Bridewell Theatre, Bride Lane, London

1996 *By Its Cover*, Speck Studios, Fulham

1995 *A Dirty Dozen*, The Poetry Society, Covent Garden, London

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I usually work in a series as my work is predominantly narrative, often involving literary ideas, stories and myths.

This image is taken from *Walga Rock*, a limited edition artists' book. *Walga Rock* is an ancient Aboriginal site in Western Australia, on the edge of the Great Simpson Desert, where, among the many marks painted onto the rock, is a representation of an old sailing ship. The origin of this painting and the potent and exhilarating stories surrounding it, were the inspiration for this book.

Much of my work is about the compelling beauty and dramatic history of the open plains and the power that these seemingly barren places have over the imagination.



Page from artists' book *Walga Rock*
1999 10 x 10cm
Lithography, etching and monoprint

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

1999 Organising and teaching book making weekend courses at Kew Studio, Richmond
1999 Part Time Lecturer, BA Graphic Design Course, Central St Martin's,
1994-1995 Art Tutor, 'Art Attack' run by Elmbridge Council (Summer Courses for Children)

AWARDS

1998 RK Burt & Co. Award for Printmaking

PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

Southampton University
Yale Centre for British Art, USA
University College Library, London
The London Institute, The Tate Library, London
Brixton Art Gallery, London

REVIEWS / PUBLICATIONS

1999 (Research) *Relief Printmaking* by Ann Westley (Publisher: A & C Black)
1999 (Review) *Cool Britainia Artists at work* (New York Times)
1999 (Article) *The Private Library* (Publisher: Paul Nash)
1996 Book review in *Artists Newsletter*