

# Lucy McEachern & Vida Pearson

Cut and Formed on the Plains II

28 April – 6 June 2017

Official Opening: Friday 5 May 6.00 – 7.45 pm



Lucy McEachern, *Australian Black Swan* (limited edition of 25), bronze, 87 x 49 x 46 cm

In the summer of 2011, the extended wings and sleek lines of bronze avian forms filled the Yering Station Art Gallery, surrounded on all sides by hand-coloured linocut prints of flowers, wild foliage and yet more feathered forms: several species of owl, a guineafowl, pelicans and cockatoos, finches and puffins, dusky moorhens and macaws, galahs and silver gulls cavorted through the branches of banksias, grevilleas and red flowering gums.

The two Victorian artists responsible for the aviary-like display have returned to the Yarra Valley to share a new range of works that once again venerates the uniqueness of the natural world. The sleek realism of McEachern's cast bronze sculptures is at once startling and appealing, and this initial impression combines

with a rare and delightful feeling of being in such close proximity to creatures that we usually only see fleetingly and from a great distance. The eye studies each creature's form as the hand reaches out to touch.

McEachern draws inspiration from her rural Australian surroundings. Brought up in South Western Victoria on a farming property, she has developed a deep affinity with the enchanting birds that inhabit the local landscape. McEachern's sculptures capture each subject's individual characteristics, while issuing a tactile invitation and allowing viewers to be moved by each bird's majestic presence.

McEachern's work can be found in galleries throughout Australia and in collections worldwide.

Pearson's works, so different in medium, are likewise informed by a love of nature, and for Pearson travel and artistic activity go hand in hand. Using subject matter collected from extensive field trips to destinations as varied as Iceland, the Middle East and Mongolia, Pearson's hand-coloured linocuts are a testament to the riches travel can bring.

Pearson has been a professional artist/printmaker for over thirty years. Early in her career she favoured screen printing and etching, however in the last fifteen years she has concentrated almost exclusively on linocuts. She has a distinctive style with strong designs and bright colours.

Upon joining the Wildlife Art Society of Australasia many years ago, Pearson's images naturally took a turn in that direction. This enabled her to combine a love of bird-watching, photography and travel with her work.

Although she spends two months each year on various field trips in Australia and abroad collecting material for new images, she finds the observation of all types of wildlife exhilarating – even those she encounters daily on her five-acre bush block. She hopes that by creating beautiful images of the natural world she may cause people to reflect on how amazing our planet is.

Pearson's work can be found in galleries throughout Australia. She has won over 150 prizes in art competitions and exhibits regularly in group and solo shows. She was voted 'Wildlife Artist of the Year' by the Wildlife Art Society of Australasia in both 2014 and 2015 and is featured in 'Inspiration Wild: An Artistic Celebration of Nature and Environment' published by the Wildlife Art Museum of Australia Foundation. Her work is featured in the 2017 Australia Geographic Art Calendar.



Vida Pearson, *Breeding Beauty*, Hand Coloured Linocut, 91 x 86 cm

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