

Simple Alchemy

Marie Lund

Marie Lund has a long history of involvement in the arts—as a photographer, painter and mixed media artist, and as an art educator. Her resume only hints at her work in solo and group exhibitions, publications and teaching. She has been a member of many professional and community associations in Canberra and elsewhere, including PhotoAccess, Canberra Photographic Society and the MultiFocus group of photomedia artists.

Marie recently left Canberra for the (presumably) calmer environs of the New South Wales South Coast, but continues to show work in PhotoAccess group exhibitions and, now, in this solo exhibition in the HUW DAVIES GALLERY. Her first PhotoAccess solo exhibition was *Chocolate Box Pictures* in 1997 in our Kingsley Street premises.

An inveterate traveller, Marie has shared images from her annual visits to central Europe with Canberra audiences for many years. *Simple Alchemy* is something of a departure from the beautiful landscapes and streetscapes we are used to seeing in her name. As she says in her Artist Statement

Simple Alchemy is a group of photograms, created without a camera, generated by either sunlight or tungsten light illumination. It is the process of experimentation that interests me, where the joy of creation takes over the desire for perfection.

This is a very productive departure for Marie. It brings together her interest in photographic processes and her wider fascination with creative media. Obviously control of the technical means of creation is happily subsumed to the prospect of a chance effect, the sometimes more interesting than expected outcome that can come from making images direct to paper and, even more chancy, taking them out of the darkroom. The making of photograms seems to fit very cleanly with Marie's instinctive approach to making art in nature.

Simple Alchemy was first shown last year at the Shoalhaven Arts Centre Gallery in Nowra. Unfortunately for us some of the images were sold and, therefore, not available for this exhibition. We have chosen to reproduce a few of those images in the catalogue to give visitors a wider context for the body of work Marie has called *Simple Alchemy*.

PhotoAccess is very pleased to show Marie Lund's *Simple Alchemy* in the HUW DAVIES GALLERY at the Manuka Arts Centre.

David Chalker



Bush 1



Bush 2

Artist statement

I like to draw, paint and photograph nature. There, when I sit to draw or stop to take a photograph, I feel I am becoming one with nature, a part of it. Because I must concentrate, I leave behind me all the earthly frailties like sadness, anger and worries. By tuning in to nature I feel I become myself, my own being, and I draw, paint or take photographs instinctively. My technical skills then become secondary, a support for what I am doing. My images are created by my hands and therefore like writing they reveal partly my character. My tool, be it brush, pencil, camera or photographic paper, becomes my intimate friend: it comes alive in my hand and responds to my feelings.

Simple Alchemy is a group of photograms, created without a camera, generated by either sunlight or tungsten light illumination. It is the process of experimentation that interests me, where the joy of creation takes over the desire for perfection. The tones and the depth of the prints can vary substantially depending on the paper, coating process, additives, use of chemicals, exposure, processing and one's own creative energy and imagination. These nuances of tones stimulate also the viewer to become actively involved to study nature in a new way and to see the relationship between nature and art. The picture awakens one's curiosity about how this original was made. There are no two prints ever exactly the same. Each is unique.

Marie Lund, April 2010



Birds in the Bush 1



Birds in the Bush 2

Education

B.A. and Dip. Ed, Palacky University, Olomouc, Czechoslovakia, 1967; Post-Grad. Study in Special Education, 1969; Doctorate in Art Education (Ped.Dr.), 1989, Charles University, Prague, Czechoslovakia

Selected exhibitions

Solo exhibitions

- 2010 *Simple Alchemy*, HUW DAVIES GALLERY, PhotoAccess, Manuka Arts Centre, Canberra, ACT
- 2009 *Simple Alchemy*, Shoalhaven City Arts Centre Gallery, Nowra, NSW
- 2007 *Door Handles and Keyholes*, The Hive Gallery, Braddon, ACT
- 2006 *Images of Collector Surroundings*, Collector Gallery, Collector, NSW
- 2003 *Nostalgia*, Criterion Gallery, Braidwood, NSW
- 2002 Profile Artist on NAVA Visual Arts Net Site
- 2000 *Erika Semler, Weaver and Healer*, Sturt Gallery Shop, Mittagong
- 1997 *Chocolate Box Pictures*, PhotoAccess, Canberra, ACT; *A Mystical Art Exhibition and A Supernatural Comedy*, TAP Gallery, Sydney
- 1995 *Lithographs from China*, Goethe Institute, Bonn, Germany

Group exhibitions

- 2010 *Holiday Snaps*, HUW DAVIES GALLERY, PhotoAccess, Manuka Arts Centre, Canberra, ACT
- 2009 *HIY (Hang it yourself) 2009*, HUW DAVIES GALLERY; *Eurobodalla Photographic Society Exhibition*, Mechanical Institute Gallery, Moruya, NSW; *Naked Flames*, Hibiscus Gallery, Burrill Lake, NSW
- 2008 *Heavenly Bodies*, Hibiscus Gallery, Burrill Lake, NSW; *Italian Experience*, Mechanical Institute, Moruya, NSW; *Surrounded by Beauty*, Eurobodalla Regional Gardens, Batemans Bay, NSW
- 2007 *Access All Areas 2007*, the PhotoAccess members show, HUW DAVIES GALLERY; *Stone and Water*, Collector Gallery, NSW
- 2006 *Separate Journeys*, Steps Gallery, Melbourne; *Access All Areas 2006*, the PhotoAccess members show, HUW DAVIES GALLERY; *60 years of Canberra Photographic Society (CPS)*, Canberra Museum and Gallery, ACT; *Wildside: What's going on on the hilltops of Canberra?* HUW DAVIES GALLERY
- 2005 *History of Migrants*, University of Canberra and National Archives of Australia; *Separate Realities*, Tuggeranong Arts Centre; John Briscoe Memorial Art Award, Raglan Gallery, Cooma, NSW (paintings); *Fresh*, CPS, Strathnairn Homestead Gallery, ACT; *Alchemy*, HUW DAVIES GALLERY
- 2004 *Refuge?*, Steps Gallery, Melbourne; *Unknown Destinies*, ACT Multicultural Festival, Garema Place, Canberra; *Mother Earth*, Tuggeranong Arts Centre, ACT (mixed media); *Pictures on the Wall*, CPS, Strathnairn Homestead Gallery, ACT; *Alchemy*, Tuggeranong Arts Centre and HUW DAVIES GALLERY
- 2003 *Alchemy*, Criterion Gallery, Braidwood, NSW; *Here and There*, Tuggeranong Arts Centre (mixed media); *The Amazing Picture Machine*, CPS, Tuggeranong Arts Centre; *Refuge?* ANCA Gallery, ACT; *For Those Who've Come Across the Seas*, Garema Place, ACT (installation)
- 2002 *Alchemy 1*, Tuggeranong Arts Centre; *Continuance*, Tuggeranong Arts Centre
- 2001 *Madonna*, Spiral Arm Gallery, Kingston and Canberra School of Art Foyer Gallery, ACT; *Ephemeral Phantasies*, ANCA Gallery, ACT; *Panorama of Uriarra*, Tuggeranong Arts Centre and Belconnen Community Centre, ACT; *Echoes from the past*, Tuggeranong Arts Centre
- 2000 *Starting again*, Tuggeranong Arts Centre; *Feeling sheepish*, *Belconnen Artists in Boorowa*, Galleria del Centro, Boorowa, NSW; *Rear View Mirror*, BEAN Members' Exhibition, Belconnen Community Centre Gallery; *PhotoAccess Members' Exhibition*, ANCA Gallery, ACT



Birds in the Bush 4



From the Bush

Awards

Grants to assist with exhibitions as a member of MultiFocus and Encuentro groups from Office of Multicultural Affairs and ACT Multicultural Council (1998 to 2005); School Without Walls artist in residence with support from ACT Government, Department of Environment, Land and Planning, for a project to explore the marine and coastal environment through art (1998); various grants for education through art from ACT Department of Education (1976 to 1982); awarded Master Teacher status, ACT Department of Education (1976)

Associations and memberships

Current: International Society for Education through Art, UNESCO; National Association for Visual Arts; PhotoAccess; Alchemists (Women Photographers and Artists); Batemans Bay Arts and Craft Society, NSW; South Coast Pastel Society, NSW; South Coast Modern Art Group, NSW

Past: Canberra Photographic Society; Encuentro (Artists of Multicultural Background); MultiFocus (Photographers of Multicultural Background); Chimera (Women Artists and Photographers using Photomedia); Belconnen Artists Network; Disabled and Disadvantaged in the Arts ACT

List of works

Photograms generated by sunlight illumination:

Unique prints on professional double weight Agfa
B/W photographic paper, Selenium toned

1 to 8 *Sunprints from Forest and Ocean*

600 x 500 mm (image)

800 x 675 mm (frame)

\$685 each framed

Photograms generated by Tungsten light illumination:

Unique prints on professional double weight
Kodak B/W photographic paper, Selenium toned

9 to 12 *Surrounded by Nature*

357 x 277 mm (image)

540 x 430 mm (frame)

\$280 each framed



Birds in the bush 3



Ocean 1



Ocean 2