

Timeless: The art of Cressida Campbell

10 January – 22 February 2009

After her initial training at the East Sydney Technical College, Cressida Campbell discovered an affinity with the medium of woodblock printing. In 1980 she extended her studies abroad at the Yoshida Hanga Academy in Tokyo, Japan, developing a new technique of mono-printing from hand painted woodblocks. This technique allows Campbell the freedom of painting but the work has the nature of a hand printed surface.

Cressida Campbell paints the things that she finds visually engaging and draws her inspiration from a wide variety of sources ranging from the corner of her own living room, garden vistas and Australia's distinctive flora, to the backstreets and harbour of her home city, Sydney. However, for Campbell, subject matter is secondary, it is the subtleties of design and pattern that are her primary concern and her pictures obtain their strength from the refinement of colour and composition. It is these transformations of colour, texture and composition that lift Campbell's work beyond the plane of everyday observation. Each image is precisely drawn and cropped like a photograph to present a small fragment of what the artist sees. These evocative works suggest far more than they depict.

At first glance, these works imply an absence of human presence. But a closer look reveals just the opposite; the pile of washing up, half empty glass of wine, sliced fruit, and discarded towel allude to human intervention. Campbell's works however reflect upon the generosity of nature and our place within it, the tactility and preciousness of ordinary objects and an engagement between an interior and exterior life. As the viewer joins the space in Campbell's work, what was solitude becomes intimacy. Cressida Campbell is an uncompromising artist whose work is imbued with subtlety and sensitivity, inspired by the imagination. Her art comes from close observation and skilled drawing and captures the most simple and complex objects with clarity of vision and an intensity of focus.

Campbell's work combines Eastern and Western sensibilities in a celebration of harmony and colour and reflects the artist's compulsion to make art. The unique woodcut prints and wood blocks created by Cressida Campbell hold an aesthetic dimension in which even the most commonplace object transcends into an image of great beauty.

Checklist

Alison 1984
woodblock print 49 x 66 cm Private Collection

Through the windscreen 1985
woodblock print 48 x 60 cm
Sydney University Museum USYD Collection

Ball's Head 1987
woodblock print 21.5 x 81 cm Private Collection

Gore Bay, Sydney 1987
woodblock 60 x 88 cm Private Collection

John Dory 1987
woodblock print Private Collection

Breakfast at Armidale 1988
woodblock print 89 x 60 cm Private Collection

Kitchen 1989
woodblock print 75 x 67 cm Private Collection

Milton Park 1989
woodblock print 71 x 75 cm Private Collection

Studio 1989
coloured woodblock print 89.5 x 96 cm Mosman
Art Gallery

West of Observatory Hill 1989
gouache on woodblock 60 x 121 cm (three
panels) UNSW Collection

Pumpkin and Eggplant 1991
woodblock Print 27 x 28 cm Private Collection

Banksia Ball's Head, Sydney 1992
woodblock 60 x 60 cm Private Collection

Chef's Warehouse, Sydney 1992
woodblock 91 x 60 cm Private Collection

Interior with Anemones and Lemons 1992
woodblock 89 x 52 cm Private Collection

Interior with Anemones and Lemons 1992
woodblock print 89 x 52 cm Private Collection

Margaret Olley Interior 1992
woodblock print 88 x 70 cm Private Collection

Palm Grove, Royal Botanic Gardens 1992
unique woodblock print with watercolour
119.2 x 89.3 cm
Newcastle Regional Gallery Collection

Shells and Sea Urchins 1992
woodblock print 60 x 41 cm Private Collection

Chinese Gardens 1993
woodblock screen 49 x 90 cm Private Collection

Chinese Gardens, Sydney 1993
woodblock print 48 x 85 cm Private Collection

Kitchen Utensils 1993
colour woodcut on cream wove paper, unique
impression 46 x 61.5cm
Collection: Art Gallery of New South Wales

Nasturtiums 1993
woodblock 90 x 60 cm Private Collection

Compost 1994
woodblock print 39 x 41.5 cm Private Collection

Oysters 1994
woodblock 38.5 x 59 cm Private Collection

Tea Cups 1994
woodblock 89.5 x 48 cm Private Collection

Camellias 1995
woodblock 45 x 68.5 cm Private Collection

From the Balcony 1995
woodblock 120 x 90 cm (3 panels) Private
Collection

Interior with Kilim 1995
woodblock 48 x 89 cm Private Collection

Pittosporum 1995
woodblock print 60 x 120 cm Private Collection

Railway Tracks, Melbourne 1995
woodblock print 21 x 18.5 cm Private Collection

Ceramics 1996
woodblock print 63 x 22 cm Private Collection

Freesias with Chinese Bowl 1996
woodblock print 119 x 20 cm Private Collection

Interior with Wheat 1996
unique woodblock print with watercolour 112.6
x 49.5 cm Newcastle Regional Gallery Collection

Papaya with Chinese Plate 1996
woodblock print 41 x 27 cm Private Collection

Persimmons and Silk 1997
woodblock print 34 x 29 cm Private Collection

Verandah with Washing 1997
woodblock 122 x 60 cm Private Collection

Interior with Red Ginger 1998
woodblock 120 x 85 cm Private Collection

Sydney Harbour triptych 1998
woodblock 50 x 122 cm Private Collection

Burley Griffin House, Avalon 1999
woodblock 67 x 119 cm Private Collection

Clivias 1999
woodblock 33 x 67 cm Private Collection

Garden Objects 1999
woodblock print 56.5 x 38 cm Private Collection

Oblique View 1999
woodblock 30 x 40 cm Private Collection

Peeling Bark 1999
woodblock 50 x 40.5 cm Private Collection

Eucalypt Forest 2000
woodblock print 62 x 121 cm Private Collection

White Waratah 2000
woodblock, hand painted in watercolour
pigment 51.5 x 57 cm
Collection: Art Gallery of New South Wales, gift
of Margaret Olley

The Music Room 2001
woodblock 78 x 62.5 cm Private Collection

After Lunch 2002
woodblock print 72 x 62 cm Private Collection

Clivias, Bronte House 2002
woodblock print 94 x 76 cm Private Collection

Nasturtiums 2002
woodblock 59 x 60 cm Collection: Art Gallery of
New South Wales

Bougainvillea 2003
woodblock print 83 x 60 cm Private Collection

Interior with White Lilies 2003
woodblock 120 x 90 cm Private Collection

Pears 2004
unique woodblock print with watercolour 38 x
59.7cm
Newcastle Regional Art Gallery Collection

Plums with Indian Cloth 2004
woodblock print 58.5 x 62.5 cm Private
Collection

Still Life with Nasturtiums 2004
woodblock 68.5 x 50 cm Private Collection

Banksias 2004
woodblock print 90 x 20 cm Private Collection

Hydrangeas with Magnolia Leaves 2005

woodblock 79.5 x 88 cm Private Collection

Japanese Hydrangeas 2005

woodblock 60 x 90 cm Private Collection

Poppies 2005

woodblock print 78 x 42.5 cm Private Collection

Still Life with Knife and Butterfly 2005

woodblock 16 x 20.5 cm Private Collection

Lilies and Lemons with Nonya Vase 2006

woodblock 90 x 120 cm Private Collection

Lilies and Ranunculas 2006

woodblock print Private Collection

Gum Leaves and Banksia 2007

watercolour pigment on wood 69 x 104 cm
QUT Art Museum Brisbane

Interior with Black Lacquer Chair 2007

woodblock 117 x 89 cm Private Collection

Rambutans, Penang 2007

woodblock 32 x 33 cm Private Collection

Silver Perch 2007

woodblock 47 x 59 cm Private Collection

Black Kangaroo Paw 2008

woodblock 20 x 20 cm Private Collection

Grass 2008

woodblock 20 x 20 cm Private Collection

Gumnuts 2008

woodblock print 20 x 20 cm Private Collection

Still Life with Ukiyo-e Print 2008

woodblock 110 x 73 cm Private Collection

The Green Chair 2008

woodblock 92 x 77 cm Private Collection

Blue Hydrangeas

woodblock 20 x 20cm Private Collection

Burnt Bush

woodblock print 60 x 90 cm Private Collection

Red and Cream Clivias

woodblock 20 x 20 cm Private Collection

Rock Lilies

woodblock 71 x 64 cm Private Collection