Seraphina Martin and Solar Plate Etching

Seraphina Martin studied printmaking at the National Art School in Paris, moving to Sydney to teach at the Sydney University Art Workshop. She was the recipient of the N.S.W Art Gallery, Moya Dyring Studio residency in Paris at the Cite Des Arts in 1988. During her residency, she studied the Viscosity colour printing at the Atelier 17 under the notorious Master printer William Hayter. In 1994 she trained with American printmaker Dan Welden who initiated the non toxic printmaking technique called Solar Plate Etching .

Since then, Seraphina has developed this method in her own art practice as well as teaching the process to promote safe and non- toxic printmaking. She built up the printmaking studio and taught printmaking at The Tin Sheds Art Workshop, Sydney University for 35 years as well as at TAFE N.S.W at Meadowbank and Hornsby.

In 2009 she was a delegate for Australia, to select Australian printmakers to participate in the International Printmaking Biennale in Sarcelles, France. Seraphina travelled to India in 2011, to take up an Artist in Residency at the Government School of Art in Calcutta. There she taught Solar Plate etching as well as the Kola Bhavan University in Shantineketan, West Bengal..In 2014 she held a survey show of her work at the Hazelhurst Regional Gallery Sydney from 1990-2014. Her work is influenced by her Indian experience and Medieval art aesthetics. Seraphina has had many solo and group exhibitions and is represented in many public and private collections in Australia and Overseas.

Solar Plate Etching

Solar plate etching is a quick, simple and safe alternative to traditional etching. Rather than acids, all that is needed are the UV rays of the sun (or a lamp) to etch a plate. Your image is applied onto transparent film, then exposed to the sun for 2.5 minutes using a photopolymer plate. A built in photosensitive emulsion hardens the image in the sun, the plate is then washed in water revealing your image ready for printing with the etching press