

Along the River

Kyoko Imazu and Damon Kowarsky

In April 2013 a grant from the Japan Foundation Sydney took Melbourne artist Damon Kowarsky on a cultural research trip to Kyoto Japan. The major work resulting from this trip was a panoramic drawing of buildings, old and new, which extend along the river in that city.

Since 2010 Damon has been working in collaboration with Japanese/Australian artist Kyoko Imazu. Their collaborative way of working is based on obvious respect for, and enjoyment of each others ideas and a fundamental sense of fun. Damon makes a drawing which he hands over to Kyoko for her to 'vandalise'. Then Damon makes a copper etching plate and again Kyoko goes to work on it.

After their return from Japan Damon and Kyoko devised a project, generously supported by Arts Victoria, which would take them to The Art Vault residential printmaking studios in another river city Mildura, to make a new series of etchings based on the big Kyoto drawing.

For 'Along the River' Damon's cityscape panorama has been realised across fourteen copper plates which he has then handed over to Kyoko for her to finish. The result is a sequence of images which, while still describing the original riverside buildings, are made both curious and whimsical.

Damon's images of cities draw the viewer in to the compelling detail of a maze of buildings and the myriad worlds that they contain. Kyoko's fantastical animals and aliens, drawn variously from childhood fascinations, Japanese mythology and the teeming contemporary mind of the artist, work with her collaborator's sensibility to create magical scenes which invite the viewer to enter a magical world that is both familiar and strange.

Julian Bowron, Director, Bunbury Regional Art Gallery

Damon and Kyoko first visited Japan together in 2011, and again in 2013 with the support of the Japan Foundation Sydney.

Along the River was produced at the Art Vault Mildura with the support of the Victorian Government through Arts Victoria and the Japan Foundation Sydney.

You can see more examples of their work online at www.damonandkyoko.tk

All works are for sale. Should you be interested, please contact Concierge on Level 1.



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