

an invitation

dianne longley

5th of August to the 2nd of September

Adele Boag Gallery invites you to preview a joint exhibition of new work by Dianne Longley and Abbas Mehran on Friday the 5th of August at 6:30pm.

The artists will be present.

The Gallery will also host presentations by each artist;

Artist floor talk with Dianne Longley, Saturday the 13th of August at 2pm.
(tea and cake provided)

Artist floor talk with Abbas Mehran, Saturday the 6th of August at 2pm.

adele boag gallery



Emporium: Curious Creatures

Emporium the latest in a long line of accomplished exhibitions from Dianne Longley, abounds with otherworldly curios, novelties and exquisite finds. True to the title, the idea of curious objects en masse is embraced through editions of digital and photopolymer prints, porcelain plates, postcards and small books. Within these various formats, Longley's works are linked together by a procession of creatures that make these bits and pieces their permanent places of residence.

Playing roles in fable-like scenes, these odd beings simultaneously draw upon the long history of the grotesque and the contemporary Japanese kawaii phenomenon of the cute. Mixed with further inspiration from Conrad Gesner's Renaissance *historia animalium*, extraordinary toys and sixteenth century creatures (such as those from Fran'ois Rabelais), the end result is a merging of many creature-cultures into what one imagines are truly global monsters. But nothing is as it seems, for we are also reminded of the possible dark underside of the overly cute and the sometimes-gentle nature of a beastly beast.

Perhaps these creatures are the lovely, quirky or not-so-likeable aspects of personalities personified (or in this case creaturified), or maybe they are visual experiments in things that are almost impossible to describe. Either way, they are complex and absurd beings, endearing and grotesque at once. Yet, just like the unfathomable and slimy beasts in Roald Dahl's ' Revolting Rhymes ' or the strange morphed creatures of 'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe', it is because of their absurdity and faults that they are highly appealing and likeable. Even Longley's nastiest and most sinister creatures are nicely coloured and pleasing to the eye, and impossible to dislike.

Dianne Longley

These Hieronymous Bosch-like individuals and Pokemon-sorts interact nicely and nastily amongst a larger than life natural setting. Avoiding the prickles of a giant cactus or deep within green foliage, these cultural creatures play out some natural exchanges of kindness, reciprocation, or betrayal and debate that inevitably occur throughout life. In this sense one feels there is a moral order underlying the absurdity, some mythically derived lesson to be learned or observed or some motherly advice given. Longley's scenes slip between the photographic and the animated, the nonsensical and the moral, and the charming and slightly malevolent, exploring the complicated space of the inner self.

'Emporium', in both content and practice, is an interesting meeting of the traditional and the contemporary. Longley, thoroughly learned in a myriad of printmaking techniques, stretches her knowledge into unknown and contemporary realms by pushing traditional techniques into unseen and radical territory. Within 'Castles and Rascals', 'Little Sweet Potato' or 'Small Acts of Kindness', to name just a few, there are many surprising techniques and charismatic creatures waiting to be discovered.

Sera Waters, writer and artist, 2005



gallery location 138 Unley Road, Unley South Australia 5061
contact details telephone or fax : 61 (0)8 8272 3288
email address adeleboag@adeleboaggallery.com
website address www.adeleboaggallery.com
opening hours tuesday to friday 11 - 5 and saturday 12 - 4

top to bottom, left to right : detail : Dianne Longley
Curious Conversation) Intaglio, Inkjet Chine Colle) 20.5cms x 14.5cms
Beastie-Bear Solitary Serenade) on-glaze porcelain) 10cms x 7cms x 2cms
Natural Selection Series) Cast Bronze) 12.5cms x 5cms
front : detail : Dianne Longley
Chorus of Trust) Inkjet Print) 60cms x 80cms