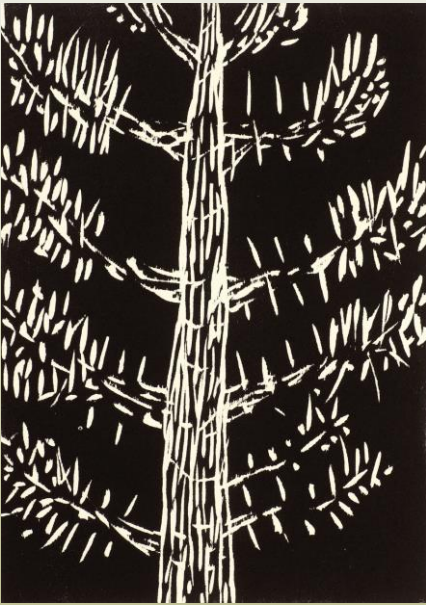




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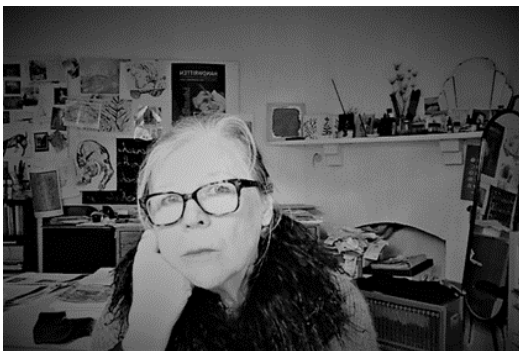


Tree Stories by Stephanie Radok

Exhibition Catalogue

From the artist

The exhibition *Tree Stories* responds to the Waite Arboretum. Many people living in Adelaide have stories about it. It is an experience with many layers. What starts as a green blur seen from Cross Road or Fullarton Road becomes the marvellous avenue of sugar gums which in their robustness seem to represent the continuity of the old stories and the old ways of Indigenous First Nations peoples.



Then walking amongst the trees from all over Australia and the world reveals many benches with plaques commemorating scientists, workers and tree-related visionaries. Next you notice the labels hanging on the trees with their origin stories which make this one space into a sample of the whole world – a cosmopolitan place in a suburb. Then you start listening to the trees themselves.

There is a nice circularity in making a woodcut of a tree. And thinking about trees in art, writing and history, bearing witness, inspiring peace.

The “Tree Stories” exhibition at Urrbrae House as part of the South Australian Living Artists (SALA) Festival is OPEN free to the public:

7 – 29 August 2023

Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, 11am – 3pm
Sunday, 1pm – 4pm

**make
history.**

Works on display available for sale may be purchased directly from the artist. If you wish to purchase a work or have a query, please contact Stephanie Radok:

Phone: 0419790060

Email:

sradok@internode.on.net

Website:

<https://stephanieradok.com>

DRAWING ROOM

Paintings 2022, acrylic paint on unstretched canvas
130 cm x 89 cm - \$900 each

1. *For Egypt*
2. *For Palestine*
3. *For Israel*
4. *For Dancing*
5. *For Listening*

Woodcuts 2023, ink on Arches paper, Editions of 3
36 cm x 26 cm - \$400 each

6. *Araucaria*
7. *Palm*
8. *Cypress*
9. *The Talker*
10. *The Twister*
11. *The Kicker*

Illuminated Book 2023, ink and paint on Zerkall paper
54 cm x 39 cm – *Not For Sale*

12. Last chapter of *The Tree of Man* by Patrick White

ARBORETUM EXHIBITION ROOM

Book Collection and Book Fossils

Not For Sale

The Persimmon Tree and other stories, Marjorie Barnard, 1943

The Tree of Man, Patrick White, 1956

The Scent of Eucalyptus, Barbara Hanrahan, 1973

The Double Tree, Judith Wright, 1978

Eucalyptus, Murray Bail, 1998

The Tree in Changing Light, Roger McDonald, 2001

Etchings 2008, ink on paper, A.P., 27 cm x 38 cm - *Not For Sale*

13. *Tree Story* 1, 2, 3

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THANKS

The support of the Friends of Urrbrae House at the exhibition launch on 6 August 2023 is appreciated. Also many thanks to the Urrbrae House volunteers who are helping throughout the exhibition. Stephanie is very grateful to the City of Mitcham for their financial assistance to this exhibition.

CITY OF



MITCHAM

For further enquiries about the exhibition please contact:

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SA 5005 Australia

Telephone: +61 8 8313 7497 or
8313 7110

Email:

urrbraehouse@adelaide.edu.au

Reflections on an arboretum

An arboretum is where we go to learn from trees. It's a studious activity that requires consideration and time, and all five senses. We bring the accumulated knowledge of our species to the investigation—botanical, physiological, medicinal, artisanal, ecological and so on. We bring personal memories of trees we grew up with or recognise from different seasons and locales, trees we climbed in, trees we may have planted ourselves.

World-tree II, a canvas painted by Stephanie Radok in 2002, hangs on the wall of our home. It has rewarded contemplation over time. It is evergreen in that way. Since then the artist has made images of herbs, vegetables, animals, vessels, hills and birds. Returning to trees in *Tree Stories*, she shares with us her impulse to limn (limb) the world as a whole, like a child taking enthralled stock of her surroundings. The trees' stories become her stories.

Trees have long been a subject for art, from Egyptian papyrus and wall paintings filled with birds, to frescoes in Pompeii, from the Garden of Eden to the 'tree' on which Jesus was crucified, and the Three Friends of Winter in Chinese painting—the pine, the bamboo and the plum that signify steadfastness, perseverance and resilience. Stephanie Radok carries on her arboreal art practice in this vein, as a kind of memory work and tree worship, but with the added urgency of recovery and protection in a time of crisis.

Nicholas Jose, 2023

(Nicholas Jose's new novel *The Idealist* will be published in September 2023 by Giramondo.)