

MEDIA RELEASE- Exhibition

whangarei  **museum**
TE WHARETAONGA O WHANGAREI

30 June – 23 August 2009

EDITIONS – a history of New Zealand printmaking

Exhibition to coincide with **Rembrandt – the Experimental Etcher** exhibition

Northland printmakers: Faith McManus Mark Graver Mariette van Zuydam

To be opened by **Her Excellency Annelies Boogaerdt Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands 5.30pm Monday 29 June 2009**



Mariette van Zuydam, *Cabbage Tree* 1999, woodcut. Collection of the Artist

‘New Zealand artists who are etchers are, I am afraid, so far, but few in number, and as a rule, our local exhibitions are quite destitute of any examples of their efforts’ Charles Wilson Gossip about Etching October 1912 *The Triad Magazine*



Printing in New Zealand began the same year as the nation's founding document the Treaty of Waitangi in 1840 when the first Gaveaux printing press was shipped to our shores from Paris to Pompallier Mission in Russell. Printmaking as a visual art-form took longer to evolve in New Zealand and was spurred by the Arts and Crafts Movement in the 1880's which venerated the woodcut, etching and engraving as an accessible art form for the people. In New Zealand artist printmakers became aligned to a new sense of nationalism and pride after the First World War and the Great Depression.

New Zealanders by the Centennial year in 1940 wanted to untie 'the apron strings' to Empire and see an expression of their indigenous landscape flora and fauna in their art. Print makers and designers were ideal in promulgating this new imagery-our own stories and mythologies to the wider public.



Trevor Lloyd, *Be it Ever so Humble*, Etching, 100x205mm. Whangarei Art Museum Collection

This exhibition is a selective survey of the *changing winds* of printmaking from mere emulation of the 'Rembrandt Tradition' to a unique Pacific voice. Artists in the exhibition from local collections, include pioneers such as Trevor Lloyd, E. Mervyn Taylor, Adele Younghusband and George Woods and many of the best loved names of contemporary printmaking; such as Gary Tricker, Ralph Hotere, Barry Cleavin and Rodney Fumpston. The exhibition includes the widest possible selection of print media from the most ancient; woodcut and copperplate engraving to more modern techniques like etching, linocut, monoprint, screenprint and lithography with explanatory texts on all for the student.

We are specially pleased to be able to spotlight 3 eminent Northland printmakers: Mark Graver, Faith McManus and to complete the Dutch theme;- Mariette van Zuydam

Scott Pothan

Prints from the Whangarei Art Museum Collection; Carey Collection, Whangarei, private collections and artists Northland printmakers Mark Graver, Faith McManus and Mariette van Zuydam.

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**For further information and images contact
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