

CAROL M^CGREGOR'S *IDALIA IMPRINTS*



Carol McGregor, *Rainbow Gorge, Idalia* 2014

Of Scottish and Wathaurung (Victoria) descent, Carol McGregor expresses, reclaims and communicates her culture and stories through her art practice. In 2014 McGregor undertook an artist's residency with the School of Biological Sciences, University of Queensland. Travelling with the Outback Ecology Field Studies group, the artist spent a week with UQ students and academics at Idalia National Park in the Blackall-Yaraka District of Central West Queensland.

During this initial encounter, the artist explored the delicate yet diverse ecosystem of Idalia through the filters of science and art. Dominated by brigalow, mulga and macropods the country has experienced many forms of human intervention – from the guardianship of the Iningai First Peoples, through the colonial pressures of pastoralisation, to recent land management practices and now as a site for scientific research. Bringing together discarded objects and fragments from the environs, the artist has created a contemporary *wunderkammer*. Merging analytical objectivity with poetic creativity, McGregor's *Idalia imprints* considers how natural forces, animal and human inhabitants have shaped and overlaid a multiplicity of histories onto this arid terrain.

McGregor's art practice is multidisciplinary from drawing, printmaking, photography and digital media, to working with natural fibres. The artist maintains a strong engagement with the land and country in her work, while also engaging with environmental and social histories. McGregor is currently completing a PhD in Fine Art at Queensland College of Art, Griffith University, Brisbane.

The *Idalia Imprints* exhibition has been organised in conjunction with the 10th Biennial Conference of the Australian and New Zealand Association of Medieval and Early Modern Studies (ANZAMEMS) and the UQ Library. The artist would like to thank the Outback Ecology Field Studies coordinator Dr David Booth, and acknowledges the kind support of the School of Biological Sciences and UQ Art Museum Artist in Residence program.

