



Ron McBurnie *The Temptation of St. Antony* 1994 hard ground etching and aquatint, 200 x 200 cm (eight plates), edition of 15

Ron McBurnie

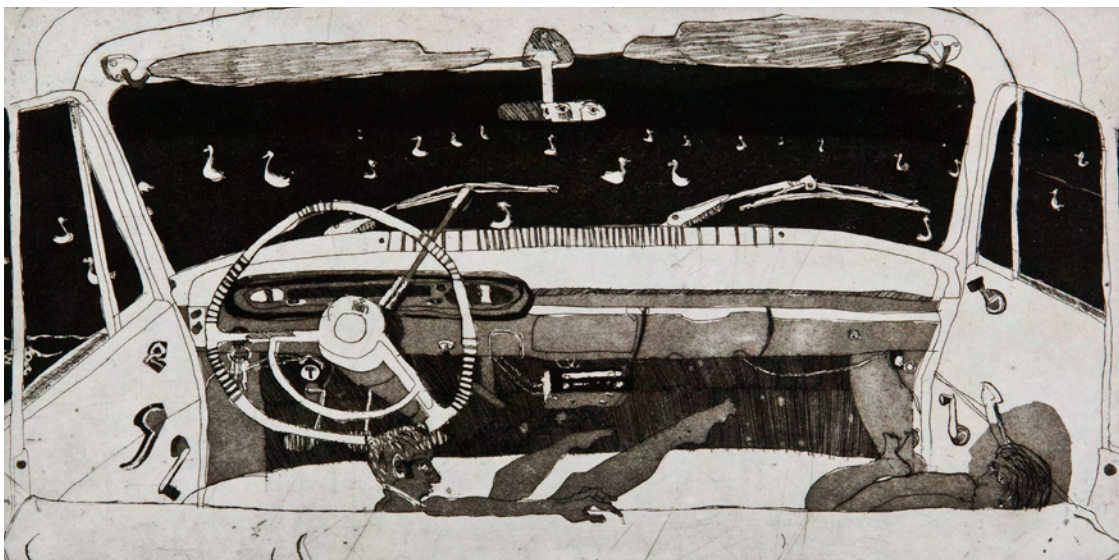
METAL AS ANYTHING

EDUCATION RESOURCE

A PERC TUCKER REGIONAL GALLERY TOURING EXHIBITION

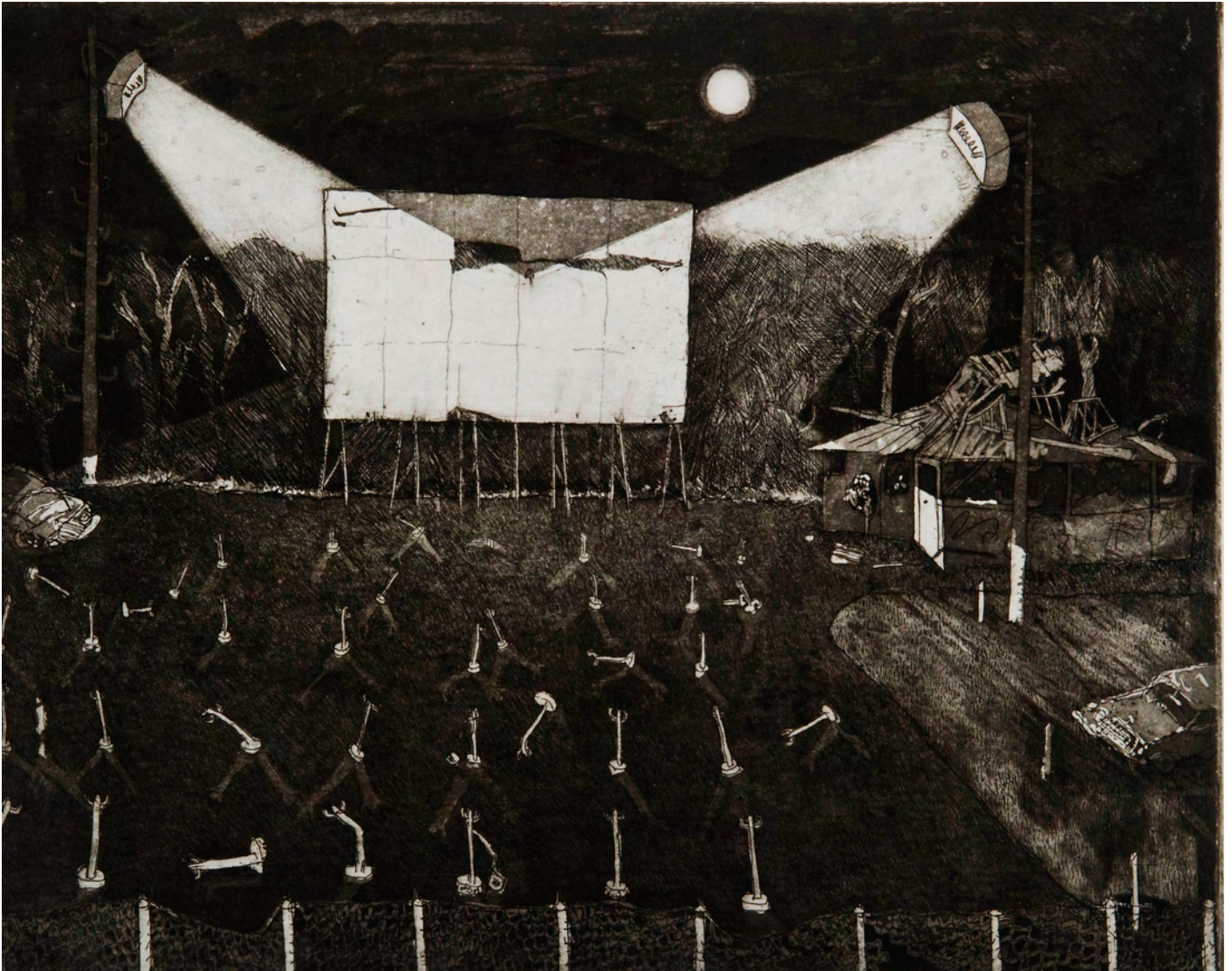
CONTENTS

3	EXHIBITION SUMMARY
4	EDUCATION OUTLINE
5	ARTIST'S BACKGROUND
6	STUDIO PRACTICE
7	INTERVIEW
9	WORKS IN PROFILE: Suburban (Pets)
10	WORKS IN PROFILE: Suburban
11	WORKS IN PROFILE: The Rake's Progress
13	WORKS IN PROFILE: Romantic
14	GLOSSARY / REFERENCES



Ron McBurnie *And he told me he was taking me to the river to see the phosphorescent swans* 1983 23 x 41.8cm, hard ground etching and electric engraving, ed. of 20

EXHIBITION SUMMARY



Ron McBurnie *Dead Drive-in* 1998 hard ground etching and aquatint, 27.6 x 35.6 cm (eight plates), edition of 30

Metal as Anything is a **survey exhibition** that showcases thirty years of the diverse and intricate **etchings** of Townsville artist Ron McBurnie. A place where misbehaving dogs, ducks in box kites, jumping cats and eccentric toad shooters meet to examine their place in the carnival of characters and landscapes that the artist has created.

The diversity of events, both large and small, that inspires McBurnie's artworks are telling of the artist's greatest strength - his ability to highlight the weird and wonderful events that occur in our 'mundane' **suburban** environment. It is so easy for these fleeting, humorous moments to be lost, buried underneath the drudgery and commitments of our daily grind. McBurnie, unlike most, captures these moments in his own life and ensures they are not misplaced.

EDUCATION OUTLINE

This education kit has been designed in response to Ron McBurnie's *Metal As Anything* touring survey exhibition. It aims to highlight key works and themes from the exhibition and may be used in conjunction with the catalogue/ DVD or as an independent pre-visit or post-visit study resource.

Its purpose is to assist both students and teachers with the interpretation of Ron McBurnie's artwork, as well as provide insight into his art practice.

This kit has been written with reference to the 2009 Queensland visual arts syllabus; Essential Learnings 1-10 and Senior Syllabus, and the New South Wales K - 6 Creative Arts, The Visual Arts Years 7–10 Syllabus and Visual Arts Stage 6 Syllabus, The Board of Studies, NSW. It includes questions and activities for students based on artworks and selected themes that may be adapted to better suit particular curriculum requirements.

Available in conjunction with this Education Resource and included in the touring pack:

- A 20 minute documentary DVD: *Suburban Etching*. Produced by Ben McBurnie, the documentary contains footage of Ron in his studio discussing and demonstrating his creative process. This short film can be played on either a computer or DVD player
- A PowerPoint presentation for use in the classroom. It contains information about Ron McBurnie's practice and presents images that focus on the series of work covered in this kit. This presentation can be viewed on a computer.
- Primary and Secondary activity sheets for printing and completion during exhibition visits are available and contained within this Education resource.



THE VISUAL ARTS AND CRAFT STRATEGY



Metal as Anything: Ron McBurnie is a travelling exhibition developed by Perc Tucker Regional Gallery and toured by Museum & Gallery Services Queensland. This touring project is supported by the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland and the Visual Arts and Craft Strategy, an initiative of the Australian, State and Territory Governments.

Produced by Perc Tucker Regional Gallery © 2009/2010
Artwork images credited to Michael Marzik

ARTIST'S BACKGROUND



Image © Karl Kizur

I've always wanted to work as an artist and a teacher and I guess as far as achieving these career paths, I have always tried to act on opportunities as they came to me. I know my limits, but I am also happy to be challenged by interesting prospects and the possibility that I can achieve them.

- Ron McBurnie 2009

Ron McBurnie was born 7 July 1957 in Brisbane. He currently resides in Townsville where he has been living since 1985. Ron received a Diploma of Arts (1978), a Graduate Diploma of Teaching, (1979) and a Graduate Diploma of Arts (1979) all from the Queensland College of Art. In 2000 he was awarded a Masters of Creative Arts from James Cook University, Townsville.

Ron McBurnie works primarily in the areas of printmaking, painting and artist books. He has exhibited in numerous solo and group exhibitions over the past thirty years and his work is represented in most Australian state galleries and the National Gallery of Australia. He has also lectured and participated in [artist-in-residence](#) programs in universities and cultural institutions in Australia and overseas. Ron continues to travel overseas and nationally on a regular basis and this has a significant influence on his work.

www.ronmcburnie.com

STUDIO PRACTICE

Materials & Techniques

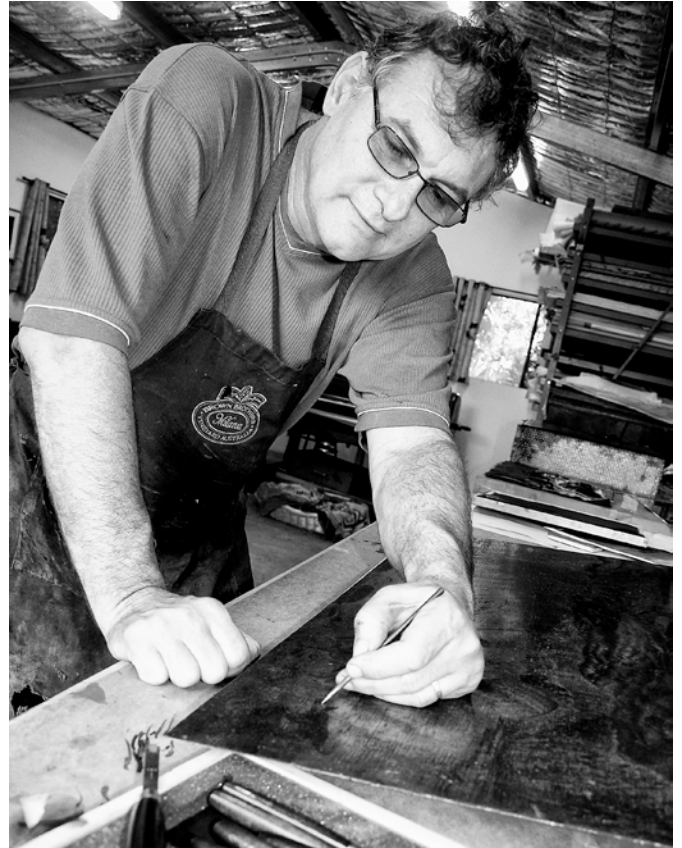


Image © Karl Kizur

Ron McBurnie is best known for his masterful printmaking skills, and in particular **intaglio** printing. Meaning to cut or engrave, intaglio printmaking practice also extends to a number of other techniques that all involve the incision of designs into metal plates. These include **etching**, **aquatint**, **mezzotint** and **drypoint etching**.

Intaglio printing is a methodical process where ink is applied to an etched plate and worked carefully into the grooves. All of the relief surfaces are cleaned of ink, paper is placed on the plate and both are run through a printing press. The pressure created by the press forces ink from the grooves or incisions onto the paper and an image or impression is created.

Ron McBurnie works from his purpose built home studio in suburban Townsville. When he isn't teaching Ron is in his studio and prefers to work on his etchings during the day. He often works with an assistant and is usually never without Lou Lou, his faithful pooch. While not directly influenced by music it is an important part of Ron's practice. He collects, enjoys and plays vinyl records in his studio when painting or making etchings.

INTERVIEW

Ron McBurnie



Image © Karl Kizur

1. When did you first realize that you wanted to be an artist?

My mother went to Art College and my grandfather was a designer of buses and trucks so I was brought up in a household where art held some importance. I enjoyed painting as a child but until I went to Art College I had no aspirations about becoming an artist.

2. Which of your works and/or series has given you the most satisfaction?

I really enjoy making every series, but I really enjoy my work more when it gets a response from the public. I like it when someone responds to one of my etchings with one of their own stories that in some ways relates to it. This reaction to it somehow makes the artwork a little bit more relevant to me.

3. What artists do you admire and why?

There are many artists who I admire or have been favourites of mine for sometime. I have a particular admiration for British pastoral romanticism and in particular the prints of William Blake and Samuel Palmer. Recently I have become fond of several of the German little masters of the early 16th Century such as the Barthel and Sebald Beham, Heinrich Aldegrever and George Pencz.

4. What is your most preferred medium and why?

I do enjoy painting, but people seem to respond to my etchings. I seem to know the process and it works for me. I enjoy making etchings because for me it has a particular meditative element to it in the way I often painstakingly build up the etching surface with an overlay of linear systems.

5. When do you prefer to do your artwork?

Do you have set studio days? Do you prefer to work at night time or during the day?

I prefer to work during the day on the etchings. If I am working on fine detailed areas on a plate I usually try to do these areas during the daylight and leave the more simple broad areas of the plate for night time work. I try to have set studio days but when I am teaching at the University this is sometimes difficult to manage.