

Exhibition *Contemplating Grace* 3-30 September 2022

32 artists from the group, Sydney Printmakers, pay homage to the art and life of Grace Cossington Smith. Participants responded to many aspects of Cossington Smith's work - from subjects, such as the Sydney Harbour Bridge, landscapes, room interiors, portraits, social and political events to her use of shimmering light and colour.



Artworks: left and clockwise from top

Grace Cossington Smith, *The Curve of the Bridge*, c1929-1930, Pencil and pastel on paper

Barbara Davidson, *Harbour Bridge*, 2022, etching, 13 x 30 cm

George Lo Grasso, *The Curve is Constant*, 2022, etching, 76 x 56 cm

Ruth Burgess, *Bridge of Flowers*, 2022, woodcut, 48.5 x 43 cm

Roslyn Kean, *City Crossings – Sydney Harbour Bridge*, 2022, multi-block woodcut, 55 x 122 cm

Grace Cossington Smith (1892 – 1984) was an important early exponent of modernism in Australia. She attended Abbotsleigh and lived in the local area most of her life.

Sydney Printmakers is the longest running independent printmaking organisation in Australia. The group celebrated its sixtieth anniversary in 2021. <https://sydneyprintmakers.com.au/the-sydney-printmakers/>

Studying

The four artists above have provided alternate perspectives on the Sydney Harbour Bridge. Look at the works, read the titles, and identify ways in which the artists have responded to Cossington Smith. Think about aesthetic style, colour, composition, subject matter, techniques.

Printmaking: The prints above were printed in the techniques of etching or woodcut. Research these processes. What characteristics of the technique are evident in each work?

Making

Look at Cossington Smith's works at the Art Gallery NSW or the National Gallery of Australia

<https://www.artgallery.nsw.gov.au/collection/artists/cossington-smith-grace/>

<https://digital.nga.gov.au/archive/exhibition/cossingtonsmith/>

Choosing a different medium, appropriate one of the works of Grace Cossington Smith?

Explain the work you have selected and the aspects that interest you in your reinterpretation.