



**Ruth Burgess**  
**The Music of the Planets**  
1 April to 8 May 2021

**Grace Cossington Smith Gallery**

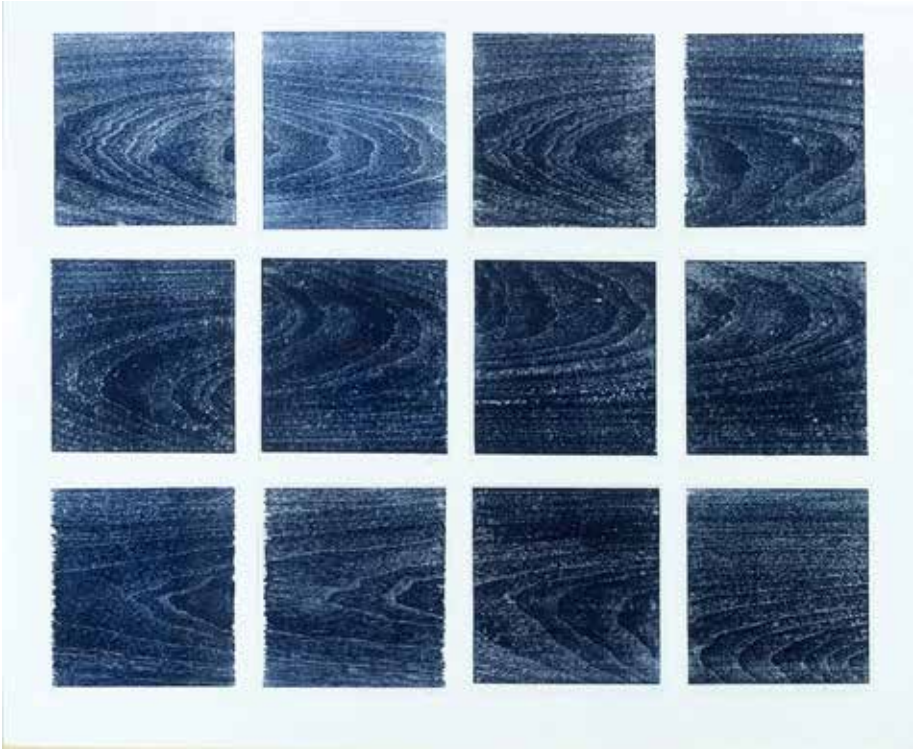


## THE MILKY WAY

No image can convey  
The Milky Way  
Beyond the mind's  
Multiples, beyond  
Its scope the nebulae,  
The galaxies, the  
Radiance of  
Canopy, the stars  
And in between  
The dancing in the sky.



**“*The Music of the Planets* series is musical and rhythmic, shimmering in colour, light and shade. Burgess’s lexicon of blocks is deployed and re-deployed to work repeatedly in different compositions, orientations and tones. As with musical notations, her blocks combine themes and variations. In this, we might perceive an intense striving to get as close as possible to the heart-feeling Burgess says drives her work. She is in search of her three great passions: music, image and poetry, and she allows the process to guide her.”** Helen Mueller, 2021



Ruth Burgess is a leading force in the Australian printmaking scene. Through the medium of large format multi-block woodcuts, engravings and poetry, *The Music of the Planets* explores the wonders of the universe. Burgess is inspired by music composed in response to the astronomer Johannes Kepler's discovery of planetary motion and the sounds that exist between the planets. GCS Gallery, 2021

"So immense are the dimensions of space that I found my mind was extended into explorations of the known and unknown and I was visually inspired by the messages from the Hubble telescope and the recent space craft such as Voyager sending back to earth extraordinary images, and the wonders always evolving in the Milky Way. As I travelled through these images in 2019 and through the earthly restrictions of 2020, I have experienced one of the most productive periods of my work as an artist and I have been able to source techniques and experience from my many years as a printmaker." Ruth Burgess, 2021



## VOYAGER

In the night sky as we sleep,  
Voyager is travelling the  
Endless skies of space.

Voyager is travelling through  
Galaxies and nebulae  
Where stars are born and die.

Voyager is travelling, sending  
Images of the universe  
to astronomers on earth.

Voyager is travelling  
While we, living ordinary lives  
Are orbiting the sun.

In the night sky as we sleep  
Voyager is travelling  
Deep beyond the limits  
Of our time.



This exhibition includes six distinct series of works:

*The Music of the Planets*

*Voyager*

*The Milky Way*

*We are all the Universe*

Wood engravings

Poetry



Gallery Hours: Tues to Sat, 10 am-5 pm | Gate 7, 1666 Pacific Highway, Wahroonga | 02 9473 7878  
[www.gcsgallery.com.au](http://www.gcsgallery.com.au) | An Anglican Pre K-12 Day and Boarding school for Girls

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Above: *The Milky Way Nebulae*, 2020, multi-block woodcut on paper, 98 x 65 cm  
Front cover: *Earthly Music*, 2020, multi-block woodcut on paper, 98 x 65 cm