

RUTH BURGESS  
The Music of the Planets  
1 April to 8 May 2021

<b>Music of the Planets</b>
<i>Spacescape</i> , 2019, multi-block woodcut on Shinano/Kozo paper, unique state image size 47 x 42 cm, paper size 98 x 65.5 cm, unframed
<i>Saturn – its array of rings</i> , 2020, multi-block woodcut on Shinano/Kozo paper, unique state 47 x 42 cm, paper size 98 x 65.5 cm, unframed
<i>Earthly Music</i> , 2020, multi-block woodcut on Shinano/Kozo paper, unique state 47 x 42 cm, paper size 98 x 65.5 cm, unframed
<i>Cantata – the music of the spheres</i> , 2019, multi-block woodcut on Shinano/Kozo paper, unique state, 47 x 42 cm, paper size 98 x 65.5 cm, unframed
<i>Harmonies from Space</i> , 2019, multi-block woodcut on Shinano/Kozo paper, unique state image size 47 x 42 cm, paper size 98 x 65.5 cm, unframed
<i>Destination Sun</i> , 2019, multi-block woodcut on Shinano/Kozo paper, unique state image size 47 x 42 cm, paper size 98 x 65.5 cm, unframed
<i>Venus 1</i> , 2020, multi-block woodcut on Shinano/Kozo paper, unique state image size 47 x 42 cm, paper size 98 x 65.5 cm, unframed
<i>Venus 2</i> , 2020, multi-block woodcut on Shinano/Kozo paper, unique state image size 47 x 42 cm, paper size 98 x 65.5 cm, unframed
<i>Mercury – Rotating the Sun</i> , 2020 multi-block woodcut on Shinano/Kozo paper, unique state, image size 47 x 42 cm, paper size 98 x 65.5 cm, unframed
<i>Mercury II</i> , 2020, multi-block woodcut on Shinano/Kozo paper, unique state image size 47 x 42 cm, paper size 98 x 65.5 cm, unframed
<i>Neptune – the Ice Giant</i> , 2020, multi-block woodcut on Shinano/Kozo paper, unique state image size 47 x 42 cm, paper size 98 x 65.5 cm, unframed
<i>The Mystery of Mars</i> , 2019, multi-block woodcut on Shinano/Kozo paper, unique state image size 47 x 42 cm, paper size 98 x 65.5 cm, unframed
<i>Mars – the Red Planet</i> , 2019, multi-block woodcut on Shinano/Kozo paper, unique state image size 47 x 42 cm, paper size 98 x 65.5 cm, unframed
<i>Uranus</i> , 2020, multi-block woodcut on Shinano/Kozo paper, unique state image size 47 x 42 cm, paper size 98 x 65.5 cm, unframed
<i>A long day on Jupiter</i> , 2020, multi-block woodcut on Shinano/Kozo paper, unique state image size 47 x 42 cm, paper size 98 x 65.5 cm, unframed
<b>Voyager</b>
<i>There are more planets than stars</i> , 2020, multi-block woodcut on Shinano/Kozo paper, unique state, image size 48 x 42 cm, paper size 98 x 65.5 cm, unframed
<i>Into the galaxies</i> , 2020, multi-block woodcut on Shinano/Kozo paper, unique state image size 48 x 42 cm, paper size 98 x 65.5 cm, unframed
<i>Radiant Space</i> , 2020, multi-block woodcut on Shinano/Kozo paper, unique state image size 48 x 42 cm, paper size 98 x 65.5 cm, unframed
<i>Black Hole – Deep Space</i> , 2020, multi-block woodcut on Shinano/Kozo paper, unique state, image size 48 x 42 cm, paper size 98 x 65.5 cm, unframed
<i>Vortex 1</i> , 2020, multi-block woodcut on Shinano/Kozo paper, unique state image size 48 x 42 cm, paper size 98 x 65.5 cm, unframed
<i>Vortex 2</i> , 2020, multi-block woodcut on Shinano/Kozo paper, unique state image size 48 x 42 cm, paper size 98 x 65.5 cm, unframed

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<b>The Milky Way</b>
<i>Infinity of Stars</i> , 2020, multi-block woodcut, mica, on Shinano/Kozo paper, unique state image size 48 x 42 cm, paper size 98 x 65.5 cm, framed
<i>The Milky Way Nebulae 1</i> , 2020, multi-block woodcut, on Shinano/Kozo paper, unique state, image size 48 x 42 cm, paper size 98 x 65.5 cm, framed
<i>The Milky Way Nebulae 2</i> , 2020, multi-block woodcut, mica, on Shinano/Kozo paper, unique state, image size 48 x 42 cm, paper size 98 x 65.5 cm, framed
<b>We are all the Universe</b>
<i>We are all the Universe</i> , 1994, multi-block woodcut, edition 3/5, 61 x 61 cm, framed
<i>The Endless Sky</i> , 1998, multi-block woodcut, edition 2/4 88 x 66 cm, framed
<i>The Golden Darkness</i> , 1996, multi-block woodcut, edition 3/3 88 x 66 cm, framed
<i>Galaxies</i> , 1998, multi-block woodcut, unique state 88 x 66 cm, framed
<i>We are all Fractals and Galaxies</i> , 1998, multi-block woodcut, unique state 88 x 66 cm, framed
<i>Journeys of the Sea and Sky</i> , 2004, woodcut, 12 panels, unique state 94 x 117 cm, framed
<b>Wood engraving</b>
<i>Into the Sky</i> , 2018, wood engraving on Arches 88 paper, edition 1/12 image size, 16 x 12 cm, paper size 24 x 18 cm, framed
<i>River in the Sky</i> , 2019, wood engraving on Arches 88 paper, edition 2/10 image size, 16 x 12 cm, paper size 24 x 18 cm, framed
<i>Birds in Space</i> , 2020, wood engraving on Arches 88 paper, edition 2/10 image size, 16 x 12 cm, paper size 24 x 18 cm, framed
<i>Aurora Australis</i> , 2020, wood engraving on Arches 88 paper, edition 1/8 image size, 16 x 12 cm, paper size 24 x 18 cm, framed
<i>The Music of Light</i> , 2019, wood engraving on Arches 88 paper, edition 1/10 image size, 16 x 12 cm, paper size 24 x 18 cm, framed
<i>Cosmos</i> , 2015, wood engraving on Arches 88 paper, edition 9/10 image size, 16 x 12 cm, paper size 24 x 18 cm, edition 1/10, framed
<i>Space Studio</i> , 2020, wood engraving on Arches 88 paper, edition 1/8 image size, 16 x 12 cm, paper size 24 x 18 cm, framed
<b>Space Poems</b> , 2020

# RUTH BURGESS

Ruth Burgess is an established Sydney printmaker who identifies three key factors as instrumental in her path as an artist. Her explorations in the art of woodcut, her nine visits to China where she developed a method of hand printed woodcuts inspired by the Japanese post war creative printmakers using Japanese papers, and her love of the Australian forest. In the 1950s she studied painting with Desiderius Orban, graduated from Sydney University in Arts/Music, and continued her study of musical composition at the Paris Conservatoire. In the mid 1970s Burgess studied woodcut medium for three years at Workshop Arts Centre, Willoughby and in 1979 established her own printmaking studio.

In 1988 Burgess was sent to China by the Print Council of Australia and the Department of Foreign Affairs to a woodcut symposium in Heilongjiang, North East China. She met woodcut artists, art historians, teachers and printmakers from all over China and these contacts enabled the purchase of significant works for major Australian art galleries as well as seed plans for her future travels and exhibitions. During these travels in China she worked with the Woodcut Association of eight different provinces organising exchanges with Australia and interacting with the woodcut artists. Her prints are based on a spiritual rather than pictorial approach which evolved from her experience of the Chinese approach to landscape.

From 1984 to 1995 Burgess worked consistently in Australia and overseas. From 1984-93 she taught woodcut printmaking at the Workshop Arts Centre, Willoughby; in 1987 worked at Studio Camnitzer, Lucca, and Studio Reparata, Florence, Italy; received three separate Australia China Council Grants to China; was the Artist in Residence at several Fine Arts Academies in China and was a guest lecturer for the Art Gallery of NSW, Macquarie University and the Works on Paper Fair.

As an advocate for printmaking, Burgess has contributed to symposiums, exhibitions and print exchanges and maintained a steady exhibition program of her work. For *The Music of the Planets* Ruth Burgess states:

*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.*

## **Solo exhibitions** (selected)

- 2021 Grace Cossington Smith Gallery *The Music of the Planets*
- 2013 Mosman Regional Gallery *From the Forest*
- 2002 James Harvey Gallery *Meditations in the Forest*
- 1997 Burnie Regional Gallery, Tasmania *Paths Through the Forest*
- 1995 Fire Station Gallery, Sydney *Earth Mirrors and Sky Dancers*
- 1993 Blaxland Gallery, Sydney *Light in the Forest*
- 1993 Australia Week, Beijing, China, Central Art Academy; Sichuan Academy of Fine Art, China
- 1993 Guizhou Artist Association, China; Yunnan Academy of Arts, China
- 1991 Zhejiang Academy of Fine Arts, China; Tianjin Academy of Fine Arts, China; Shanghai Institute of Drama
- 1990 Zhejiang Academy of Fine Arts, China; Hangu Print Workshop, China
- 1989 Painters Gallery, Sydney *Birds and Dragons*
- 1987 Gates Gallery, Sydney
- 1980 Workshop Arts Centre, Sydney

## **International Group Exhibitions**

- 2007 Xylon, 14, France (touring exhibition)
- 1999 Sydney Printmakers Exchange Exhibition, Chile
- 1996 Kunst-Rai Print Fair, Amsterdam
- 1995 Guizhou Province Print Association, China
- 1987 Intergrafik, Berlin
- 1986 Biennale, Seoul, Korea
- 1984 Xylon, Switzerland (touring exhib.)
- 1984 Intergrafik, Berlin
- 1984 Bois Pluriel, Evry, France

*Australia China Council Grants to China 1988, 1991, 1993*

## **Australia Group Exhibitions** (selected)

- 2020 Gallery Lane Cove, Sydney Printmakers *In the Shade*
- 2020 Gallery Lane Cove online, Sydney Printmakers *Solidarity in Solitude*
- 2019 Artspace on the Concord, Sydney Printmakers *A Poetry of Ideas in Print*
- 2018 Umbrella Studios Townsville Qld, Sydney Printmakers *In the Shade*

2017	Grace Cossington Smith Gallery, <i>Moment of Light</i>
2016	Art Vault Mildura Vic, Sydney Printmakers
2014	Grace Cossington Smith Gallery, Print Council of Australia <i>New and Old Territories</i>
2012	Maitland, Cowra, Grafton Regional Galleries, Sydney Printmakers
2007	Impressions on Paper Gallery, Canberra
2006	S.H. Irvin Gallery, Sydney <i>Sydney Prints</i>
2005	Collaboration Sydney Printmakers
2004	Contemporary Australian Prints from the Collection, Art Gallery of NSW
2003	Mosman Regional Gallery
1980/2003	Von Bertouch Galleries, Newcastle
2002/1999	UTS Gallery
1995/2001	Sydney Works on Paper Fair
2000	Hazelhurst Gallery
1998	Survey of Prints from the Collection, Art Gallery of NSW; Akky von Ogtrop, Fine Arts Book Plates and Artists' Books; Artists' Book Fair, Brisbane
1998/92/89	Contemporary Australian Art Fair, Melbourne
1997	Hermann Black Gallery, Sydney
1996	Rex Irwin Gallery; Burnie Regional Gallery
1983/94	Blaxland Gallery
1993	Australian Print Workshop, Melbourne
1988	Contemporary Australian Woodcuts and Wood Engravings, Print Council of Australia Gallery, Melbourne (Curator and exhibitor)

## Collection

Artbank	Mosman Art Gallery	Wollongong University collection
Art Gallery of New South Wales	Print Council of Australia	Australian Embassy, Beijing China
Australian National Gallery	Queensland Art Gallery	Hongfu Temple, Guizhou
Australian Print Workshops	Queen Victoria Gallery, Launceston, Tasmania	Central Art Academy, Beijing, China
Burnie Regional Gallery, Tasmania	State Library of New South Wales	Jiangsu Divineland Woodcut Museum, Sichuan Province, China
Delmar Collection	State Parliament of New South Wales	Zhejiang Academy of Fine Arts, China
Grace Cossington Smith Gallery collection	Sydney University Collection	Tianjin Academy of Fine Arts, China
IBM Collection	UTS Sydney Collection	Private collections Australia and overseas

## Bibliography

2021	<i>Imprint</i> Autumn vol.56 no.1
2017	<i>Multiples</i> Journal of the Society of Wood Engravers No.36
2015	<i>Imprint</i> Autumn issue vol.50 no.1
2014	<i>Printmaking Today</i> (UK) Spring issue vol.23 no.1
2013 – 2010	<i>Imprint</i> Winter issue vol.48 no.2; <i>Imprint</i> Winter issue vol.46 no.2; <i>Imprint</i> Spring issue vol.45 no. 3
2010	<i>Imprint</i> Spring 2010 issue
2004	'Contemporary Australian Prints from the Collection' Art Gallery of NSW catalogue
2002	<i>An Engraver's Globe</i> ed. Simon Brett, Primrose Hill Press; <i>Imprint</i> Autumn issue vol.37 no. 1
2001	'Relief Printmaking', ed. Ann Westley (A & C Black Limited, London)
1998	'Prints from the Collection of the Art Gallery of NSW', catalogue
1997	'Multiples', U.K. Wood Engravers' publication, Vol 3, No. 7, 1997; 'Australian Printmaking of the 1990's', Sasha Grishin
1996	'The Peoples' Progress', 20th Century Chinese Woodcuts, Art Gallery of NSW
1995	<i>Imprint</i> , March issue
1994	'Encyclopedia of Australian Art' A & S McCulloch, Allen and Unwin, 1994; 'Chinese Printmaking (No. 3)' Beijing
1993	<i>T.A.A.S.A. Quarterly</i> (August issue); <i>Imprint</i> , Summer edition, Vol 28 no. 4; <i>Oz Arts</i> (May issue)
1992	'New Art 7'; <i>Imprint</i> (June issue); <i>Craft Arts International</i> (June issue)
1991	'Australian Women Artists'
1990	<i>Imprint</i> vol 25 no. 2 (March); <i>Tianjin Quarterly</i> ; <i>Craft Arts International</i> (July); <i>Australian Artist</i> (May)
1989	'Directory of Australian Printmakers', Lillian Wood
1984/89	'Artists and Galleries of Australia and New Zealand', Max Germaine
1988	<i>Imprint</i> , vol 23, no. 4 (December issue)