

Solar Print Etching Workshop

capricornia printmakers.



Eco friendly solar plate etching workshop using your own photographs and/or your drawn images. Learn the solar plate process from making the etched plate though to producing a beautiful finished print, exploring layering and inking techniques.

You supply the images, we print your transparencies and all other materials supplied. Further details of what to bring will be sent on completion of booking.

What actually is solar plate etching?

It is a piece of original artwork, which can be a photograph, drawing, collage, etc, that is reproduced onto transparent or translucent film or paper, then exposed onto a light-sensitive plate.

The UV sensitive emulsion (polymer) on the plate hardens where it receives exposure to UV light (lighter areas), and will resist water in the etching process, and where the UV light is blocked or partially blocked (darker areas) these will stay soft and will be washed away in the development and will become the etched recesses which will hold the ink.

So basically a Solarplate is a UV light-sensitive polymer on a steel backing, which is developed and etched with water.

The developed plate will then be inked, wiped and prints made by use of an etching press. Each plate can be used to produce one-off images or an edition of similar images. And each will produce a plate mark (indentation mark of the plate), which is characteristic of an intaglio print.

Tutors

Sally North has experience with making photogravure/solar plate etchings for the last three years, learning from master Photogravure artist Silvi Glattauer from Baldessin Press in Victoria, and also Diane Longley from Agave Studio in Victoria. Attending subsequent workshops with Trudy Rice and Kristen Flynn, Sally has researched different approaches to making solar plates, and has applied these techniques to achieve her two works being accepted as finalists for this year's Bayton Award.

Her photogravure work 'Primal', exhibited with Capricornia Printmakers Rockhampton Museum of Art Collection Focus exhibition, was acquired by RMOA to go into their collection.

Sally has exhibited numerous times at Fig Tree Galleries at Yeppoon, and with upcoming 2026 exhibitions at Miles Dogwood Gallery and Cunnamulla Art Gallery.

Kate Lacy has been making solar plates for the last few years, learning from Sally and Trudy Rice and Kristen Flynn. Kate has produced beautiful images of her specialized bird photography and has previously exhibited her work at Fig Tree Galleries in Yeppoon, and with upcoming 2026 exhibitions at Miles Dogwood Gallery and Cunnamulla Art Gallery.