

EXHIBITIONS Christine Willcocks *Souvenir* 14th April 2015 - 2nd May 2015

Christine Willcocks was the 2014 recipient of the highly sought after Studio Residency at the Paris Cite, facilitated by the Australia Council. 'Souvenir' is inspired by her travels. Willcocks is represented in numerous major Australian collections, such as Artbank, Print Council of Australia, and Queensland State Library. She has been acquired by The Fremantle Print Award (2007) and The Jacaranda Acquisitive Drawing Award (2000 & 2014) as well as being a finalist in the Wilson Visual Art Award (2012) The Waterhouse Natural History Art Prize (2008, Highly Commended) and The Conrad Jupiters Art Prize (2006). In 2014, Christine Willcocks' poignant graphite on paper artwork 'Fit for Duty' which is based on her own Grandfather was acquired by JADA, Grafton Regional Gallery.

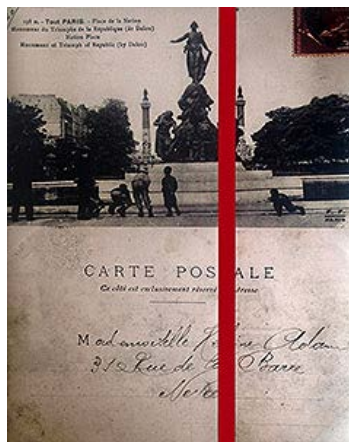


Souvenir - from verb to noun.

Have you ever wondered why a fleeting memory sometimes springs to mind without any overt connection to a given moment? It's as if, underneath all the comings and goings of the unfolding 'here and now', the mind, that mysterious network of neural pathways, sees fit to establish an unconscious thread between past and present. What at first might seem like a series of unrelated thoughts, mental images or narratives converge, flooding the self with a very real and empathetic link to some other time or place.



During her recent residency at the Cité Internationale des Arts in Paris, artist Christine Willcocks found herself navigating the effects of such cognition, and wondering



Christine Willcocks
The A Line to Vincennes 2015
acrylic on transparency film
110cm x 84cm



Christine Willcocks
The Number 1 Line to Chateau de Vincennes 2015
acrylic on transparency film
110cm x 84cm

at our innate desire to preserve our memories within a physical keepsake. Captivated by the landscape of that beautiful city, with its changing seasons and rich history, the results of Willcocks' Paris studio practice is a body of work that seeks to examine feelings of being-in-the-world, moments of historical or personal significance and the transformative act of art making itself as a process of inference and association.



The cultural and emotional consequences of spending time in an unfamiliar city, of actively engaging with new places, is an opening out of one's awareness – of both self and place. Capable of sparking complex feelings of longing, possibility and reflection, these intangible encounters both transform and inspire. The tourist returns home with a souvenir to stand in for their personal journey. A family keeps a shoebox of a loved one's letters.



Through the use of archival photographs, old postcards collected from flea markets, leaves picked up on a quiet walk, and other little trinkets collected along the way, this series draws attention to the way we recount and mediate our understanding of the world. Memories and recollections build upon one another, allowing an active retelling of our experiences.

Framed within the poetic quality of solar plate photographic etching, a process that creates a textural distortion and distance from the original image, Willcocks has sought to establish new connections between an impenetrable past and a deliberate desire to remember. Appropriated images from the Australian War Memorial Archives, reminiscent of her grandfather's time as an ANZAC soldier, sit inside the silhouettes of fallen leaves gathered from the Cimetière Du Père Lachaise. The resulting works represent a convergence of personal history and sensitive memento.



Willcocks' visual transformations reflect a natural desire for retrospection, a need to find meaning and connections through the mental reconstruction of past



Christine Willcocks
Fragments 2015
drypoint etching on layered Kozo
95cm x 55cm , (103 x 68cm framed)



Christine Willcocks
Lady of the Ginkgo 2015
ink on found engraving
28cm x 16cm , (52 x 42cm framed)



Christine Willcocks
Memory Sticks I 2014
drypoint etching on old pharmacie bag
27cm x 17cm , (52 x 42cm framed)



Christine Willcocks
Memory Sticks II 2015
drypoint etching on old pharmacie bag
27cm x 17cm , (52 x 42cm framed)

experiences. Being open to the potentiality of antecedent narratives, ultimately her practice serves to create a series of physical, tangible souvenirs of a lived experience.

Essay by Phe Luxford
2015.

[CHRISTINE WILLCOCKS PROFILE](#)
[DOWNLOAD BIO / CV \(PDF\)](#)

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Christine Willcocks
Memory Sticks III 2014
drypoint etching on old pharmacie bag
27cm x 17cm , (52 x 42cm framed)



Christine Willcocks
Memory Sticks IV 2014
drypoint etching on old pharmacie bag
27cm x 17cm , (52 x 42cm framed)



Christine Willcocks
Memory Sticks V 2014
drypoint etching on old pharmacie bag
27cm x 17cm , (52 x 42cm framed)



Christine Willcocks
English Subtitles 2014
found postcard, ink, acrylic and graphite
26cm x 14cm , (52 x 42cm framed)



Christine Willcocks
Inondations de Paris 2014
found postcard, ink, acrylic and graphite
26cm x 14cm , (52 x 42cm framed)



Christine Willcocks
Lost Memories 2014
found postcard, ink, acrylic and graphite
26cm x 14cm , (52 x 42cm framed)



Christine Willcocks
Station des Tramways 2014
found postcard, ink, acrylic and graphite
26cm x 14cm , (52 x 42cm framed)



Christine Willcocks
The Yellow Line 2014
found postcard, ink, acrylic and graphite
26cm x 14cm , (52 x 42cm framed)



Christine Willcocks
The Fallen - Ginkgo Biloba 2014
etching with stencil
10cm x 15cm , (27.5 x 31cm framed)



Christine Willcocks
The Fallen - Norway Maple 2014
etching with stencil
10cm x 15cm , (27.5 x 31cm framed)



Christine Willcocks
The Fallen - Norway Maple II 2014
etching with stencil
10cm x 15cm , (27.5 x 31cm framed)



Christine Willcocks
The Fallen - Turkey Oak 2014
etching with stencil
10cm x 15cm , (27.5 x 31cm framed)



Christine Willcocks
The Fallen - White Poplar 2015
etching with stencil
10cm x 15cm , (27.5 x 31cm framed)



Christine Willcocks
We Will Remember I - 11 2014
drypoint etching on old pharmacie bags with souvenir keyring
11cm x 7cm , (paper size, key ring included) Priced individually