



Stars in the river: the prints of Jessie Traill
A National Gallery of Australia exhibition
The Temporary Exhibitions Gallery

Friday 19 June – Sunday 2 August

This exhibition celebrates the artistic career of one of Australia's most important printmakers of the twentieth century, Jessie Traill. Embracing the medium of etching in the early 1900s, Traill forged a radical path for printmaking in Australia through the duality of her vision. Depicting the beauty of the natural environment alongside dynamic images of industry, her lyrical responses show a profound understanding of the dilemma that requires nature to be sacrificed in order for the modern world to progress.

From early views of Victorian rural scenes, portrayals of Melbourne, the 'Paris of the South', through to her major series documenting the construction of the Sydney Harbour Bridge, the prints of Jessie Traill combine her poetic sensitivity with an unerring eye for line and form. Traill's prints are recognised as vital to the evolution of post-war Modernism, with her unique visual expression finding an ideal medium in the etching plate.

Drawn entirely from the National Gallery of Australia's outstanding collection, *Stars in the river: the prints of Jessie Traill* examines the various facets of Traill's printed oeuvre, and confirms her position as a key figure in the history of Australian printmaking.



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This project has been assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body. The National Gallery of Australia is an Australian Government Agency.

Jessie Traill

From overseas (detail) 1913

etching and aquatint, printed in sepia ink, with plate-tone and wiped highlights, from one plate
plate-mark 30.2 x 48.6cm

sheet 44.0 x 56.2cm

National Gallery of Australia, Canberra

Purchased 2007

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