



Ulrike Sturm

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Ulrike teaches a variety of printmaking classes from her studio based in Noosa. Currently in Germany, Ulrike gives some great advice to illustrators looking to explore new techniques in printmaking, and a peek at her work.

Outline: You teach many different printmaking techniques, such as wood engraving, solar plate etching and linocutting. We'd love to learn more about your Edition 9 workshops - and whether you have a favourite process or enjoy many different types of print making?

Ulrike: My studio is not large, so I generally only have four or five students per workshop. Even though I really like the friendly camaraderie of these small classes, I'm currently having discussions with Central Queensland University, Noosa campus and look forward to holding workshops on campus where we'll have space for larger groups.

The students I've taught at my workshop over the years have ranged from complete beginners to experienced artists who just want a place to work and connect with other artists. My primary focus for the workshops is to provide a friendly environment where people can explore their visual ideas, and learn new printmaking skills and techniques.

Rather than having fixed lesson plans, I prefer to be responsive to students' needs and diverse range of skill levels.

It is difficult for me to choose a favourite printmaking technique, as I love them all. But the ones that I've found to work best in a smaller studio space are linocutting, solar plate etching and drypoint etching. A very major consideration for me is also that I endeavour to keep the studio as "non-toxic" as possible. No turps, no acids, etc.

I've also made artist books with students, and I've created a number of handmade children's picture books on my own.

Outline: It would be wonderful to learn of your own educational history, as well as your recent studies for your PhD.

Ulrike: I began my formal art training at Sydney College of the Arts, where I did my BVA and an MFA, both with a printmaking focus. For my PhD which I'm currently doing





I'm currently still in Germany and having an amazingly interesting time. Yesterday I was at a gallery in Munich where I saw works by Rembrandt, Titian, Bellotto and many more. This was an exhibition of works on loan from the Dresden Picture Gallery and it was just breathtaking. During the past week, I've also been to fabulous the Franz March Museum by Lake Kochel and to the Buchheim Museum in Bernried.

Outline: What do you love about printmaking?

Ulrike: There are a few things that I really love about printmaking. One is that it is about the production of multiples, yet each one is an original. There's something so nice about this. At the conclusion of most of the workshops I teach, we do a print exchange so that each student takes home a suite of prints; one by each other student in the group.

Another thing that appeals to me about printmaking is what I call the intervention of the process. When I make a drawing and convert it to, say, a linocut, something occurs in the translation process. Especially when I'm working on a black and white image, the lines on the linocut become more graphic. It may have something to do with my love of Expressionism. Also, because everything on the linocut or etching plate is a mirror image of what will appear on the print, you have to really concentrate on what you are doing. I like the way this totally absorbs me.

Outline: How does printmaking fit into your illustration practice?

Ulrike: I love to draw and also paint with watercolours, but for my illustration practice, I have decided to focus on linocuts as I believe that this is a point of difference for me. Everything I do is handmade, based on my own original sketches from life or from photographs I have taken.

Outline: Could you tell us about your life in Noosa? Do you find inspiration in your beautiful surroundings, and how long have you lived there?

Ulrike: I've lived in Noosa for three years now and I love it here. Previously I lived in Sydney and there are certain things about living in a big city that I miss, but all in all, the relaxed atmosphere, the lack of traffic jams and the short walk from my house to the beach are things that I love about Noosa.

Because Noosa is a popular tourist destination, it is a somewhat unique regional town because there are a lot of wonderful restaurants and cafes and it has a very active cultural life. For example, each year we have what is called the 'Noosa Long Weekend' which is a 10 day festival of theatre, music, dance and discussion forums at a number of venues in Noosa. The Noosa Food and Wine Festival is also a 'must'. Through the university, I also meet lots of interesting people and I'm an active member of the Friends

at Central Queensland University (Noosa campus), I'm researching Papua New Guinean art. This is of particular interest to me as I spent a few years during my childhood living in the highlands of Papua New Guinea where my parents worked at the Teachers College. In fact, this research has taken me to Germany where I've recently presented a paper at a conference in Berlin, and where I researched some fascinating archives at the University of Bayreuth in Bavaria.



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of the Noosa Regional Gallery.

Most of all, the weather! I love the weather in Noosa. Not too hot, not too cold. I write this whilst I'm freezing in Germany so I'm really missing the Noosa summer. :-)

Outline: Do you have any resources people hoping to learn more about printmaking you can recommend?

Ulrike: With most printmaking techniques, you really need guidance to begin with, and I would recommend attending workshops such as mine!

In Canberra, I can recommend Megalo. Lovely people and a great studio (<http://www.megalo.org>); Impress Printmakers (<http://www.impress.org.au>) in Brisbane; Warringah Printmakers (<http://www.printstudio.org.au>) in the northern suburbs of Sydney; and the Australian Print Workshop (<http://www.australianprintworkshop.com>) in Melbourne all run regular workshops. These are just a few that spring to mind. Of course there are many more. Many of these print workshops also offer studio access to do your own work, once you've completed some basic training.

Outline: We'd love to hear about your upcoming workshops and future plans for 2015.

Ulrike: I've already got my first workshops for 2015 posted on the Edition 9 website (<http://www.edition9.com/workshops.html>). As I mentioned earlier, I've also got plans in the pipeline to offer workshops through Central Queensland University at Noosa. Once this gets going, I'll have information about it on the Edition 9 website.

Other than that, I'll be working hard on my PhD and hopefully getting lots of illustration assignments through Illustrators Australia. I also have been invited to have a solo

exhibition of my work at the Noosa Regional Gallery from May to June 2015.

Thank you so much for talking to me, and can I say what a wonderful organisation I think Illustrators Australia. Even though being outside the capital cities is often a disadvantage when it comes to attending events, it's really great to have the opportunity to participate in Illustrators Australia programs such as the Red Bubble T-shirt or the 9x5 exhibition and so on. Distance doesn't need to be an obstacle! ●

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