

THE ETCHING STUDIO

~ a newsletter from printmaker Jay Linden ~

featuring: **New Work, Etching Workshops and The Creative Process**

HOT OFF THE PRESS

After returning from a holiday in Bali to a cold New Zealand winter full of drab greys and browns I felt such a hunger for the vibrant colours and complex patterns that had so nourished me in Bali it was almost a grief. So I decided to follow a long time love of mine and create a series of quirky bird characters using some of the aesthetic values from traditional balinese painting.



The Lone Rooster



The Invincible Forest

It seemed impossible, however, to explore a bird theme without including caged birds, which were also a common sight in Bali. Archetypally, birds represent both spirit and soul. I am always amazed when a caged bird still sings - a testament to the indomitable spirit and shining soul life that we see in such people as Mandela and Aung sun Sung and others, who speak of peace, justice and tolerance whilst yet imprisoned.

Currently, this series is on show at The Suter until November 5th after which it will be at The Cool Store Gallery in Mapua, or you can view the entire series at: www.jaylinden.co.nz/series9.html

Etching Workshops

An exciting development this year has been the extension of my studio, giving me twice as much space to play with, and allowing me to teach weekend etching workshops.

As you can see from the etchings pictured here students who have never done any printmaking before are creating gorgeous images.

To reach this point the students have spent an intense weekend learning all the many processes that are involved in the creation of an etching.

It is lots of fun, and though challenging, is immensely satisfying. Etching particularly suits those who enjoy design and drawing and who are not afraid to experiment and take some risks.

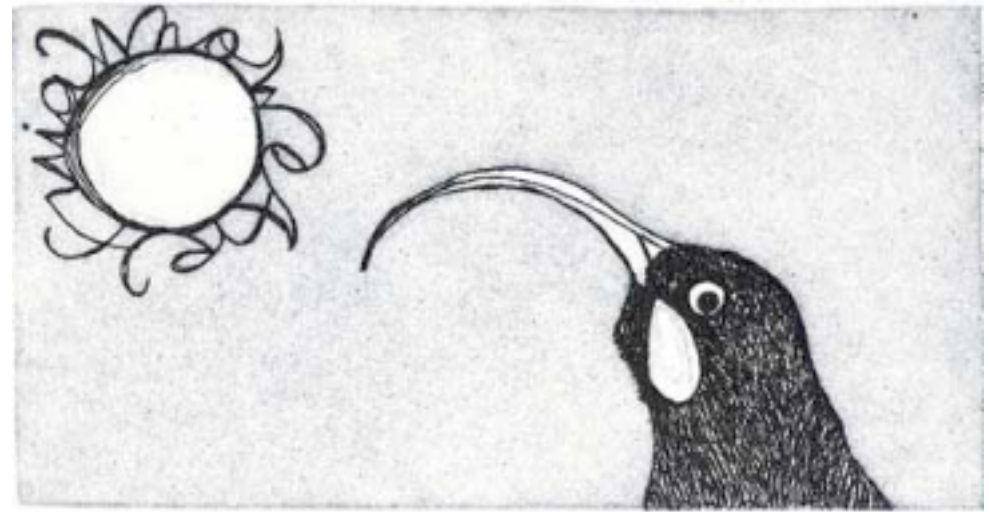
Creatively there are so many possibilities. Even after etching full time for eleven years I am still exploring and discovering and the magic only seems to increase.



Weeds by Sarah Keogh

"Going to Jay's etching course in her studio at the bottom of her garden was like walking into a creative playground. Her gentle and encouraging teaching has opened up a whole new language for me to express myself with. Thanks, Jay! When's the next course?"

Sarah Keogh



Huia - who we are by Tania Norfolk

There are still a couple of places left on the 5th/6th Dec workshop - check my website for details of the course and to contact me.

www.jaylinden.co.nz/workshops.html

Remember if you have a group of three or four we can arrange times to suit - during the week as well as on a weekend.



The new etching studio

The Creative Process

"The inner command is to allow oneself to fall into one's own essence."—Julius Bissier

As artists we wrestle not only with learning the skills and techniques of our chosen medium, but also with the unseen and mysterious inner world from which all creative inspiration emerges.

There is really no need to wrestle of course, as Pollock and so many great artists have said, all we really have to do is stand out of the way and let the life of the artwork come through us.

Any struggle is caused by our own fears and doubts and the wrestle is between surrendering to divine inspiration and attempting to maintain some control of the creative process and the end result.

Ironically, the more we try to control, the less alive the work becomes: a dead butterfly pinned to a card in a museum rather than one dancing amongst flowers. The more we surrender, the more the artwork has a life of its own, takes us in surprising and unexpected directions and delights us with a glowing quality.

What does an artist need to reach this point of surrender?



Songbird

Trust! Patience! Courage! The ability to quieten the mind and let the heart lead the way. To follow our delight and let go of what other people may or may not think of the art we produce. To trust the moment by moment impulses and directions of the heart without knowing where they will lead. To trust that the hands can find solutions that the mind cannot.

This is the artist's journey and it can at times be a slow and stumbling one. The reality rarely matches the vision, the unknown way seems dark and scary, full of wolves and monsters and traps. The known seems temptingly easy, except...

Except the known is predictable, flat and ultimately unsatisfying. It is the unknown, the mysterious, the small winding path off to one side that makes the heart beat faster and leads to hidden treasure.



A Leap of Faith

"The most beautiful thing we can experience is the mysterious. It is the source of all true art and all sciences." - Albert Einstein