

# Mountford



Elizabeth McCaig  
*Gentle Jetty*  
Cyanotype on cotton paper



## Elizabeth McCaig

Born Adelaide 1962

Elizabeth studied creative dance and classical guitar and was introduced to art galleries, museums, live concerts and festivals from a very young age.

Participation in all things creative was enthusiastically encouraged and she developed a fascination for history, people and places, research and restoration.

Elizabeth married a Western Australian RAAF airman in 1980 at the tender age of 18 and was the mother of two boys by the age of 21.

Posted to Perth in 1986, her family has settled and grown up in Western Australia and she now has three grandchildren.

Her initial interest in photography was for documenting phases of life, stages of development and moments in time.

A strong desire to explore traditional methods using old cameras, black and white film and some alternative techniques where each piece has a story to tell led to more formal photographic studies.

Elizabeth completed short courses in framing, matting and presentation, black and white film, colour and design in preparation for a further 3 year full time advanced diploma of photography course at Central TAFE WA.

During her study at TAFE she was awarded 'student of the year' two years in a row.

Armed with the knowledge, ability and confidence to produce complete and unique hand made pieces, Elizabeth has participated in a number of group exhibitions and her first solo exhibition "Out of the Blue" at The Rottneest Lodge during the FotoFreo Fringe Festival 2010.

Elizabeth's art works have a distinctive 'hand made' element. Combining the use of hand brushed photosensitive chemicals on cotton rag papers and natural fabrics with images captured on circa 1958 - 1968 medium format cameras, scanned, enlarged and exposed in sunlight. No two pieces are ever the same.

As a regular South West visitor, Elizabeth finds herself drawn to the magic of the forest with the lifeline of fascinating waterways and the ongoing cycles of birth and death, growth and decay.

For further information please contact

Rae Starr  
Mountford Wines  
Gallery Manager and Curator  
rae@mountfordwines.com.au



Elizabeth McCaig  
*Marbled Pool*  
Cyanotype on calico

## CYANOTYPE

Invented by the astronomer Sir John Herschel circa 1842, the cyanotype was used as a method of reproducing prints hence the term 'Blueprint'.

A two part sensitising solution made up of dilute solutions of Ferric Ammonium Citrate (Green) and Potassium Ferricyanide are painted on to watercolour paper or fabric and allowed to dry in subdued light at night or in a darkroom.

When the sensitised paper or fabric is dry, it is then sandwiched under glass with a contact negative and exposed to the sun.

There are so many variables in this process that no two images are ever the same.

First the hand brushed strokes are different for every piece. The time of day and strength of the UV light can vary and if the sun goes behind a cloud, the contrast of the image will be reduced.

I have chosen to experiment with a range of textured cotton papers and natural fibre fabrics to compliment the hand made process.

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This is my meditation, my time out, my relaxation.

Enjoy.

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