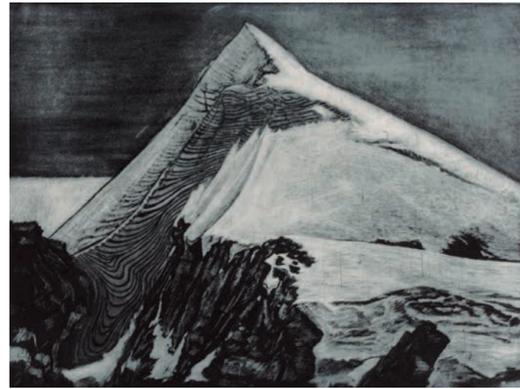




One point perspective 2009 intaglio print edition 20 44.5 x 59 cm



Melchior Island Jan 31 2009 intaglio print edition 20 44.5 x 59 cm



A concentrated view 2009 lithograph edition 10 36 x 51.5 cm



The dead Petrel - Grytvikin 2009 intaglio print edition 20 29.5 x 35 cm



Iceberg 2009 intaglio print edition 20 29.5 x 35 cm

GEOFFREY RICARDO



Latitude and Longitude 2009 oil on canvas 214 x 153 cm

Design: Stephanie Hall, Australian Galleries Publishing Photography: Geoffrey Ricardo Catalogue published by Australian Galleries and Geoffrey Ricardo, September 2009
Front cover: Anno Domino 2009 copper and stainless steel, patinated and painted 210 x 440 x 110 cm

AUSTRALIAN GALLERIES

MELBOURNE
DERBY STREET
35 Derby Street [PO Box 1183]
Collingwood VIC 3066
T +61 [0]3 9417 4303
F +61 [0]3 9419 7769

SMITH STREET
50 Smith Street [PO Box 1183]
Collingwood VIC 3066
T +61 [0]3 9417 0800
F +61 [0]3 9417 0699

ARCHIVE ~ PUBLICATION
Basement 50 Smith Street [PO Box 1183]
Collingwood VIC 3066
T +61 [0]3 8415 1524
F +61 [0]3 8415 1526

SYDNEY
ROYLSTON STREET
15 Royston Street [PO Box 282]
Paddington NSW 2021
T +61 [0]2 9360 5177
F +61 [0]2 9360 2361

GLENMORE ROAD
24 Glenmore Road [PO Box 282]
Paddington NSW 2021
T +61 [0]2 9380 8744
F +61 [0]2 9380 8755

enquiries@australiangalleries.com.au www.australiangalleries.com.au Member of ACGA Incorporated

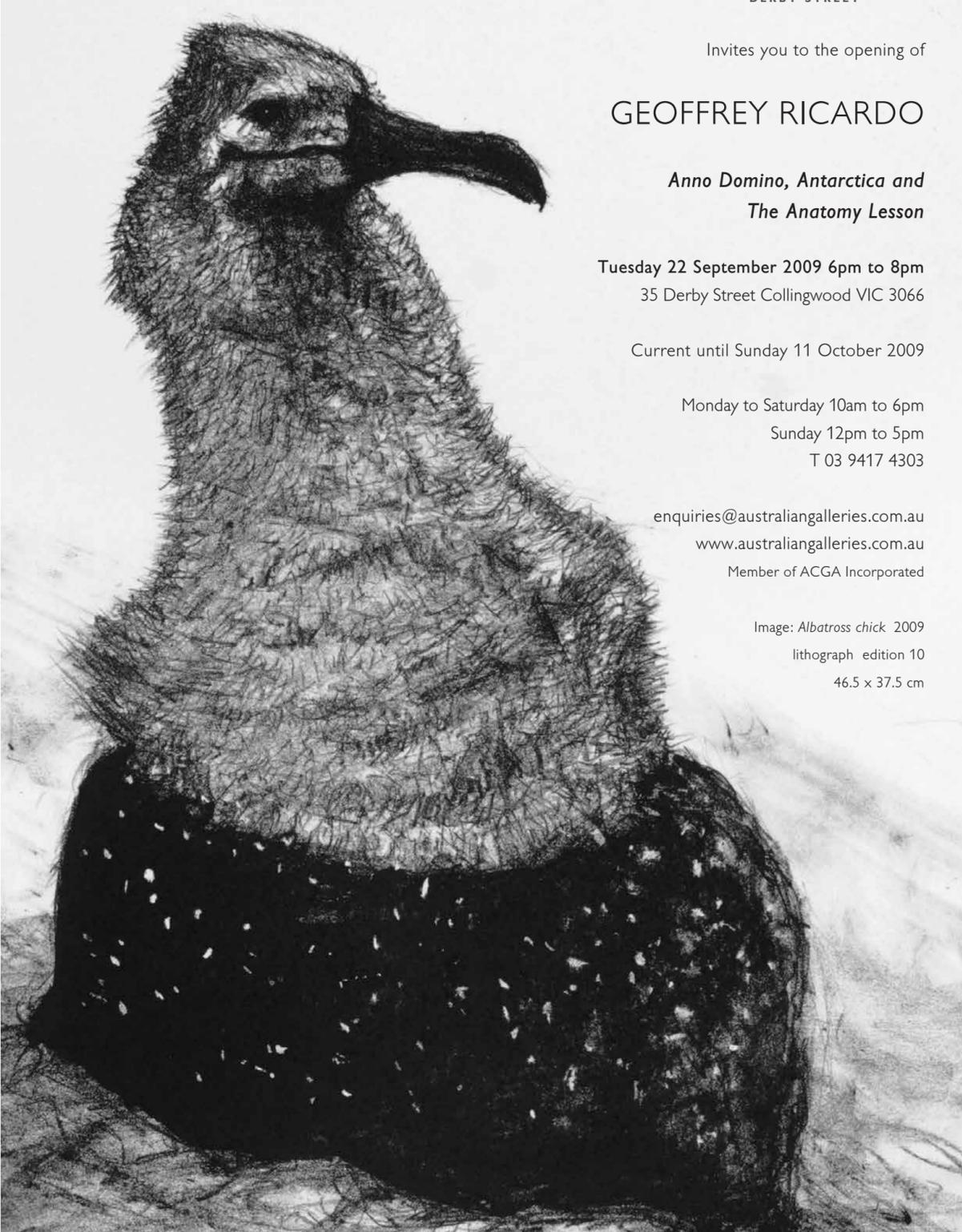
Geoffrey Ricardo

Anno Domino, Antarctica and
The Anatomy Lesson

22 September – 11 October 2009



AUSTRALIAN GALLERIES
DERBY STREET



AUSTRALIAN GALLERIES
DERBY STREET

Invites you to the opening of

GEOFFREY RICARDO

*Anno Domino, Antarctica and
The Anatomy Lesson*

Tuesday 22 September 2009 6pm to 8pm
35 Derby Street Collingwood VIC 3066

Current until Sunday 11 October 2009

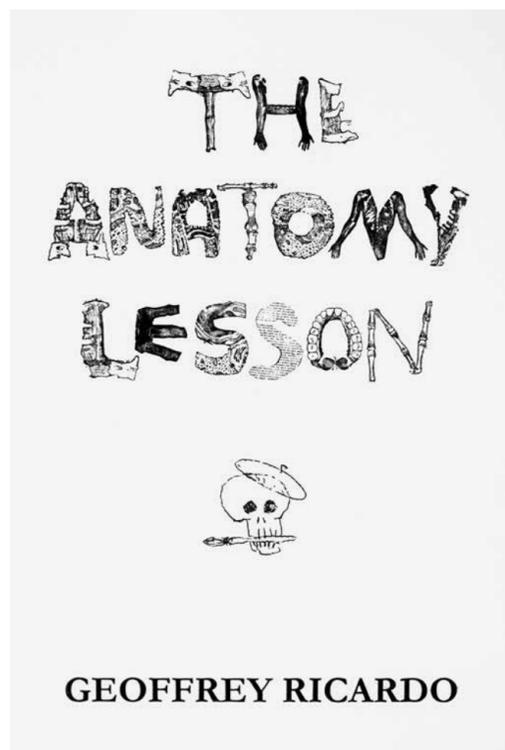
Monday to Saturday 10am to 6pm
Sunday 12pm to 5pm
T 03 9417 4303

enquiries@australiangalleries.com.au
www.australiangalleries.com.au
Member of ACGA Incorporated

Image: *Albatross chick* 2009
lithograph edition 10
46.5 x 37.5 cm

GEOFFREY RICARDO

Anno Domino, Antarctica and The Anatomy Lesson



The Anatomy Lesson title page 2008 relief print artist book edition 10 43 x 33 cm



The Organist's Fugue 2008 intaglio edition 20 24.5 x 19 cm

Ricardo's anatomy

An artist's book is like a body – a rare, limited edition one-off that is often bound carefully, even extravagantly, in some sort of skin (ostrich, cow or kangaroo dyed cherry, brown or black). Like a loved one's body, an artist's book has to be handled with care and reverence. An artist's book needs to be placed on a pillow so it is nice and comfortable and well supported. The book's skin is sensitive, as quick to bruise as a camellia, so we need to wear white gloves when we touch it. When we open an artist's book, we can see the underside of the skin. We enter a semi-secret place. Like an anatomist or a surgeon, we can then shift, slice, diagnose and dissect. Our eyes make the artist's work live. Philosopher Jean-Luc Nancy says: "Even touching books communicates to the reader particular impressions: the weight, grain or suppleness through which one thinks one can discern the inflections of a voice or else the fluctuations of a heart."¹

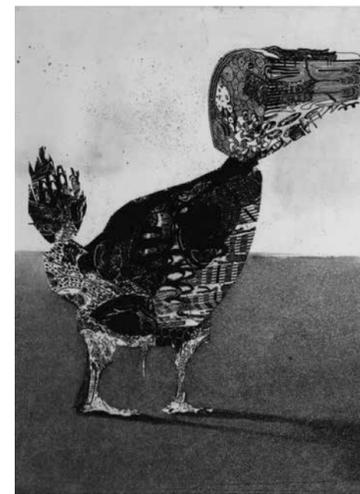
I had never heard of artist's books until I met Geoffrey Ricardo but I now know they are a fascinating anomaly, a counter-trend to the "digitised, immaterialised and virtualised" reality of twenty-first century book publishing, against the e-book and the airport novel, against poor stock and shonky editing, against books as mass-produced containers for mass-produced content.² These books are cold and bloodless, a body on a slab, a stopped heart. The extravagance and originality of the artist's book – from the inexpensive, limited edition bright paper object that expands into a flower, Origami-style to a heavy, well-bound, grand and far more formal object such as this – is a reminder of the preciousness of each life and of the life force that helps an artist create. It is no mistake that painters, as Nancy recalls, have "given such a privileged place to the subjects of the book and reading".³ An artist's book honours the magic of reading. As Nancy writes: "A book is a meteor that breaks up into thousands of meteorites whose random courses provoke collisions, strokes of genius, sudden crystallizations of new books, unpublished tracings of characters, enlarged, revised, and corrected editions, an immense interstellar circulation."⁴

Gray's Anatomy, a surgical reference book first published in 1858 as *Anatomy, Descriptive and Surgical*, is one such meteor.⁵ In the introduction to a 1977 edition, John A Crocco, the chief of pulmonary services at New York University School of Medicine, wrote: "Every living physician today has been exposed to Gray's Anatomy and nearly every one has used it."

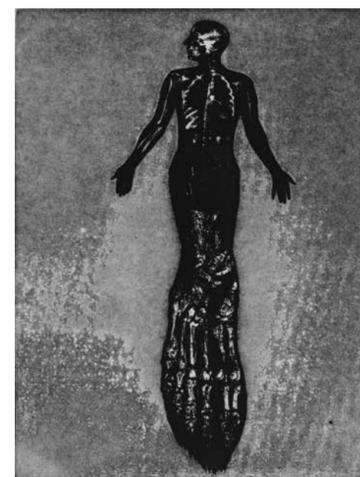
The images that this book – *The Anatomy Lesson* – contains are collages Ricardo made from some of Henry Carter's hundreds of illustrations in Henry Gray's text. Ricardo began to read the 1257-page book during a residency at Bairnsdale Hospital in Gippsland. It was one of the few books in the country hospital's library. Ricardo's *Anatomy* is more disturbing and more playful than the original. As an academic I am a professional reader, an anatomist of sorts, but I work mostly with words. It has been interesting to work with pictures instead and to marvel at the wry, hilarious and very clever titles that Ricardo has given each picture in this precious body of work.⁶

Rachel Buchanan, La Trobe University, August 2009

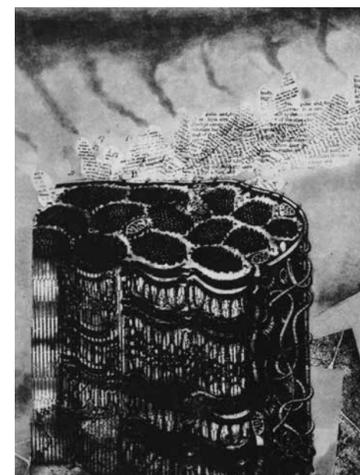
¹ Jean-Luc Nancy, *On the Commerce of Thinking: of Books & Bookstores*, translated by David Wills, New York, 2009, 40.
² Jean-Luc Nancy, *On the Commerce of Thinking: of Books & Bookstores*, 49.
³ Jean-Luc Nancy, *On the Commerce of Thinking: of Books & Bookstores*, 22.
⁴ Jean-Luc Nancy, *On the Commerce of Thinking: of Books & Bookstores*, 44.
⁵ An accessible history of Gray's *Anatomy* and the two Henry's who made it is Bill Hayes, *The Anatomist: a true story of Gray's Anatomy*, Melbourne, 2008.
⁶ Geoff loaned me his copy of Dorland's *Pocket Medical Dictionary* (28th edition of a book first published 1898) and I would recommend that non-medical readers consult this work or something similar to get the fullest enjoyment from the titles of the illustrations contained within.



The Quack Placebo 2008 intaglio edition 20 24.5 x 19 cm



Enigma of Light 2008 intaglio edition 20 24.5 x 19 cm



Inner Architecture 2008 intaglio edition 20 24.5 x 19 cm

The cavity of man
One of my patients was 17, the same as me
He had broken his neck
Jumping off the ledge at Red Cliffs
He was pissed and hadn't gone out far enough
He landed on the rocks that are
There just beneath the water
I felt really sorry for him
Just a head in the bed
With a plate screwed to each ear
My legs were an insult
The cup of tea I offered a joke

The quack placebo
My old man's a quack
He says medicine is 5% science
And 95% art

The faculty of vital organs
At 7.30am one window is lit in Humanities 2,
The brick building is home to philosophy
and English,
A skeletal art history
Also, the studies: cinema; theatre; media;
performance
A young woman in a bandana vacuums
Room 216, the office occupied by my boss
Terrie likes the X Files and Melrose Place
"I want to believe", her poster says.

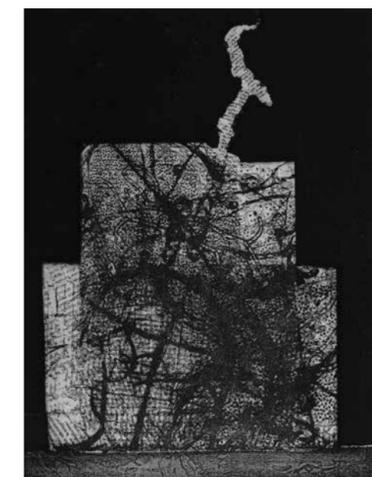
Enigma of light
Overheard on the 3.40pm to Newport,
Saturday 3 August 2009.
Girl, aged 13: "Sometimes it's good to believe in
something that isn't real."

The relative vigours
My neighbour Daniel is an only child.
His mother Lou is one of 13.
His father Tony is one of 22.
"It's okay," Tony said "Three of them are twins."
The mother of these 22 children is alive today,
She is 90 years old, lives on Malta
is still capable of killing a rabbit for her supper.
Meanwhile, her Australian grandson
plays the bagpipes.

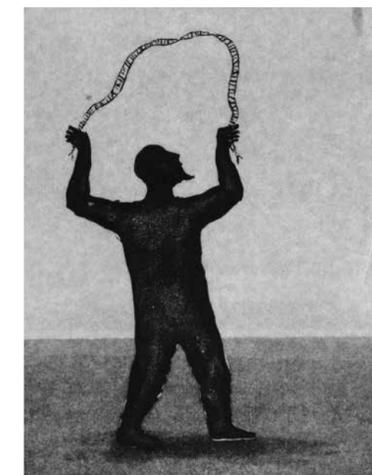
Inner Architecture
Beach-house
Bunagalow
Bach
Brick veneer
McMansion?



The Cavity of Man 2008 intaglio edition 20 24.5 x 19 cm



The Faculty of Vital Organs 2008 intaglio edition 20 24.5 x 19 cm



The Relative Vigours 2008 intaglio edition 20 24.5 x 19 cm