

## ***This Wondrous Land: Colonial Art on Paper***

Edited by Alisa Bunbury; various authors

Publisher: National Gallery of Victoria,  
Melbourne  
230 x 280 mm, portrait  
Paperback  
200 pages  
Fully illustrated in colour  
ISBN: 9780724103447 (paperback)  
Category: Australian Art / Australian history  
Published: July 2011  
\$69.95 paperback (AUD)

*On my first landing, everything was new to me, every Bird, every Insect, Flower &c. – in short, all was novelty around me, and was noticed with a degree of eager curiosity, and perturbation, that after a while subsided into ... calmness*

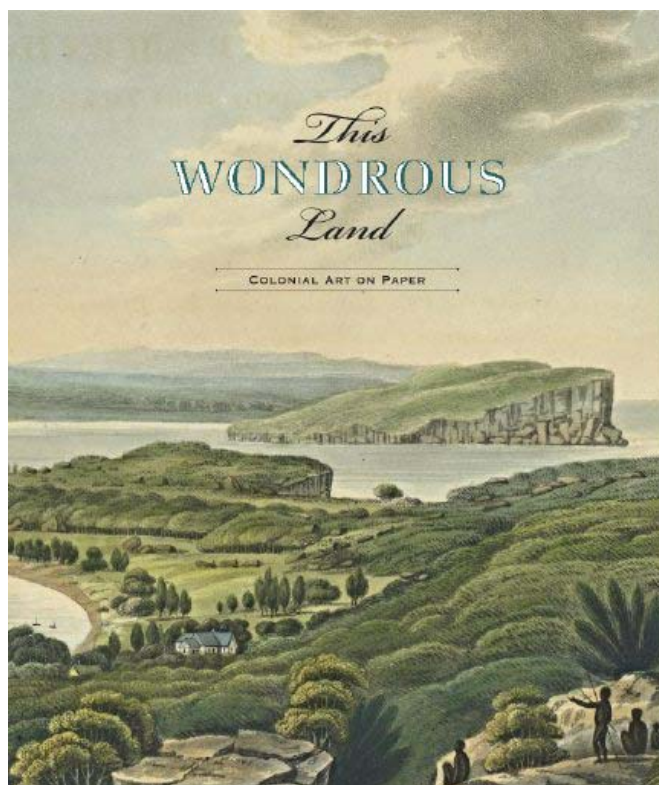
Elizabeth Macarthur, 1791

Drawings, watercolours, prints and illustrated books make up many of the earliest and most beautiful images created during the first hundred years of European settlement in Australia. *This Wondrous Land* presents works of art selected from the National Gallery of Victoria's renowned collection together with informative essays by Australian and international colonial art scholars. Themes explored include the early fascination with Australia's natural history, the interest in the traditional owners and their unfamiliar cultures, the development of Australia's print trade, and Melbourne's emerging art community.

Lavishly illustrated with works by convict artists such as Joseph Lycett, Richard Browne and Charles Rodius to masterpieces by professional artist-settlers including Conrad Martens, Eugene von Guérard and Louis Buvelot, this publication showcases the breadth and richness of colonial watercolours, drawings and prints that depict 'this wondrous land'.

### **Selling points**

- A beautifully designed art reference book.
- Chapters organised thematically and chronologically – perfect for research purposes and as a scholarly resource.
- Published to coincide with the exhibition to be held at NGV International, 29 April – 2 October 2011, and The Ian Potter Centre: NGV Australia, 16 July – 27 November 2011



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*From*  
**"PICTURESQUE DESCRIPTIONS  
OF THE COLONY"**

From the first days of settlement in Sydney Cove  
in 1788, the new colony was recorded in detail.  
Soon, most early depictions of the landscape  
were topographic, documenting the clearing of  
the land, the building activity and the growing  
prosperity of the colony. In later decades, when  
settlement was secure, an interest in showing  
Australia's wilderness emerged as professional  
artists arrived and patronage developed. Works  
on paper formed the foundation of the visual art  
in the earliest decades of the colony and remained  
important in conjunction with the subsequent  
emergence of oil painting.