



MORRISON POLKINGHORNE

CV
March 2023

LA SEINE
3395 LOTUS IMPRESSIONS
73 x 54 CM
2021

EXHIBITIONS

2023

129,025 lotus impressions

Solo exhibition

Turbo Gallery, Rainbow Victoria, Australia

Small Works Art - group exhibition

Brunswick Street Gallery, Melbourne, Australia

2022

Process - group exhibition

Whitewall Art Projects Berrima, Australia

Monochrome - group exhibition

Whitewall Art Projects Berrima, Australia

2021

*Cambodge, Chemins détournés
Cambodia, off the beaten track*

Galerie Lee, Paris, France

Art for life

Joint exhibition

DIFEA Chicago, USA

Opening

Group on-line show

Who's Counting

Videography with live painting

The Factory, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

2020

Khmer Impressions

Les Impressions Khmères

Solo exhibition

The Gallery @ Sofitel Phokeethra

Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Art for life

Joint exhibition

DIFEA Chicago, USA

International Online Art Collective

21 International artists

2,009 lotus marks

Cigar Bar

Raffles Hotel, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

2019

148,913 Paths of the lotus ink

Solo exhibition

Serindia Gallery, Bangkok, Thailand

2018

Sacred Ink 81,472 lotus impressions

Solo exhibition

Java Cafe, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

2017

63,213 lotus marks

Solo exhibition

Amansara hotel, Siem Reap, Cambodia

Former private residence of

Cambodia's HRH King Sihanouk

AWARDS

2020 International artist award

DIFEA Art for life

Chicago USA

2017 Best in Cambodia, Sovrin magazine

Bric-a-Brac Battambang hotel

Owner, manager, designer

2015 Best Asian cookbook

World Gourmand awards

"The Burma Cookbook"

Designer and co-author

1996 designEX trade show

Australia Top 10 designers

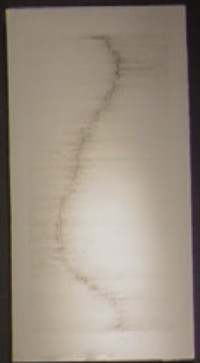
1991 National Interior Design Show

Most innovative product

GALLERY

Whitewall Art Projects

Berrima, NSW Australia



8830

514

4651

8241

3523

❁ BIOGRAPHY

Morrison Polkinghorne was born in Tasmania and at seven he moved to Alice Springs. For 30 years he called Sydney home while running his decorative arts business *Passementeries*. There, he was a master tassel maker, designing and creating embellishments for historic and prestige houses and leading interior designers.

Morrison was lauded in *Belle* magazine as one of the year's 10 Top Designers in Australia 1996, plus magazine features of his inner-city Sydney warehouse home in *Country Living* and *Vogue Living* magazines.

Morrison designed and photographed *The Burma Cookbook*, awarded Best Asian cookbook of the year at World Gourmand in Yentai, China (2015).

In Battambang Cambodia he owned and managed *Bric-a-Brac*, an award-winning boutique hotel, atelier and art shop. His property was twice awarded Top Boutique Hotel in Cambodia in *Soverin* magazine, among others. While in Cambodia, he mastered new art forms and techniques inspired by ancient Khmer history, ecology and nature, and local culture.

Morrison now resides in a century old re-purposed brick church in far northwest Victoria, bordering South Australia in the southern Mallee, gateway to the Outback.

As a weaver, his need to count has led to a love of counting. This has created numbered artworks from paintings as-well as video.



❁ REVIEW

I met Morrison Polkinghorne in Cambodia in 2019 and I immediately fell in love with his work. The works on paper belonging to “the pointillism series” are strikingly beautiful, and their impact is still felt long after one has seen them. Those black and white compositions can be seen from far and from close. The way landscapes, rivers - or actually whatever you imagine - emerge from the repetition of the same motive of flower lotus points depends on the thickness of the ink, on the way the artist applied it on the sheet of paper. Looking at something unexpected rising from what is to me an abstract routine is extremely moving. You can therefore see his painting as a delicate balance between abstraction (in the strong tradition of repetitive patterns in applied arts) and subtle figuration. What I especially like is that figuration depends on the viewer. I believe that the elegance of Morrison’s works comes from the fact that he invites the viewer to a journey. Anyone can “own” the work the way he wants to have it. What

I also value about Morrison’s approach is that the process itself is part of his art. From the repetition, a river will be seen. But it is always the same process, the same pattern that gives birth to an infinity of possibility. The strictness of the process gives him this freedom to paint whatever he wants. It seems that through a rigorous and precise procedure, he can embrace the whole universe. This is how his work - although down-to-earth in the way it fits in the Cambodian culture and its rituals - is profoundly spiritual. Like the prayer indefinitely repeated by the Buddhist monk, the repetitive process will connect you with spirituality and mystery. All those reasons led me to see that Morrison is a fantastic artist. He is dedicated, enthusiast, passionate but also incredibly methodic and hard-working.

- YVES ZLOTOWSKI, DIRECTOR OF GALERIE ZLOTOWSKI (PARIS, FRANCE) AND OF BATIA SAREM GALLERY (SIEM REAP, CAMBODIA)



❁ THE PROCESS

For seven years, from 2014 until fleeing back to Australia as a Covid refugee in 2021, Morrison Polkinghorne lived in Cambodia. There he developed a process of making ink created from lotus flowers.

The process became holistic, cyclical and regenerative, a kind of reincarnation of purpose -- something appropriate to Buddhist Cambodia. He began by collecting discarded lotus (itself spiritually pertinent to the region) given to him by monastery monks after the flowers and stalks had been donated as temple offerings.

Like a rare distillate my ink is a matter of quality over quantity, as a massive cartload of lotus produces as little as a few cups of ink. It's distillation is involved and time consuming, honed over long years of research through travels across the region; combining techniques from artisanal paper makers and woodblock printers.

Rainwater is collected, lotus petals painstakingly deflowered from stems then burned to char, and distilled in earthenware pots, brewing for a year or longer.

In this way the artist offers a truly holistic "circle of life" and original environmental approach to art, from pond to studio to display. The final ink has the consolidation of hundreds of peoples' love and gratitude.

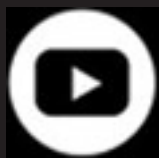
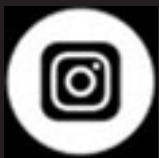
Every single impression on the paintings and art pieces is made from freshly-cut lotus stems stamped in his artisanal ink, then impressed onto paper in lineal design.

Moreover, numerology plays an important role in his art, as every piece records the actual number of impressions applied to paper. As a former weaver counting has been a natural part of his working life. While Morrison counts the impressions in his works, he records every single impression next to his signed signature. (The smallest work he has made had one lotus impression, and his largest individual painting has 20,184 lotus impressions.) With each work his total accumulation increases, and currently his total count is over half a million lotus impressions., and a goal of five million and five to come.





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