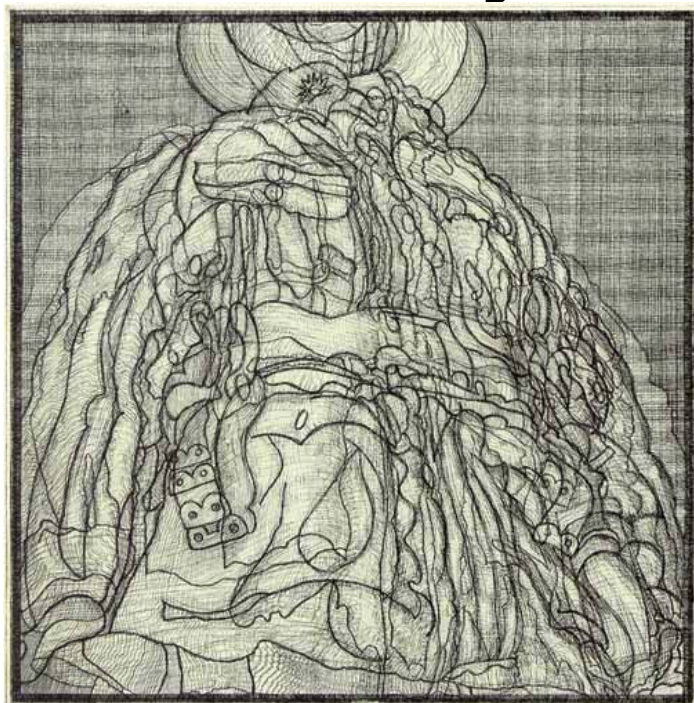


ART FORUM

May 11 2007

Ray Arnold In Harms Way



Bayeux soldat VIII - Péronne/Australian soldier
Two plate hard ground etching
120 cm x 80 cm, 2006.

Arnold will talk about his prints that focus on the soldier's body. Printed etchings and armour are concepts that evolve together out of Northern European armouries in the Middle Ages. 'Armours of proof' is a phrase from that period that involves testing armour for its effectiveness but it is also a poetic statement that conveniently

collides issues of protection and the print.

Born in 1950, Raymond Arnold studied teaching and art in Victoria, Australia before developing his professional career while living in Tasmania. The Tasmanian landscape has been tempered and shaped by exposure to a prevailing westerly air-stream. Large tracts of forest in the west of the state give way to more settled pastoral areas in the east. This dynamic natural environment has in turn, shaped Tasmanian identity and culture. Arnold's prints and paintings have reflected this construction of a landscape and the identification with a type of 'ground'.

As a compliment to this world, Arnold has been researching the intaglio print medium in Europe. He has been working in France and Scotland on a regular basis since 1993. His aim is to spend a period of time each year developing prints in that environment. He originally went to Paris and the Atelier Lacourière et Frélaud, in particular, to connect to the tradition of making etchings. Fashion and dress, his great-grandfather's experiences of the First World War as a soldier in the AIF and the decoration of medieval armour are concepts that have been played out in tandem with his investigation into the print and identification with the 'figure' as much as the ground!

Raymond Arnold has held over 42 solo exhibitions and participated in group shows in Australia, Europe and the US. He is represented in the collections of the Imperial War Museum and the Victoria and Albert Museum, London, the Bibliothèque Nationale and the Musée Courbet in France. In Australia, the National Gallery, the Australian Parliament House and various State Galleries have Raymond Arnold prints in their collection.

12.30 pm Dechaineux Lecture Theatre
Tasmanian School of Art-Hobart, University of Tasmania