

Keys to the collection— Form

Lionel Lindsay

“...an accomplished etcher, wood engraver,
and a gifted traditional draughtsman...”

—Joanna Mendelssohn, *The art of Sir Lionel Lindsay*,
1982

1874—1890 Lionel Lindsay was born in Creswick, Victoria, the third child in a family of 10 children. Five grew up to be professional artists. Their interest in art was encouraged by the Reverend Thomas Williams, their grandfather, who took them on regular visits to the art gallery of Ballarat. Lionel taught himself etching and engraving.

1895 After completing school, Lionel and his brother Norman, moved to Melbourne and immersed themselves in the city’s artistic life.

1917 Both Lionel and Norman move to Sydney. As skilled and high profile artists who worked in black and white, they were hired by the most famous magazine of the day, *The Bulletin*.

1903 Lionel loved travel and met Jean Dyson, the woman he was to marry, during a trip to Italy. On their return to Australia, he began to etch the old buildings and historic landmarks of Sydney. Today these etchings are regarded as some of the finest impressions of early Australia ever recorded.

1922 Lionel completed a series of woodcuts depicting birds. The prints from these woodcuts show great depth of feeling, through the artist’s mastery of expression and form.



1961 Lionel Lindsay continued printmaking until the end of his life. Sadly, he requested his son Peter to destroy the actual woodblocks on his death.

Goat and rhododendron—

Goat and rhododendron exemplifies how Lionel preferred to work from life, so that his subject matter resembled life. His wood-engraved representation, design, scale, texture and form were outstanding. His peaceful, still-life wood engravings highlighted the intensity of Japanese-influenced design and the creative use of the ‘negative’ black spaces. This technique brings strength to the composition enhancing texture and form.

**Geelong
Gallery**

AusVELS level 2 to 6

geelonggallery.org.au/learn

Lionel Lindsay
Goat and rhododendron
(detail) 1925
wood engraving
Collection: Geelong Gallery

G E E L O N G
E E L O N G
E L O N G
L O N G
O N G
N G A L L E R Y
G A L L E R Y



Lionel Lindsay

Australian 1874–1961

Goat and rhododendron 1925

wood engraving

22.8 x 20.0 (sheet)

17.1 x 15.4 cm (image)

Collection: Geelong Gallery

Purchased 1944

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Questions

Why do you think Lionel Lindsay made woodcuts to create his prints?

Research

Create a time-line to show when woodcuts were first created, and why.

Activity

Draw something from your environment straight onto a piece of lino to create your own lino print.

Linocuts are very similar to woodcuts. It is a printing method using a sheet of lino, where a subtractive cutting method is used to cut away the parts of linoleum where you want to leave the white of the page, but you keep the lino intact for the parts you want to be inked. The result is a linocut that can reproduce the same image over and over again.