

STUDIO

Jazmina Cininas



Born:
Melbourne, 1965

Lives and works:
Melbourne

Cininas's work can be seen at Port Jackson Press, Melbourne, and Metropolis Gallery, Geelong.

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My studio is in the Artery Cooperative buildings in Northcote. I've been here for about six years, since Artery moved from its former site. I like the fact that I can come in here and shut the door and just get on with it but I also like that there's a group of people around if I want some social interaction. Mainly though, it's a community of serious artists who come here to work, and that's important. I also love the workshop that's here, where, in my other life, I make my animal-inspired lagerphones for our Lithuanian folk music group The Lost Clog.

I'm a printmaker and I make linocuts – everything goes through this large printing press at the centre of the studio. It's quite tidy right now as I'm between working on editions but it tends to get messier when I'm working on something.



The carved block is lined up with these registration marks and then it goes through umpteen times – for each sheet of paper and for each change to the lino block. I've just finished an image for an exchange portfolio curated by fellow printmaker Rona Green – who organises a lot of exchange portfolios – and you can see it on the drying racks.

Ultimately, the image of the female werewolf – which I've been looking at for a long time in my work and in the PhD exegesis that I've just completed – is a chance to explore hidden aspects of myself, through other identities and personalities. The female werewolf figure has been around since the beginning of werewolf lore but she's evolved throughout the ages and each new incarnation reflects social ideas about women, the natural world and 'otherness'. Anything that exists on the



fringe, that's where the werewolf appears – whether it's an 'other' religion, or an 'other' body type, whether it's other gender, other mental states, or the animal, the wilderness, nature versus culture. You've got the werewolf on the edge of all these things. And of course those parameters have changed a lot over the centuries, so the werewolf has changed correspondingly.

Cininas will be presenting her work as part of the Australian Print Workshop Print Fair over the weekend of 11 and 12 October. She has also curated this year's RMIT School of Art Galleries / Print Imaging Practice residency, which will culminate in *The Bloke Show*, a group fundraising exhibition running from 31 October to 20 November.

Photography by Jesse Marlow

