

## **LUKE SHELLEY**

### **BIOGRAPHY**

Luke was born on the Central Coast of New South Wales into a family who prides themselves on their passion and extensive knowledge of the Australian landscape. Luke was raised to acquire his Father's knowledge and enthusiasm for environment and his Mother's creativity and passion for arts and culture. Naturally, Luke has developed an inquisitive yet strong connection with the natural environment, which developed into a source of inspiration to create artwork.

Luke graduated from the National Art School Sydney with an Honours Degree in Printmaking in 2006. Upon graduation, he won the Stella Downer award for excellence in Printmaking for his innovative and organic technique of ocean etching - a practice still continued to date.

In 2008, he secured his first residency and held his first solo exhibition at Watch This Space Gallery in Alice Springs, Northern Territory. The Exhibition, titled 'Terra Firma', engaged Luke in developing new techniques to express his first-time experiences of the arid environment of Australia's Red Centre. He translated his knowledge of collaborative methods in printmaking to suit works on paper, primarily drawing, watercolour, and processes involving earth, ochres and staining qualities of vegetation to signify the 'Native palette' of the Outback. This experience, as an emerging artist, proved to be life-changing in its wealth of inspiration, and has stimulated Luke to consistently travel within and experience Australia's unique and varied environments.

Luke's pursuit to establish himself as an Australian artist has seen him selected as a finalist in national art prizes (*'Emerging' 2007-2009-2013, Gosford Regional Gallery; 'Agendo' 2009, Deakin University, Melbourne; 'M16 drawing prize' 2013, M16 Artspace, Canberra*) and major group exhibitions (*Packsaddle, New England Regional Art Museum, Armidale; 'The Capitals Project', Han Jun Arts Centre, Seoul, South Korea; 'Drawcard 2008,2009, National Art School, Sydney; 'Sub 12' 2009, The Substation Gallery, Melbourne*).

Luke considers himself an early-career artist and continues to work towards exhibiting, with the hope of one day exhibit internationally and establish himself within the Australian and international Art-scene. His highly collectable work is held in many private and corporate collections nationally and internationally. Luke's organic art-making techniques have evolved as he develops and matures his practice, but his concepts remain the same, to continue to create artwork to translate his passion, experience, collaboration and familiarity with his natural surroundings.

### **NOELLA LOPEZ GALLERY 2014**