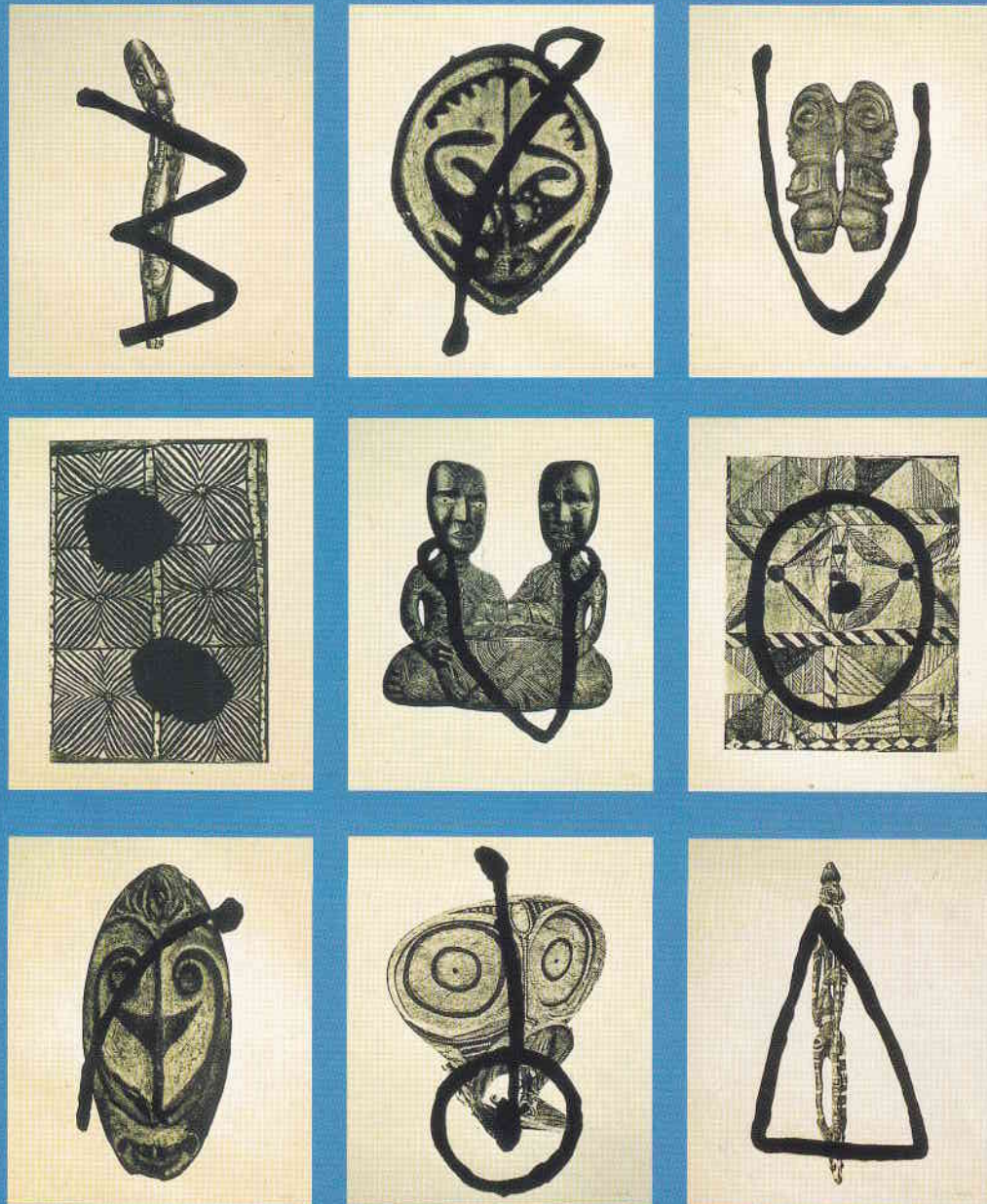


# IRENE F. WHITTOME



## OCEANIA

a portfolio of nine photo etched images, aquatint and embossed relief,  
41.5 x 34.5 cm, 16.25 x 13.5"  
edition 20, 3 artist's proofs, signed by the artist  
printed on Kitikata paper, chine colle on BEK Rives 300g rag paper  
released May, 1999  
issue price: \$5,000

artists  
for  
kids

**IRENE F. WHITTOME** is a contemporary artist of national and international repute with over 35 solo exhibits to her credit and 130 group exhibitions that have been held throughout Canada, Europe and in the United States. A critically acclaimed exhibit of her work was held at the Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal in 1997 and in 2000, the Musée du Québec held a major retrospective of her work, including a new installation: Bio-fictions, which subsequently traveled to Europe.

In the autumn of 1997, Irene F. Whittome was awarded the Prix du Québec's Paul Émile Borduas prize, and is the first woman in 10 years to be so distinguished for exemplary achievement in the category representing the visual arts, architecture, craft and design. Several years earlier, in 1992, she was awarded the prestigious Gershon Iskowitz prize for excellence in the arts in Canada.

Irene F. Whittome was born in Vancouver, B.C. in 1942. She attended the Vancouver School of Art and studied with Jack Shadbolt. Following graduation in 1959, she moved to Paris, France and spent another 5 years studying printmaking with Stanley William Hayter. Almost immediately upon her return to Canada in 1968, Irene F. Whittome began her teaching career at Concordia University in Montréal. In 1974, she created the innovative 'Open Media' program to accommodate developing artists at both the undergraduate and graduate level. She is now a full Professor of Art and continues to teach 'Open Media' at the graduate level.

Her own evolution as an artist has been interdisciplinary, beginning with explorations and creative work in printmaking, painting and drawing, then moving into the areas of installation in her more recent work through her use of architecture, lighting and sound.

**Oceania**, the shimmering continent, whose archipelagos have fed the West's imagination ever since the sixteenth century. Observed from a distance, Oceanian customs and forms have been the object of many a mythic tale. Over time, the tales have converged with the cultures of the Pacific rim and the Indian Ocean to create a great labyrinth of odysseys into the distant past. The travelling narrations inhabit the Oceanian objects, especially the invisible mana, a smyabolic and energetic charge bestowed by the objects' makers and handed down from generation to generation.

In 1929, Francois Poncetton and Andre Portier published a group of works belonging to French amateurs and Surrealist artists (*Les arts sauvages Oceanie, Editions Albert Morance, Paris*) In keeping with her practice of investigating the significance of collection and her fascination for Pacific art-Oceanische Kunst (1990), Oceania/Chine (1997) - Irene F. Whittome has explored her own Oceania, taking as her starting point nine plates from this book.

Whittome observes the way in which the common and distinguishing cultural traits of these myriad islands of the Southern Seas are interwoven, and offers a variety of translations from their common ground. The photoengraved images of the tiki, an ancestral pendent, of the tapa, a fabric woven of vegetable fibres and decorated with pigments, or of masks made of wood or bark, all serve to buttress the artists's aquatint mediation. She superimposes her own stamp on the work through the addition of a calligraphic gesture, which in turn is heightened by a subtle relief. Whittome's creative interpretation stands on its own, however, much like the expressive gestures of the dancer for whom rhythm provides only the initial impulse to movement. The goal is to rediscover the secret writings, to reconnect with the original source when the divine had joined with the human.

States of gemination, plenitude; and shapes - symmetrical, round, strong - unite with distant idols to give motion to these visual and creative zones as the journey into infinite transgression.

Laurier Lacroix, March 1999



## ARTISTS FOR KIDS

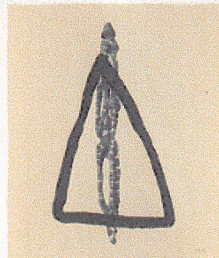
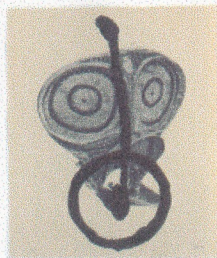
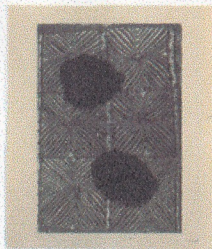
The Artists For Kids Trust was established in 1989 through a generous partnership between some of Canada's finest artists and the North Vancouver School District. Its mission, through the sale of original prints created by its artist patrons is to build an art education legacy for the children of British Columbia. The Artists For Kids Gallery is home to a stunning collection of work created by its patron artists. Artists For Kids provides a variety of art enrichment program opportunities for thousands of students of all ages each year, including the popular Paradise Valley Summer School of Visual Art.

Canadian artists who have generously supported the program include: Irene F. Whittome, Roz Marshall, Robert Davidson, the late Jack Shadbolt, E. J. Hughes, Kenojuak Ashevak, Jane Ash Poitras, Ted Harrison, Michael Snow, the late Jean McEwen, Betty Goodwin, David Blackwood, Gordon Smith, Robert Bateman, Joe Fafard, Gathie Falk, Alan Wood, Guido Molinari, Molly Lamb Bobak, Anne Meredith Barry, Takao Tanabe, Toni Onley, George Littlechild, Arnold Shives, Ann Kipling, Charles van Sandwyk, the late Bill Reid, the late B.C. Binning and the estate of Frederick Amess.

To make an appointment to view Irene F. Whittome's 'Oceania' portfolio, or if you require more information regarding other Artists for Kids prints or programs, please contact the Managing Director, Bill MacDonald at the Artists For Kids Gallery, 810 West 21st Street, North Vancouver, BC Canada V7P 2C1  
Phone: (604) 903.3797 Fax: (604) 903.3778 bmacdonald@nvsd44.bc.ca

Visit and bookmark our web site at: [www.artists4kids.com](http://www.artists4kids.com)









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Espace 527  
Montréal H3B 1A2  
vendredi et samedi de 12 h à 18 h  
et sur rendez-vous : (514) 398-9204

*Portfolio* **OCEANIA**

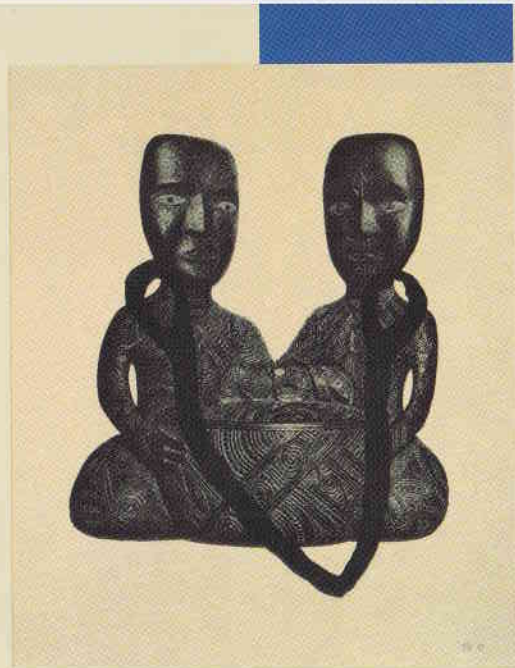
du 1<sup>er</sup> mai au 29 mai

**Vernissage :**

samedi le 1<sup>er</sup> mai 1999

de 16 h à 18 h

*Portfolio* OCEANIA est publié par Artists for Kids éditions. Tél. (604) 903-3798 [www.artists4kids.com](http://www.artists4kids.com)



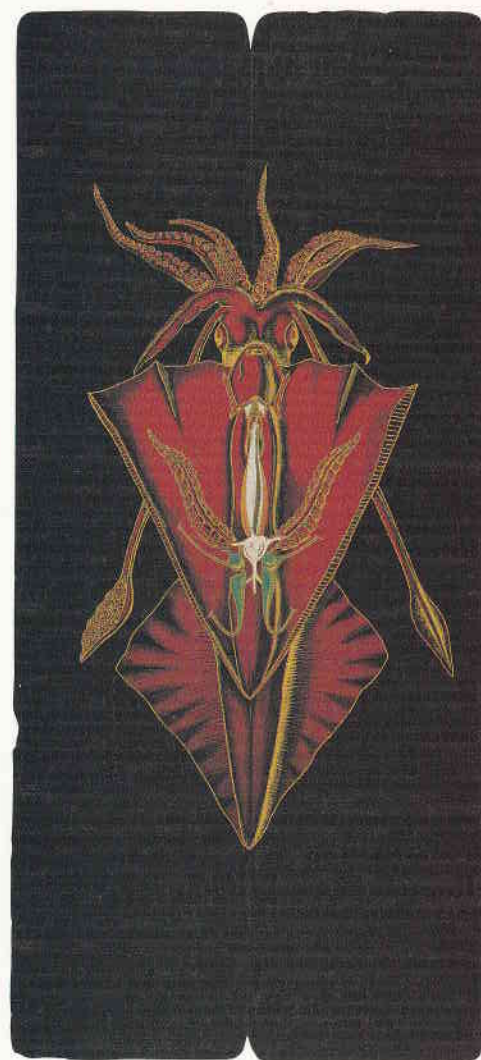
Irene F. Whittome

*Portfolio* **OCEANIA**

du  
1<sup>er</sup> mai  
au  
29 mai  
1999

Photogravure, aquatinte et gaufrage 41,5 cm x 34,5 cm





# Irene F. Whittome Bio-fictions

La présidente du conseil d'administration du Musée du Québec,  
M<sup>me</sup> Paule Leduc, et le directeur général, M. John R. Porter,  
ont le plaisir de vous convier à l'inauguration de l'exposition  
**Irene F. Whittome. Bio-fictions**  
le mercredi 9 février, à 17 h 30,  
dans le Grand Hall du Musée du Québec.

Conférence de Johanne Lamoureux, professeure d'histoire  
de l'art à l'Université de Montréal et commissaire de l'exposition  
*Irene F. Whittome. Bio-fictions*, le dimanche 20 février, à 14 h. Gratuit.

Visite commentée de l'exposition *Irene F. Whittome. Bio-fictions*  
en compagnie de l'artiste le mercredi 12 avril, à 19 h 30. Gratuit.

Invitation pour deux personnes.  
L'exposition se poursuit jusqu'au 3 septembre 2000.

L'inauguration de l'exposition  
*Pierre Thibault. Refuge. 1999-2000*  
aura également lieu le 9 février, à 17 h 30.

Irene F. Whittome,  
*Conjunctio. m (Calmar II)*, 1999.  
De la série de 15 estampes  
numériques imprimées sur  
papier chiffon, 240 x 120 cm.  
Collection de l'artiste.

MUSÉE DU QUÉBEC

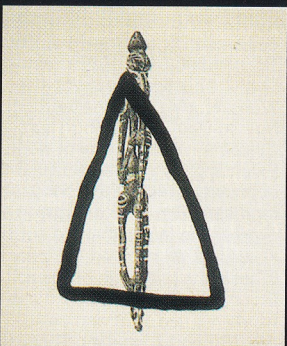
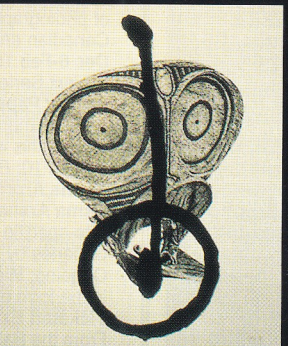
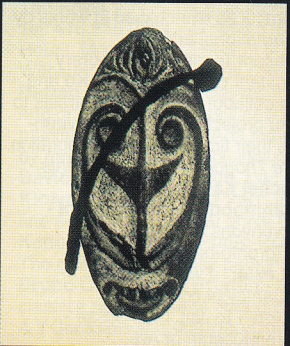
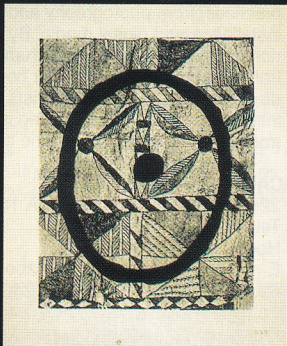
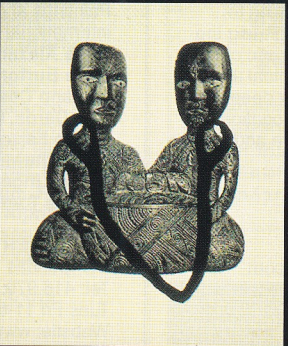
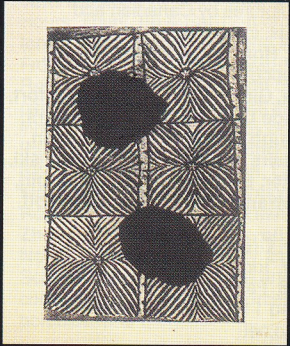
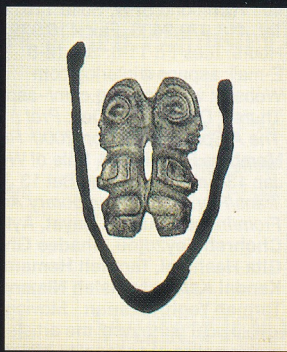
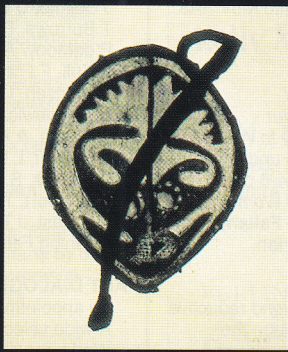
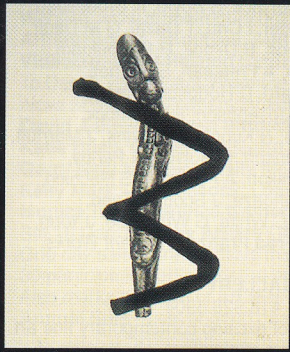
Parc des Champs-de-Bataille  
Québec, Canada, G1R 5H3  
(418) 643.2150  
www.mdq.org



Le Musée du Québec est subventionné par le  
ministère de la Culture et des Communications du Québec.



# Irene F. Whittome



## OCEANIA

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celebrating

11

terrific years

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