Brigita Ozolins

The truth shall make you free

2007

lead sheet, table, stool, glass, steel, ink, 1962 edition of *Quintus Servinton* by Henry Savery

Donated by the artist through the Australian Government's Cultural Gifts Program, 2020



'Published in Hobart in 1831, Quintus Servinton was written by Henry Savery, a convicted criminal who died at Port Arthur and is buried in an unmarked grave on the Isle of the Dead.

Savery was an enigmatic man, his life characterised by dramatic career successes and failures, relationship difficulties and psychological trauma that led to three suicide attempts.

As I sat and wrote over his largely autobiographical account of a man who falls from grace, I was attempting, through ritual and repetition, to symbolically release him from the bindings of his tragic past...'

Brigita Ozolins, excerpt,Artist Statement, 2023



Christl Berg Untitled, from Polymorphosis exhibition

1991

silver gelatin prints

Presented by the artist, 2021

AG9023.1-8



'Man is but mortal; and there is a point beyond which human courage cannot extend.'

—Charles Dickens, The Pickwick Papers, 1836–37



Paul Zika

Cornucopia 4

1999

acrylic on wood

Presented by the artist, 2021



'The sun—the bright sun, that brings back, not light alone, but new life, and hope, and freshness to man—burst upon the crowded city in clear and radiant glory. Through costly-coloured glass and paper-mended window, through cathedral dome and rotten crevice, it shed its equal ray.'

—Charles Dickens, Oliver Twist, 1837–1839



Haughton Forrest (1826–1925)

Port Arthur

1880

oil on cardboard

Purchased, 1951



Artist unknown

Port Arthur

c.1834

watercolour and ink on paper

Purchased with funds from the Plimsoll Bequest, 1997



'The authorities aboard were very jealous of books upon nautical and geographical subjects.

On one occasion the captain, noticing a volume of Guthrie's Geography in a prisoner's hand, immediately seized and threw it overboard. It was supposed that information might be derived from such sources which would tempt the prisoners to endeavour to take the ship, and effect their escape; and, in truth, the practicability of this was a favourite topic; especially with those who had been transported before...'

—William Moy Thomas, 'Transported for Life', ed. Charles Dickens, Household Words, 1852



William Duke (1815-1853)

The Whaler Aladdin

c.1848

oil on canvas

Purchased 1929



Knut Bull (1811-1889)

Entrance to the River Derwent from the Springs, Mount Wellington

1856

oil on canvas

Presented by Miss Ada Wilson, 1907



'Pause you who read this, and think for a moment of the long chain of iron or gold, of thorns or flowers, that would never have bound you, but for the formation of the first link on one memorable day.'

—Charles Dickens, Great Expectations, 1860–61



William Buelow Gould (1803–1853)

Still life with rabbit

1840

AG260

oil on canvas, laid on Masonite

Purchased, 1950

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William Buelow Gould (1803–1853)

Flower study

nd

oil on wood panel

Gift of Friends of the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, 1958



William Buelow Gould (1803–1853)

Flower study

nd

oil on wood panel

Gift of Friends of the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, 1958



Artist unknown

Portrait of a woman

nd

oil on canvas

Presented by Geoff Lithgow in memory of his mother Muriel Ethel Lithgow (née Payne), 2005



"... is that a likeness, ma'am?" asked Oliver.

"Yes," said the old lady, looking up for a moment from the broth; "that's a portrait."

"Whose, ma'am?" asked Oliver eagerly.

"Why, really, my dear,
I don't know...it's not
a likeness of anybody
that you or I know, I
expect. It seems to strike
your fancy, dear."

"... the eyes look so sorrowful, and where I sit they seem fixed upon me. It makes my heart beat," added Oliver, in a low voice, "as if it was alive, and wanted to speak to me but couldn't."

—Charles Dickens, Oliver Twist, 1837–1839

