



Schwan König - Richard Wagner's great opera cycles might not exist were it not for the support of his patron Ludwig II, King of Bavaria (1845 – 1886), Ludwig refused to get married, even for state reasons, and wanted to give up the throne to live with and for Wagner. But it was not to be, for Wagner loved women as well as music and power. Ludwig's physical satisfactions were achieved primarily with his equerry for twenty years, Richard Hornig, and later with the young Hungarian actor Joseph Kainz. Ludwig II was often referred to as the Swan King which also connotes a reference to Wagner's opera Lohengrin.



Cœur de Lion - Richard I, also called "the Lionheart", was King of England from 1189 to 1199. Richard I had a documented love affair with Philip, King of France, when he was Duke of Aquitaine. A contemporary account of Richard and King Philip of France reads: "*They ate every day at the same table and from the same dish, and at night their beds did not separate them. And the King of France loved him as his own soul; and they loved each other so much that the King of England (Richard's father) was absolutely astonished at the passionate love between them and marveled at it*". In the book Eleanor Of Aquitaine (Eleanor was Richard's mother), historian Marion Meade relates Eleanor's pragmatic view of Richard's gayness: "Eleanor... came to view it as an irrelevancy. Richard's unconventional sexual habits did not negate his primary duty as king: to marry and sire a male heir".

Print Details - Technique: Collagraph, hand coloured, chine collé (*)

Plate Size: 40cm X 35cm **Finished Paper Size** 50cm X 45cm

Ink: Graphic Chemicals. Derivan Block Ink, Windsor & Newton Water colour

Paper: Fabriano - Tiepolo 290gsm **Press:** Hilldav **Maximum Edition:** 10

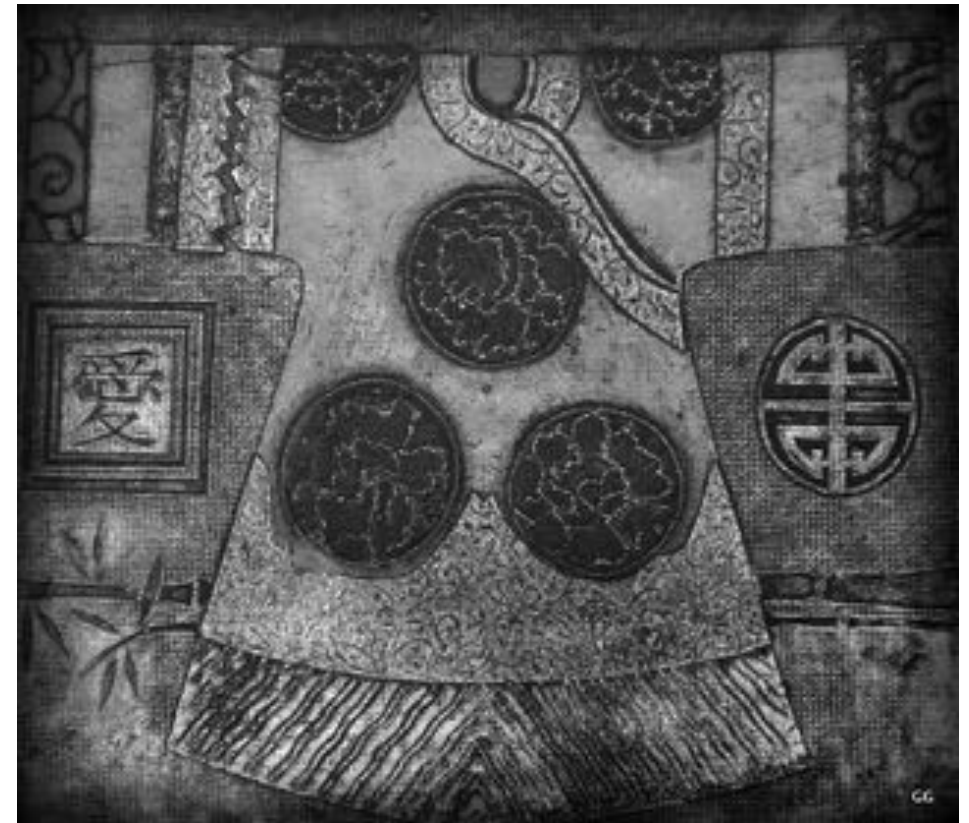
Pricing - (GST included) Framed \$590 Print Only \$390

George Gilmour - Recently shortlisted as a finalist and highly commended in the inaugural Asia Pacific Mini Print International Competition, George has studied printmaking at the Pine Street Art Centre with Rebecca Baird for five years. His work has previously been exhibited as part of group shows. This is his first solo exhibition. Working primarily with collagraph utilising intaglio techniques, he seeks to find new ways of interpreting subjects and issues current in Australian social and political life. **Contact & Online Gallery:** www.georgegilmour.com

Rebecca Baird - As a printmaker Rebecca has a long established reputation for her work exhibiting in solo, group shows, residencies as well as private and corporate commissions. As an educator she is a Senior Printmaking Tutor at Pine Street Art Centre and also teaches at Warringah Printmaking.

Associate Professor Dr.Dale Dominey-Howes BSc (Hons) PhD FGS FRGS - UNSW

Disclaimer: I acknowledge that the sexual orientation of the individuals referred to may be a matter of dispute and cannot be proven definitively. As such, the information provided is not presented as fact but as one interpretation of the historical records. The views expressed do not seek to defame or offend any person, living or dead. **Sources:** The background detail provided comes from a variety of web based resources and I do not seek to present it as my own. In particular I wish to credit the work of Dr. Rictor Norton www.rictornorton.co.uk



Passions of the Cut Sleeve

George Gilmour
printmaker

Rebecca Baird **Dr. Dale Dominey-Howes**
curator curatorial notes

Newsagency Gallery

October 2012



Passions of the Cut Sleeve - The title plate for the exhibition "Passions of the Cut Sleeve", refers to Emperor Ai of the Han Dynasty and his male lover Dong Xian. One afternoon after falling asleep for a nap together, the Emperor woke to find that Dong Xian had fallen asleep across the sleeve of his gown and rather than disturb him, had the sleeve of the gown cut off. The term "passions of the cut sleeve" became a euphemism in Chinese language to refer to any person who had a same sex preference.



Niankhkhnun & Khnumhotep - Niankhkhnun and Khnumhotep lived some time during the 5th Dynasty Egypt. Both men had the same titles: 'Prophet of Ra in the Sun Temple of Niuserre', and 'Head of the Manicurists of the Great House'. Their joint tomb is sometimes called the 'Tomb of the Hairdressers'. The two men are frequently depicted together in the tomb, sometimes in close embrace - a depiction normally only used for husbands and wives. Scholarship is divided on the exact nature of their relationship. The first recorded gay couple in history? The inscription in their tomb, translates as "joined in life and joined in death".



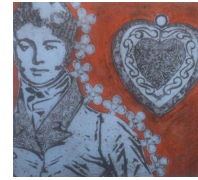
Alexander & Hephaestion - Some contemporary accounts suggest that Alexander the Great (356 - 323BC), King of Macedonia, had a lifelong relationship with his childhood friend Hephaestion. They lived and worked closely together, Alexander appointing Hephaestion to lead his cavalry. There is a famous incident that may illustrate their inseparability and relationship. When the two of them went to meet the Queen of Persia in her camp, after defeating her army, she could not recognise, which one was emperor Alexander the Great. She did not want to anger the Emperor. She mistakenly greeted Hephaestion as "Alexander the Great". She was immediately told of her mistake and started quivering in panic. Upon this, Alexander is said to have laughed and said, "Worry not mother (Queen), for he too is Alexander."



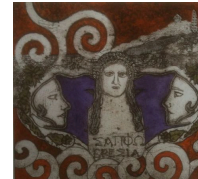
Two Spirit - 'Two Spirit' is a term used to describe transgender, gay and lesbian individuals in Native American traditions. Two Spirit people were valued as teachers, craftspeople, healers, musicians and dancers. The Two Spirits were ceremonially identified in early puberty, often in "Basket and Bow" ceremonies, or would 'self identify' later in life as a result of a dream or vision. Historians have documented that gay and lesbian Two-Spirits have existed in nearly every aboriginal culture, including virtually all North American aboriginal tribes



Love Letter Sent in A Sea Bass (*) - Homosexuality was a fully integrated and non-stigmatized part of seventeenth-century Japanese culture, flourishing primarily within the Buddhist priestly tradition, among samurai (warrior) classes and in kabuki theater. The Great Mirror of Male Love (Nanshoku & Okagami 1687) written by Ihara Saikaku (1642 - 1693) describes (and advocates) love between adult men and youths. "Love Letter Sent in a Sea Bass", a story based upon a nonfictional account of a real incident involving a young samurai named Mashida Toyonoshin which took place in Bizen Province in 1667. Toyonoshin (named "Jinnosuke" in the story), one of the most beautiful boys in Izumo Province, swears a vow of love with the older samurai Moriwaki Gonkuro. But boys in the lord's personal service are forbidden to establish sexual relationships with outsiders not in the same service. To avoid the impropriety of being in a different service, not for their homosexuality, the older samurai secretly sends love letters to the boy hidden in the mouth of a sea bass.



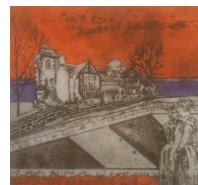
Byron's Cornelian - The English Romantic poet George Gordon, Lord Byron (1788-1824) took up residence at Trinity College, Cambridge, in October 1805, and established an intimate friendship with John Edleston, a choirboy at Trinity Chapel. As a pledge of their love, Edleston gave Byron a cornelian brooch pin in the shape of a heart, which Byron refers to in his poem "The Adieu". Byron later had a new companion, Nicolo Giraud, whom he made his principal beneficiary in his will. Edleston was only twenty-one when he died from consumption which prompted Byron to write at least seven moving elegies for him.



Tenth Muse - Sappho, whom the ancients distinguished by the title of the Tenth Muse, was born on the Island of Lesbos somewhere between 630 and 612 BC. Although married to a merchant, her poetry focuses on affections for women. That Sappho's poetry was not condemned in her time for its homoerotic content suggests that perhaps love between women was not persecuted then as it has been in more recent times. The term lesbian and sapphic have derived from her birthplace and her name respectively. Whilst not included in the exhibition because of a particular same sex partnership, she is included as an important role model and symbol for the lesbian community.



Michelangelo e gli amici - Michelangiolo di Lodovico Buonarroti-Simoni was born on 6th March 1475. Michelangelo had a reputation for homosexuality among his contemporaries which is supported by textual sources, particularly his own diaries and poems. There were many objects of his affections during his life including Gherardo Perini, Febo di Poggio, Francesco Urbino, Bartolommeo Bettini, Andrea Quaratesi and Francesco de Zanobi Bracci. In an epitaph quatrain that Michelangelo wrote for the tomb of Bracci he wrote: "The earthy flesh, and here my bones deprived, Of their charming face and beautiful eyes, Do yet attest for him how gracious I was in bed, When he embraced, and in what the soul doth live".



Anne & Ann - Anne Lister (1791-1840), a well-off Yorkshire landowner. Her journals, amounting to 4 million words, large parts of which are written in a secret code combining characters from Greek and algebra, records her systematic seduction of several women, and her awareness of herself as a lesbian. In 1832 she began an affair with Ann Walker, a rich heiress who became her live-in companion, with whom she travelled widely and with whose money she reshaped Shibden Hall in Yorkshire. Whilst traveling together Anne caught a fever and died in 1840 in the foothills of the Caucasus Mountains in Georgia, and Ann Walker spent seven months bringing her lover's body back to England to be buried in the local parish church. 'I love and only love the fairer sex and thus beloved by them in turn, my heart revolts from any love but theirs'.



The Shared Pillow Tree - An ancient story from the Zhou period (1122-256 BC) tells of two students, Pan Zhang and Wang Zhongxian, who 'fell in love at first sight and were as affectionate as husband and wife, sharing the same coverlet and pillow with unbounded intimacy for one another' (trans. Hinsch). When they died they were buried together, and from their grave immediately sprang a tree whose long branches and twigs entwined with one another, a miracle called the 'Shared Pillow Tree'.