



John Benfer

1980 –
Lives QLD

Victoria Point landscape study 2003

Etching and aquatint on 350gsm Hahnemuhle Paper
Edition of 27 printed by the artist

Redland Art Gallery Collection. Acquired in 2003 with Redland Art Gallery Acquisition Funds.

John Benfer was born in Brisbane in 1980 and spent his childhood years in rural South East Queensland including a time spent at Redland Bay. In 1999 he commenced a Bachelor of Design Studies course at Queensland College of Art, Griffith University, Brisbane, but soon realised his interest lay in more traditional forms of art making. Transferring to the Bachelor of Visual Arts he specialised in printmaking.

During this time Benfer studied various printmaking techniques such as lithography, relief printing and monoprinting but was drawn to the relief process of etching; employing methods such as mezzotint, aquatint, and line

etching. These techniques were implemented in the form of landscape studies, often drawing in-situ (on location), or from an abundant collection of organic forms taken back to the studio. Recurrent were the dual themes of regeneration and decay, displaying the perpetual reciprocation of matter within an environment.

In his 2006 exhibition at Redland Art Gallery the work focussed on the duality of regeneration and decay; dealing with the urban environment of inner Brisbane and the landscape of Victoria Point. The etching *Victoria Point landscape study* progressed over a period of three years. It is the study of a primordial landscape that exists in remnants along the Victoria Point coast. For Benfer, Victoria Point is a place of many fond memories; visiting his grandmother's house and exploring the shoreline.