

[News](#) [Sport](#) [Business](#) [Public Service](#) [World](#) [Politics](#) [Comment](#) [Property](#) [Entertainment](#) [Lifes](#)

[ACT News](#) [National](#) [Environment](#) [Health](#) [Education](#) [Good Weekend](#) [NSW News](#) [Victoria News](#) [Queensland](#)

[Canberra Life](#) [Photos](#) [Canberra Traffic](#) [Public Sector Informant](#)

[Home](#) / [News](#) / [ACT News](#) / [Canberra Life](#)

ART REVIEW JULY 8 2016

SAVE PRINT

Storytellers by Kyoko Imazu at Megalo Print Gallery in Kingston is memorable

Sasha Grishin

SHARE

TWEET

MORE

***Storytellers* by Kyoko Imazu. Megalo Print Gallery, 21 Wentworth Avenue, Kingston. Until July 23.**

Kyoko Imazu is a Japanese-born, Melbourne-based printmaker, who is having her first solo show in Canberra at the Megalo Print Gallery.

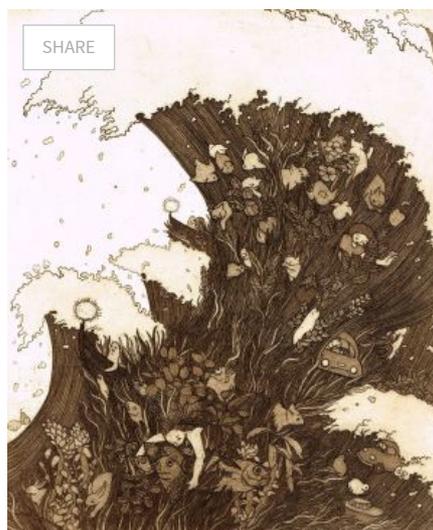
Titled *Storytellers*, the imagery in her exhibition articulates a fantasia land, one where plants can be enormous and people tiny, wombats freely roam the earth and people hide in burrows, while giant rabbits and cats, both in scale and presence, dominate birds and all other creatures of the skies and on the ground.

The artist notes that she combines images of real animals with Yokai, phantoms and spirits that populate Japanese folklore, which she remembers from her childhood. She writes, "Drawing inspiration from my memories, my work tells stories that can connect people with their own personal memories and stories."

The fantasia land created does not open up like a "waking dream" or an alternative reality that can be inhabited with our imagination; instead it appears like a fairytale that has been illustrated. We are looking from the outside in, rather than discovering a wonderland from the inside, one into which a modern-



Magical dandelion by Kyoko Imazu in *Storytellers* at Megalo. Photo: supplied



The Great Wave by Kyoko Imazu in *Storytellers* at Megalo. Photo: Supplied

MOST POPULAR

- 1 It's been snowing in parts of Canberra
- 2 Thieves steal Camp Quality charity car from Fadden driveway
- 3 Kambah residents raise safety concerns at Mount Taylor
- 4 Outrage as bears appeared to have been incinerated in family favourite Pooh Bear's Corner on the Clyde Mountain
- 5 Plebiscite sees spike in calls to counsellors



discovering a wonderland from the inside, one into which a modern day Alice has stumbled. The illustrative and "cute" nature of much of the imagery carries with it a strong sugar content that, at times, is a little overpowering.

Technically, the etchings are highly accomplished, where the general sepia tonality is allowed to assert its own magic and to reveal, at closer inspection, a whole mesmerising universe of intricate detail. The strength of her art lies precisely in her ability to enthrall the viewer with this mass of intriguing detail and to create a web of fantasy through which to catch our imagination.

One of the most impressive etchings is *The Great Wave*, which consciously brings to mind the classic colour woodblock print by Katsushika Hokusai *The Great Wave off Kanagawa* from the 1830s. Kyoko Imazu has inverted the composition and where, in the hollow of the wave, Hokusai has included the image of Mount Fuji, she has placed a dandelion. Kyoko Imazu's wave sweeps up a whole menagerie of animals, fantastic creatures, people, boats and cars. I remain puzzled whether this wave represents some sort of destructive tsunami sweeping aside consumer culture or simply a wave of the imagination that sweeps together many of the creatures that inhabit this artist's imagination.

Another memorable etching by Imazu is the *Magical Dandelion*, in which the flower head has developed into a "blowball" from which the hair-like parachutes disperse the seeds. As you examine the etching in detail, you notice that among the seeds float tiny enchanted figures – the seeds of the imagination – and from among the leaves at the base of the plant emerge black beetles. The humble dandelion becomes a site of enchantment.

 **AM & PM UPDATE NEWSLETTER**
Get the latest news and updates emailed straight to your inbox.

By submitting your email you are agreeing to Fairfax Media's [terms and conditions](#) and [privacy policy](#).

Kyoko Imazu is a young artist who is developing a personal universe that she shares with us through these gorgeous etchings.

PROPERTY NEWS

Collaroy home returns to market on ...



Is the grass always greener? Why I ...



FOLLOW CANBERRA TIMES

NEWSLETTERS

RECOMMENDED



Wendy Squires: Why I've ditched toxic...



New Online Tool to find out your Borrowing Limit
HOME LOAN REPORT



Canberra woman charged with stalking after device...



Cruise Sale – New Caledonia & Vanuatu
CARNIVAL CRUISES



'Sunny one minute, snow the next! :...



Credit Cards Are Now Offering 0% Until 2019
FINDER.COM.AU



Canberra Times letters to the editor: Irony in...



Help protect unaccompanied children. Donate now
UNHCR



Peter FitzSimons: When will the madness end?



Experience Canterbury's local favourites
TOURISM NEW ZEALAND

powered by plista

MOST VIEWED TODAY

ACT NEWS

It's been snowing in parts of Canberra

It's been snowing in parts of Canberra

My marriage broke down, so I ran away to America

Thieves steal Camp Quality charity car from Fadden driveway

'Shock' move on asylum seekers

Shattered Cheika says Wallabies deserved to beat All Blacks

Outrage as bears appeared to have been incinerated in family

Thieves steal Camp Quality charity car from Fadden driveway

'Shock' move on asylum seekers

Canberra woman charged with stalking after device found on car

Outrage as bears appeared to have been incinerated in family

No choice to walk away: When the domestic abuser is your child

Plebiscite sees spike in calls to counsellors

Canberra woman charged with stalking after device found on car

Millions missing in Chinese visa fraud racket

PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

[AM Edition](#)
[PM Edition](#)
[Good Food Guide](#)
[Newsletters](#)
[Canberra Times Photos](#)

CANBERRA TIMES

[Sitemap](#)
[Subscriptions](#)
[Contact Us](#)
[Advertise With Us](#)
[Sponsorship](#)
[Text Version](#)
[Site Accessibility Guide](#)

CLASSIFIEDS

[Place an Ad](#)
[Place a free ad](#)
[CT Classifieds & Notices](#)
[Cars](#)
[Dating](#)
[Jobs](#)
[Domain](#)
[Commercial Real Estate](#)
[Oneflare](#)
[Nabo](#)
[Tributes](#)
[Celebrations](#)

OUR SITES

[SMH](#)
[The Age](#)
[AFR.com](#)
[Adzuna](#)
[Allhomes](#)
[Domain](#)
[Drive](#)
[RSVP](#)
[Essential Baby](#)
[Home Price Guide](#)
[Weatherzone](#)

[WEBSITE FEEDBACK](#)

[Account Details](#) [News Store Archive](#) [Fairfax Syndication](#) [Careers](#) [Events](#) [Press Council](#)

Copyright © 2017