Public access description

Denise Hawrysio was born in Toronto but has lived and worked in London since the early 1990s. She is interested in using printmaking as a means of social engagement and her work has often involved collaboration with and input from others who are not artists themselves. This print (and E.679-2017) was produced as part of a residency at St George's Hospital, Tooting, where the artist worked with patients attending the hospital's Traumatic Stress Service. This is a specialist service for those who have experienced severe trauma and consequent psychological damage. Clients were invited to participate in the residency, which entailed working with the artist to make a print – as part of the process of instilling the clients with a sense of value and self-worth through the making of something positive from their traumatic experience. The prints that Hawrysio made with the clients were exhibited at the hospital and each participant was presented with a framed impression of their print.

After conversations with and guidance from the artist about the process, each participant worked on a zinc etching plate to create an image relating to the scene of their initial traumatic experience. This hand-drawn image was then combined with a photograph, taken by the artist, which was related to the patient's image, but more positive. Stephan (formerly a soldier in Northern Ireland) drew a scene of carnage enacted in the foreground of a mountainous landscape. All the patients found the process valuable as a means of engaging with their trauma, and confronting it (some for the first time) and were encouraged by the feeling that they had created something positive from their negative traumatic experiences.

Descriptive line


Physical description

Landscape view with mountain, a church, cemetery and brick wall printed in dark green, overlaid with a photographic image of mountains printed in blue.

Dimensions

Height: 75 cm, Width: 106 cm

Museum number

E.678-2017

URL

http://collections.vam.ac.uk/item/O1394191/stephan-northern-ireland-print-hawrysio-denise/