

## Glossary of Terms

**How Glen does etching:** A lot of the images in this exhibition are made using a printmaking process called etching. Glen uses a special needle to draw into a metal sheet called a 'plate' that has a thin layer of wax over it. He puts the plate into acid that bites into the metal where the drawing has removed the wax. This is quite dangerous and he has to wear a special mask and gloves. The remaining wax is cleaned from the plate and then he forces ink into the etched areas by wiping it with cloth called tarlatan. He prints the image onto paper or fabric using a big printing press.

**Aquatint:** is an etching that has tonal variations. The darker the tone, the longer the plate has been in the acid.

**Artists Books:** are artworks in the form of a book that tell a story often using images rather than words.

**Assemblage:** refers to artworks made from different materials including 3D and found objects.

**Collage:** is the gluing of different types of 2 D materials in an artwork eg. photographs, bits of coloured paper and other materials onto a flat surface.

**Encaustic:** refers to the use of hot beeswax to which colored pigments are sometimes added. Glen dips his envelopes into it.

**Ink:** refers to the substance printmakers use to print with. It is usually much thicker than paint.

**Mytho-Poetic:** refers to myths or stories and poems.

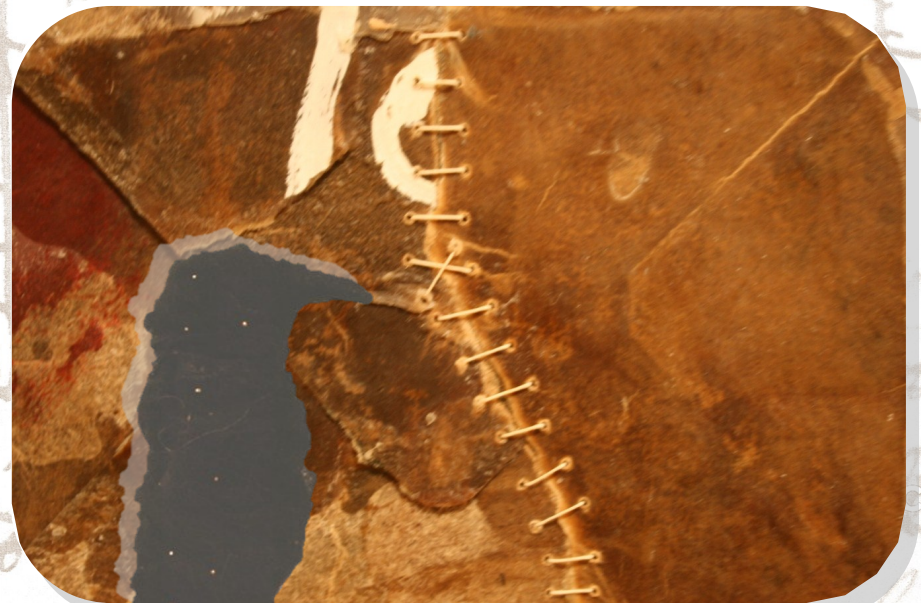
**Muslin:** is a loosely woven cotton fabric. Glen's little envelopes are made from it.

**Photo Transfer:** is a method of transferring photographs onto a printing plate or other surfaces.

**Strawboard:** is a type of thick cardboard.

# Activity Book

## Mid - Upper Primary



Name \_\_\_\_\_



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MYTHO-POETIC: Print and Assemblage Works by Glen Skien is organised by the Gympie Regional Gallery and toured by Museum & Gallery Services Queensland. This project has been assisted by the Gordon Darling Foundation and the Australian Government through the Australia Council for the Arts, its arts funding and advisory body.

**MYTHO-POETIC**  
GLEN SKIEN

## Let's go on a journey with Glen Skien!

Glen likes to tell stories in his artwork.

He tells these stories using postcards, letters, photographs, envelopes, drawings and objects.

Find the artwork *Archive of the Unfamiliar* \* Hint: it is very big

Glen has used some images from old constellation maps in this artwork. He has also used other images. **Write some here.**



**A constellation is:**  
circle your answer

1. A group of people
2. A group of stars
3. A group of fish

### Did you know?

There are hundreds of small artworks that make up this very large artwork.

Try counting them!

2 Glen Skien, *Archive of the Unfamiliar* (detail) 2013

## Altered Books

See if you can find the artworks that are made from old books.

\* Hint one is called *Miscellaneous Altered Books 1, 11, 111*  
(meaning there are 3 of them).

The other is called *Readers Digest Atlas of Australia Vol. 1 - 6.*

Discuss how these artworks are different to the other artworks in the exhibition.

## Artists Books

There are also 4 very large heavy artist books in the exhibition. Find an adult friend or teacher and put on some white gloves.

Very carefully turn some pages.

There are many things to look at in these books.

As we have seen, Glen is interested in how history is retold through letters and stories. Maybe your grandparents have old letters they have written to friends or loved ones that describe places they have been or how life was for them.

Have you ever written a letter or postcard to someone?

There are some postcards in the exhibition. Choose your favourite image or draw your own. Write a story and send it to a relative or friend.

Remember to put a stamp on it!

### Extended activities for Upper Primary children

Photographs, sketches, newspaper articles, stories, myths and objects inspire Glen to make his artworks.

There are many birds, fish, people, crosses, animals and even a helicopter in Glen's artworks. **See if you can find them...**



### Stories in history inspire Glen to make artwork.

Glen has used a story from his childhood in his artworks *Resemblance 1, 11* and *Object-poem: Trace*.

These artworks should be close to each other.

\* Hint, they look like wings of an old aeroplane.

When Glen was a child he lived near the coastline at Mackay, North Queensland, where an aeroplane crashed in heavy fog.

Sadly all 29 passengers died.

A big stone memorial now stands in the picnic area in memory of the sorrowful accident.

This affected Glen and the whole community and has remained with him all his life.

### Can you think of an event or story that has affected you?

It might be a good experience or something sad.

These experiences form part of who you are.

### What can you see in the artwork titled

### *Archive of the Unfamiliar?*

Circle the word when you see it



a face

a map

stamps

buildings

birds

the word  
"POSTCARD"

chocolates

people

some stitching

ice cream

a cross shape

Draw your favourite image here.



### The search for meaning.

Look around the exhibition for this artwork below.



Glen S'kein, *Object-poem II all things I could have told you about birds* 2012

Great works of art are full of stories which gives them meaning. Glen emphasises meaning in his artwork by repeating the same kind of image or a similar shape over and over.

**What shapes and images are repeated in this artwork?**

Why do you think he has used these?



Did you notice that some birds are facing left and some right?

How many face left? \_\_\_\_\_

How many face right? \_\_\_\_\_



### Stories on envelopes as artworks.

Find this artwork in the exhibition. It is called *Letters from America 1*.



Glen S'kein, *Letters from America I* 2012

Glen uses **etching**, **collage** and **encaustic** in this artwork and he has made envelopes out of **muslin**. \* See the Glossary of Terms on the back of this booklet to find out more about these techniques and materials.

Look up close at the printed images. Discuss how the printing looks on muslin compared to some of the other printed images in the exhibition.

Usually letters are contained inside an envelope but Glen has put his letters and stories on the outside of the envelope.

What stories do you think he is telling?

