

MEDIA RELEASE

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New QVMAG exhibition explores disturbing beauty of industrial imprint on Tasmania's wilderness

A fascinating photographic display investigating the historical footprint of industry and technology in Tasmania's wilderness opens this weekend at the City of Launceston's Queen Victoria Art Gallery at Royal Park.

Landmarks is an exclusive collection of images by Ilona Schneider, many of which have never been exhibited before.

Schneider, a renowned Austrian visual artist now based in Hobart, is fascinated by Tasmania's western landscape as a setting for technology and industry, as well as human dwelling.

In trying to make sense of our vast and foreign scenery, Schneider has focussed her lens on Hydro-electric schemes and mining operations against the beauty of the west's rugged terrain.

The collection shows sleepy mining towns surrounded by dammed lakes and abandoned machinery, pits and pipes.

Schneider raises questions about our personal and social responsibility in environmental change.

QVMAG Visual Arts and Design Curator Ashleigh Whatling says the Art Gallery is showcasing an exhibit that is both thought provoking and socially relevant.

"*Landmarks* encourages us to consider our appreciation of the environment and how we work with it. The exhibition also prompts thoughts of how humans are part of the natural world and therefore our industrial footprint leaves a legacy - both in written and natural history for future generations."

"Ilona's work blends the spectacle of the natural world with the controlled aesthetics of industrial innovation."

The exhibition opens on Saturday and runs until October.

You're invited to preview the exhibition today and chat with artist Ilona Schneider and Ashleigh Whatling at 11am at the Art Gallery at Royal Park.