

**Glasgow
Print
Studio**

Alasdair Gray Omnium Gatherum





Alasdair Gray

Omnium Gatherum

We have lost the wonderful, charismatic while somewhat eccentric polymath, Alasdair Gray. Feted as a writer since the publication of his seminal novel, *Lanark* in 1981, his star continued to rise until the end for both his writing and for his amazing work in visual art.

Closely associated with the Glasgow Print Studio, in 1979 a booklet *The Comedy of the White Dog* featuring two short stories by Alasdair was published under the Print Studio Imprint. The studio also worked with Alasdair to publish a suite of prints, *Lanark*, to coincide with the publishing of the his novel in 1981.

Alasdair made occasional prints throughout his life and later on printmaking became a major part of his artistic output. His written language was intrinsically intertwined with the visual and we were honoured to build a lasting relationship with him, working closely with our Master Printers.

In 2008 he completed the series of screenprints, *The Scots Hippo*, based on the T. S. Elliot poem, *The Hippopotamus*, each verse illustrated in Alasdair's inimitable style. He was focused and driven, and would not let anything stand in his way. When he was refused permission to use the original poem by the estate of T. S. Eliot, Alasdair simply reworked the poem into Scots language.

He went on to produce many screenprints with Glasgow Print Studio over the years, often returning to and reworking images and making them anew. In December he was working on a new one that he hoped to complete in time for his exhibition.

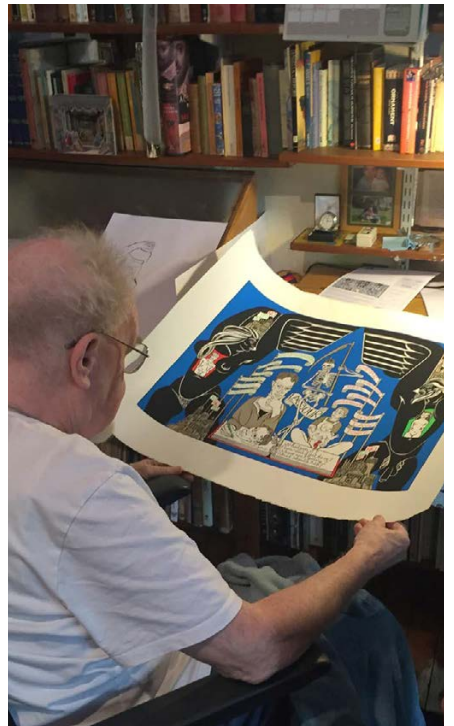
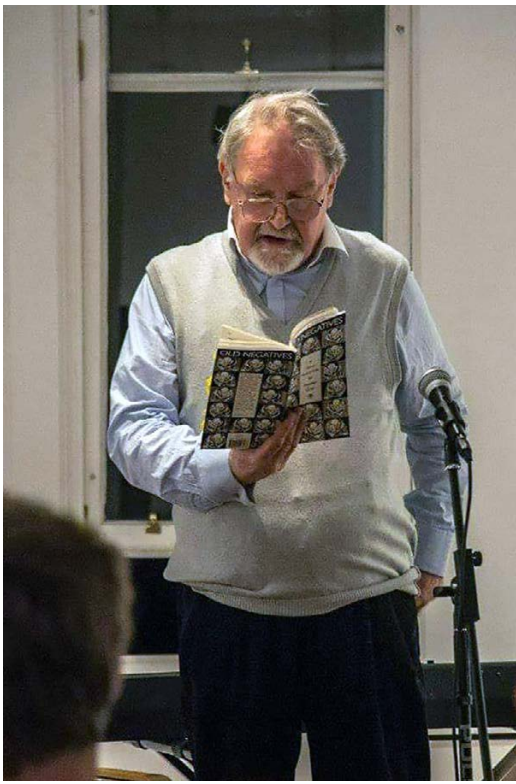
It was a great privilege for us to know him and to work with him.

He leaves behind a great legacy for future generations to experience and enjoy. An example of each work in the exhibition plus annotated proofs is preserved in Glasgow Print Studio's archive.

Many of the works in the exhibition are available for purchase.

Please contact: sales@glasgowprintstudio.co.uk

Prices quoted here include VAT.





Omnium Gatherum

Screenprint, 2017, image size 42 x 58 cm, paper size 54 x 69 cm, edition of 60. £ 1, 200.

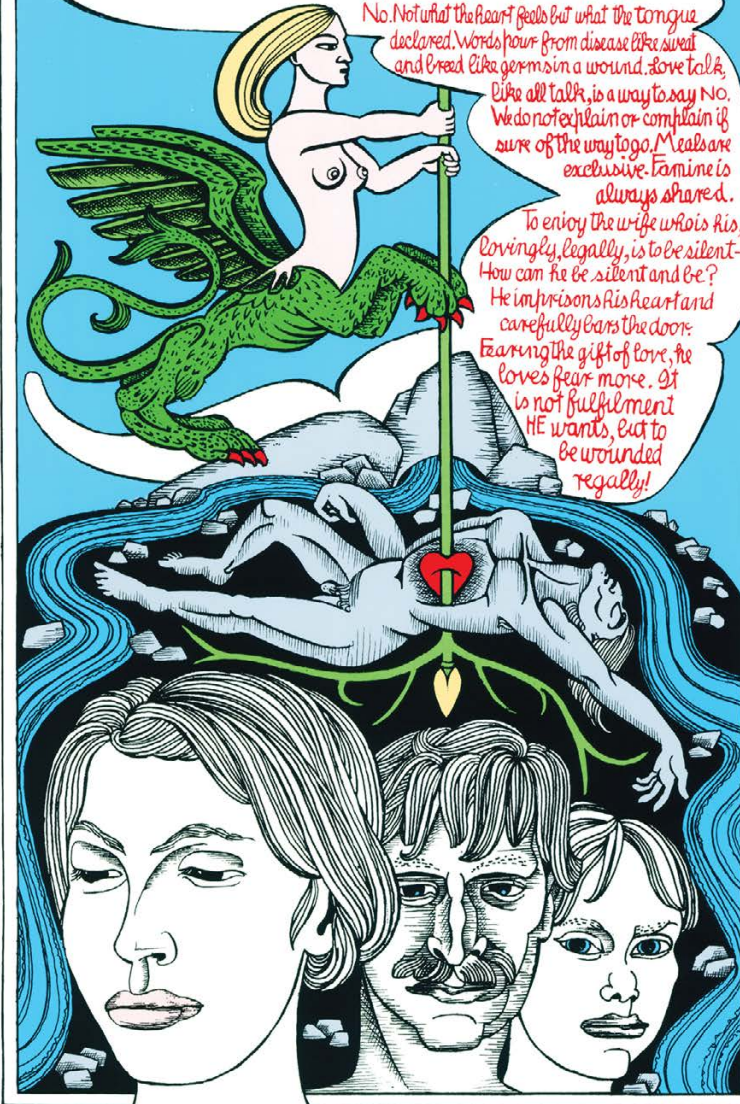
WOUNDSCAPE

He had wounded himself in the traditional places, but no new crop came from the parrowed flesh, and to reject a wound he did not need would leave the heart unoccupied indeed, if healing only restored the usual surfaces and faces.

Disposed by a quieted will to classical stillness, girls names no longer evoked lost exotic chances, but a wife, a baby, a cat and domestic repose might flatten torn ground where feeling grows. Must all the heart feels be a kind of illness?

No. Not what the heart feels but what the tongue declared. Words pour from disease like sweat and breed like germs in a wound. Love talk, like all talk, is a way to say NO. We do not explain or complain if sure of the way to go. Meals are exclusive. Famine is always shared.

To enjoy the wife who is his, lovingly, legally, is to be silent. How can he be silent and be? He imprisons his heart and carefully bars the door. Fearing the gift of love, he loves fear more. It is not fulfillment HE wants, but to be wounded legally!



Woundscape

2013

Screenprint

Image Size 52 x 72 cm

Edition of 40

£ 960

He holds a spoon, certain of what he holds—
nothing more solid—certain than this spoon,
fat clenching fist and hard thing clenched, the same:
no separation between noun and noun.

He waves the spoon, certain of what he waves.
Lost in the rhythm of this waving weight
the small face is remote and yet intent—
to feel, think, dream and do are all the same:
no separation between verb and verb.

He drinks his mother.
Sweetness is a tree
whose branches swing
and feed him.
Mother, mouth, sweetness,
drinking are the same:
no separation between
noun and verb.

"You shall not",
makes him know
he is not God,
dividing think
from feel
and dream
from do,



creating adjectives
like good and bad,
pronouns like you and me
and mine and those,
till Rome is a place
minced into tiny words,
the spoon a herilous thing
no longer his,
and food the bait
of an enormous trap
he hardly will
accept as
universe.

OF
A BOY
LESS THAN
A YEAR OLD

Boy with Spoon

2018

Screenprint

Image Size 55 x 30 cm

Paper Size 72 x 46 cm

Edition of 60

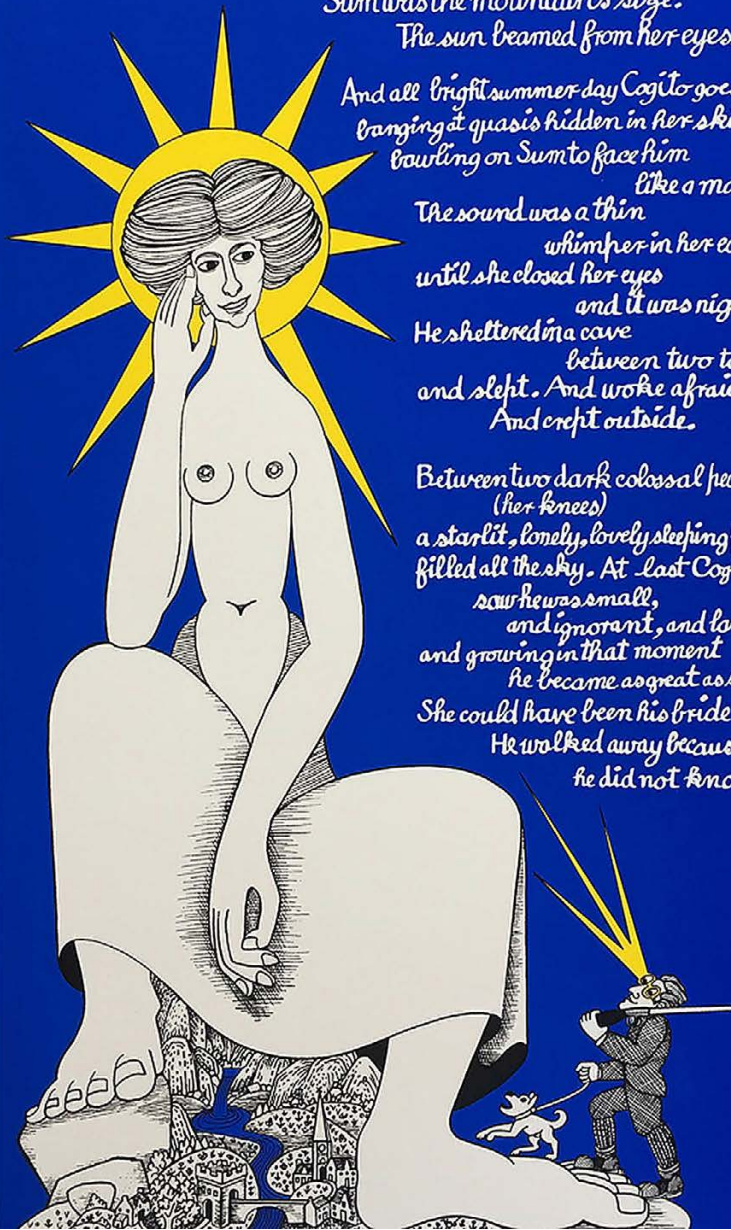
£ 960

Smug Cogito with flashing spectacles
shouldered a gun and went to hunt for Sum.
A yapping ergo led him up the steep
of what he thought were foot-hills, but were feet
of Sum who sat upon a mountaintop,
elbow on knee and hand supporting cheek.
Sum was the mountain's size.
The sun beamed from her eyes.

And all bright summer day Cogito goes
braving at quasie hidden in her skirt,
bawling on Sum to face him
like a man.

The sound was a thin
whimper in her ears
until she closed her eyes
and it was night.
He sheltered in a cave
between two toes
and slept. And woke afraid.
And crept outside.

Between two dark colossal peaks
(her knees)
a starlit, lonely, lovely sleeping face
filled all the sky. At last Cogito
saw he was small,
and ignorant, and lame,
and growing in that moment
he became as great as she.
She could have been his bride.
He walked away because
he did not know.



Smug Cogito

2018

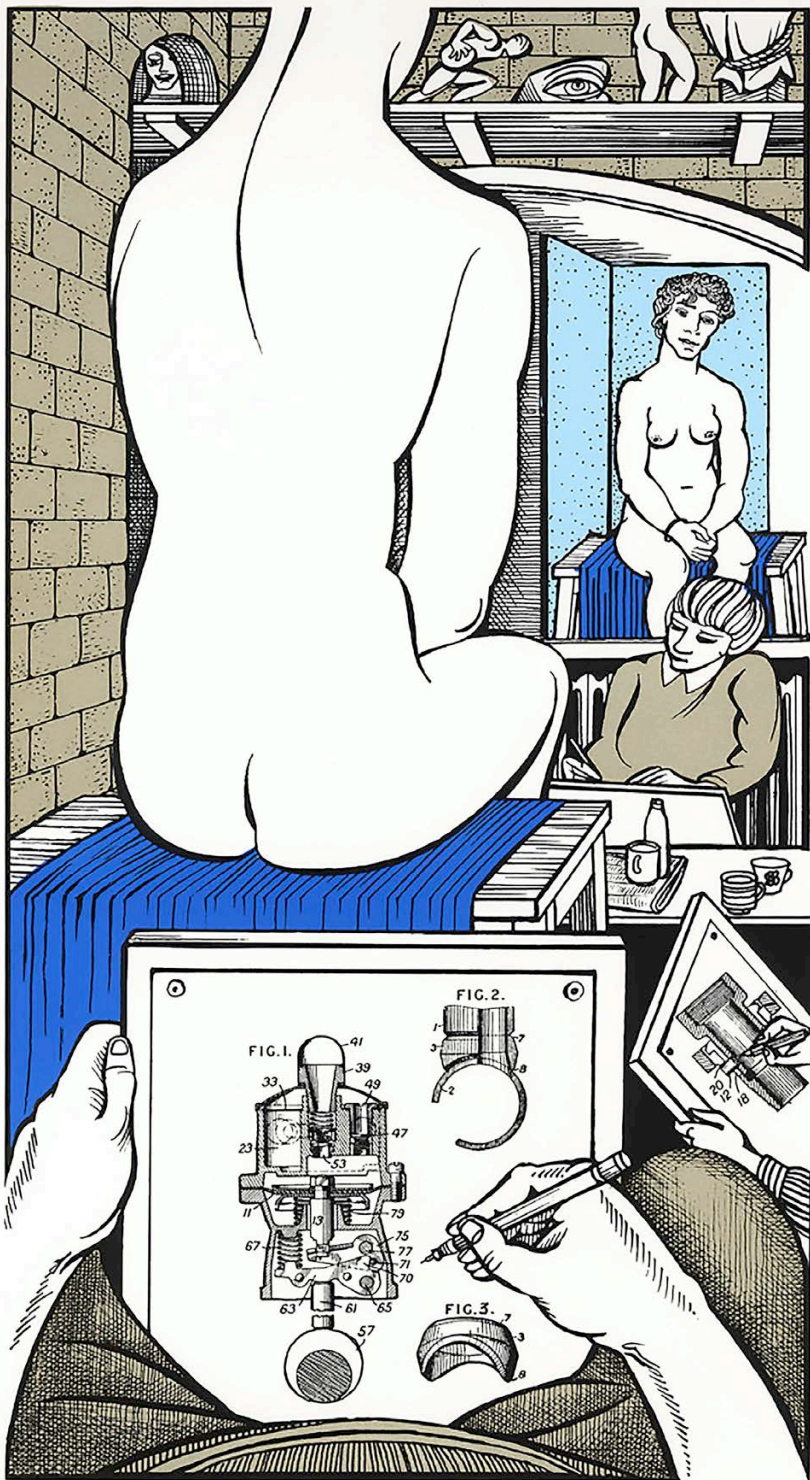
Screenprint

Image Size 55 x 30 cm

Paper Size 72 x 45 cm

Edition of 60

£ 960



**An Illustration to
a Story Explaining
Recent Geographical
Changes**

2018

Screenprint

Image Size 55 x 36 cm

Edition of 90

£ 960

TO A CRITIC WHO CALLS
Do Not Go Gentle Into That
Goodnight A SILLY POEM

Defiant noisiness
when facing death
is not stupidity to those who know
that rage against the dying of the light
has generated wiser use of breath ;
but sighs,
sobs,

songs,
poems,
gods,
sciences,

cannot dispel
annoyance at the curse

Please do not let
The universe eject
We go out of the earth
leaving behind all we
examples of our courage

my rhetoric mislead.
no excrement.
like candle flames
created there :
and despair.

of being shot out by the universe.

To A Critic

2018

Screenprint

Image Size 55 x 30 cm

Paper Size 72 x 45 cm

Edition of 84

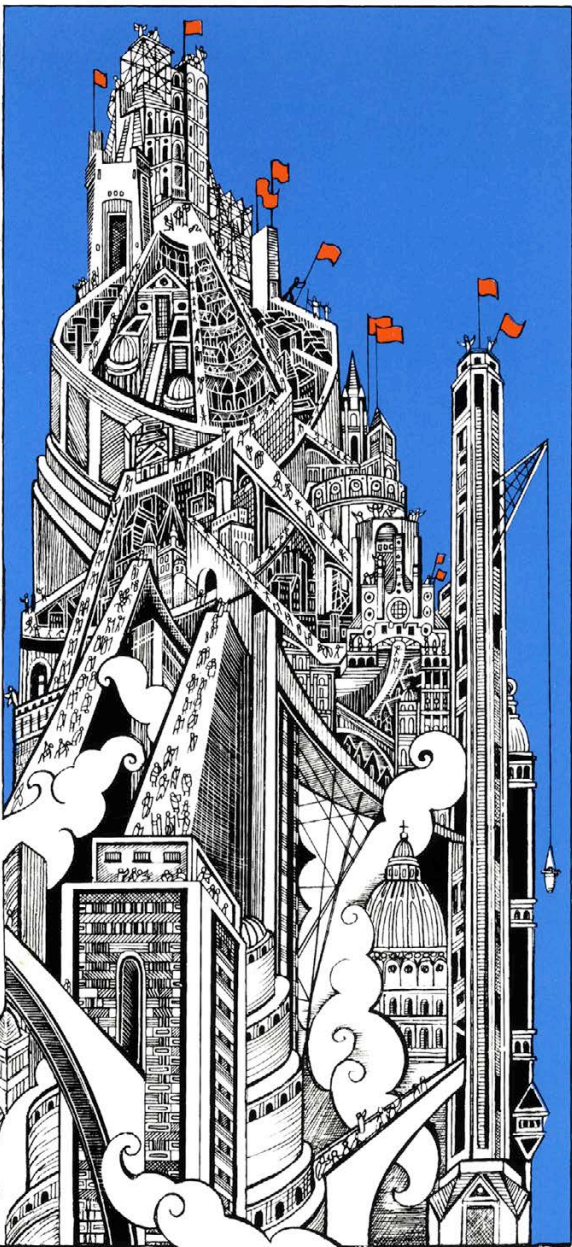
£ 960

THE WHOLE EARTH was of one language and speech. And the children of men came from the east and found a plain in the land of Shinar. And they said, "Come, let us make brick, and build a city, and a tower whose top may reach unto heaven, and let us make a name lest we be scattered across the face of the whole earth."

And the Lord saw the city and tower the children of men builded, and He said, "Behold, the people is one, with one language, and this they begin to do; and now nothing will be restrained from them that they have imagined to do. Let us go down and mingle their tongues, that one may not understand what another says."

So the Lord scattered them from thence across the face of the whole earth. And they left off building that city, the name whereof is called

BABYLON



The Tower of Babel

2017

Screenprint

Image Size 53 x 43 cm

Paper Size 53 x 43 cm

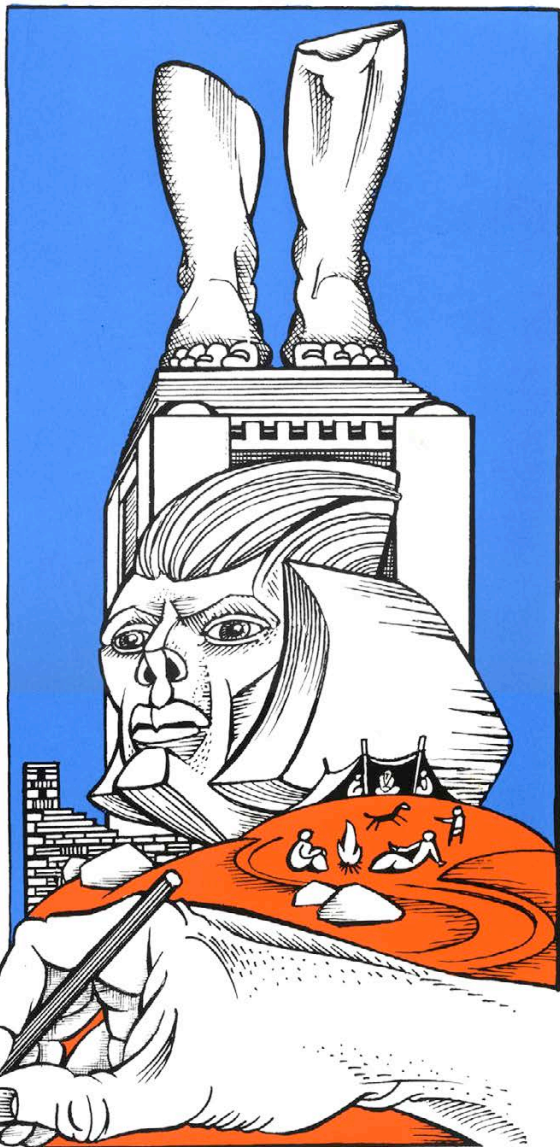
Edition of 40

£ 960

I met a traveller
from an antique land
who said
Two vast and trunkless
legs of stone
stand in the desert.
Near them, on the sand,
half sunk, a shattered
visage lies, whose brow
and wrinkled lip, and
sneer of cold command,
tell that the sculptor
well these passions read,
which yet survive, stamped
on these lifeless things.
And on the pedestal
these words appear:

**'MY NAME IS
OZYMANDIAS
KING OF KINGS:
LOOK ON MY
WORKS, YE MIGHTY,
AND DESPAIR!'**

Nothing beside remains.
Round the decay
of that colossal wreck,
boundless and bare
the lone and
level sands
stretch
far
away



Ozymandias

2017

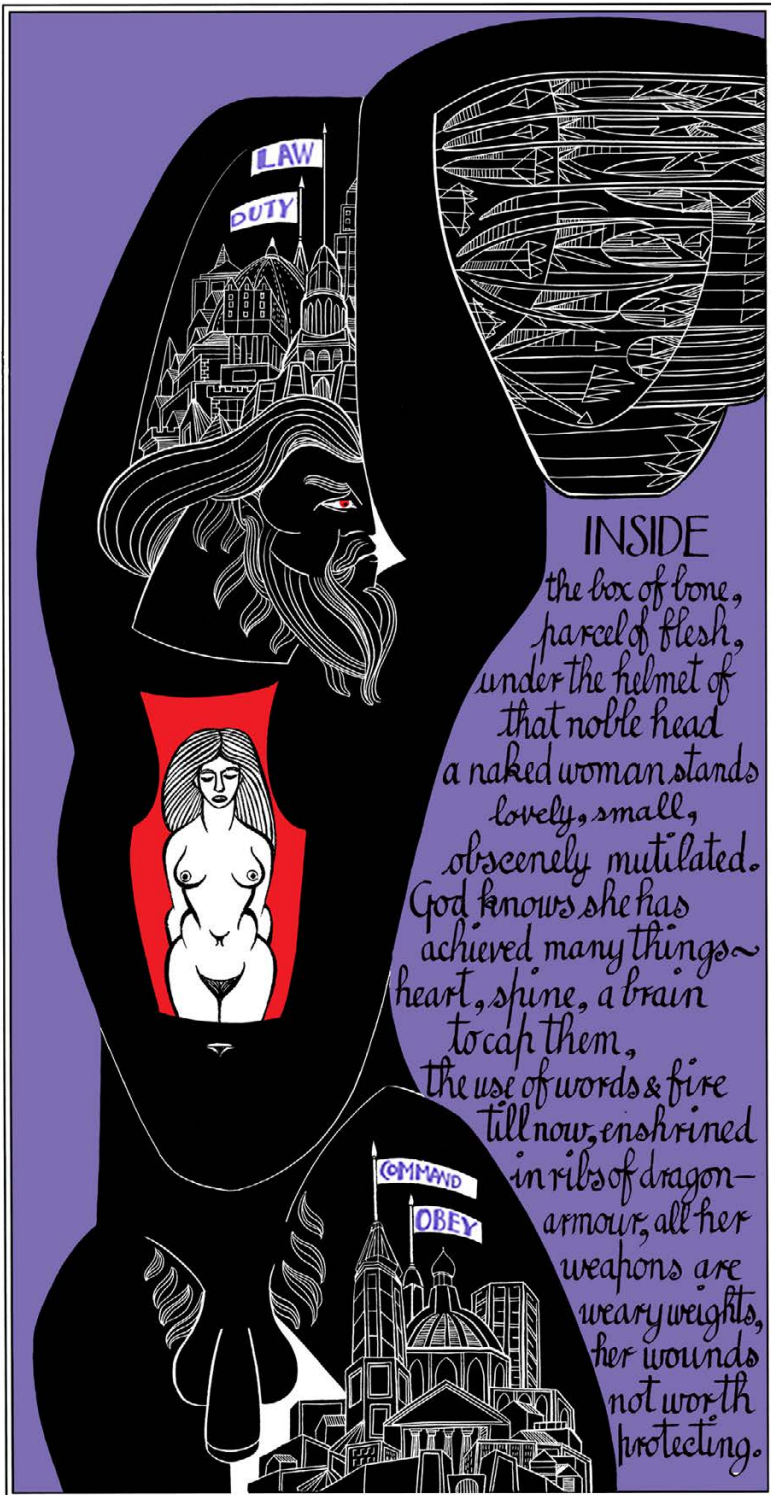
Screenprint

Image Size 53 x 43 cm

Paper Size 53 x 43 cm

Edition of 40

£ 960



INSIDE
the box of bone,
parcel of flesh,
under the helmet of
that noble head
a naked woman stands
lovely, small,
obscenely mutilated.
God knows she has
achieved many things ~
heart, spine, a brain
to cap them,
the use of words & fire
till now, enshrined
in ribs of dragon-
armour, all her
weapons are
weary weights,
her wounds
not worth
protecting.

Inside

2008

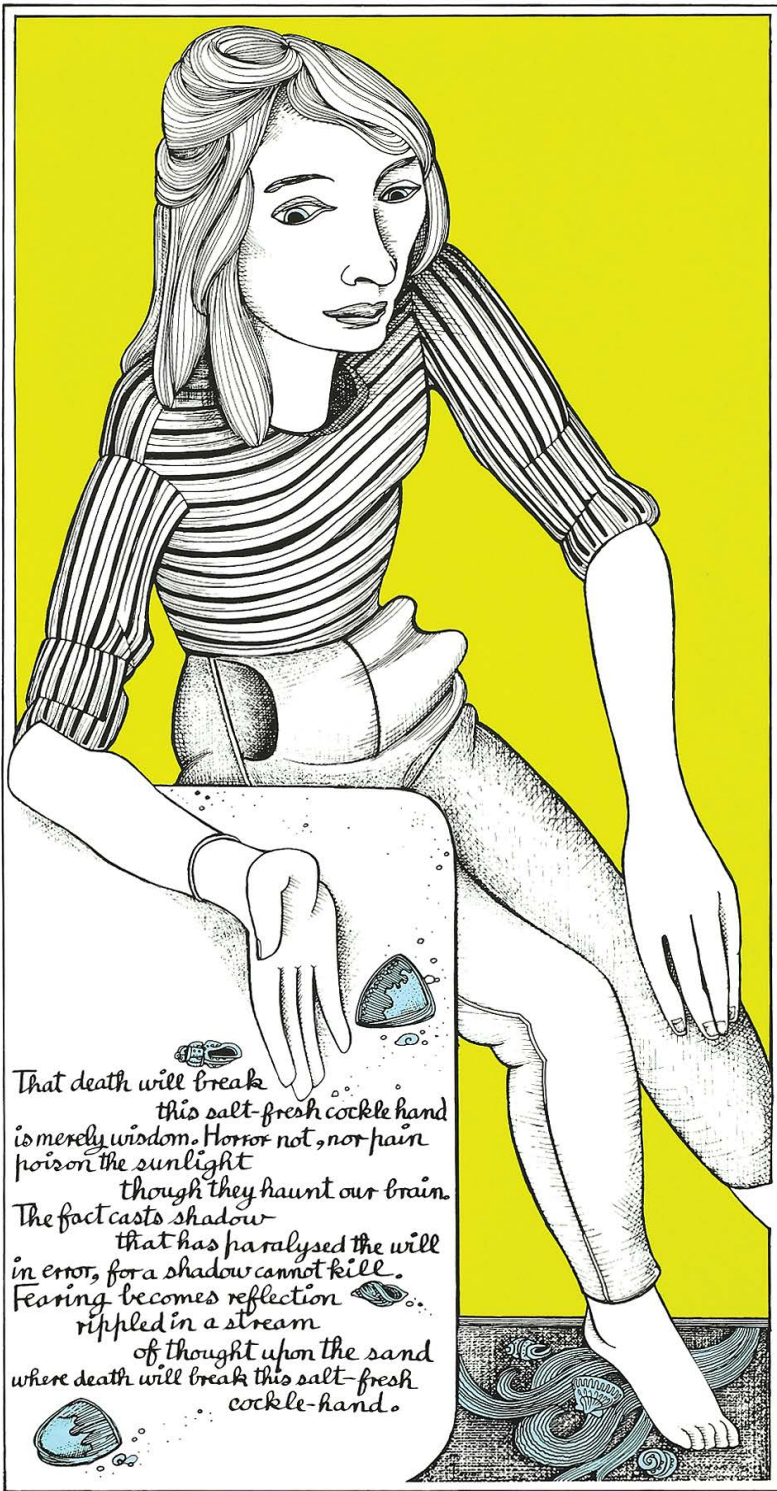
Screenprint

Image Size 37 x 60 cm

Paper Size 56 x 76 cm

Edition of 60

£ 960



That death will break
this salt-fresh cockle hand
is merely wisdom. Horror not, nor pain
poison the sunlight
though they haunt our brain.
The fact casts shadow
that has paralysed the will
in error, for a shadow cannot kill.
Fearing becomes reflection
rippled in a stream
of thought upon the sand
where death will break this salt-fresh
cockle-hand.

That Death Will Break
2007

Screenprint
Image Size 59 x 30 cm
Paper Size 56 x 76 cm
Edition of 60
£ 960

CORRUPTION
is the Roman Whore for whom
hangmen & politicians play the fiddle.
She sucks all semen back into her womb
& issues from the pasture of her thighs
bastards who momentarily repopulate
our oceans, earth & skies.
The coffin is no more
than bawdy house
for that grand Roman Whore.



Corruption

2008

Screenprint

Image Size 37 x 60 cm

Paper Size 56 x 76 cm

Edition of 60

£ 960



Inge with Fox Stoles

2018

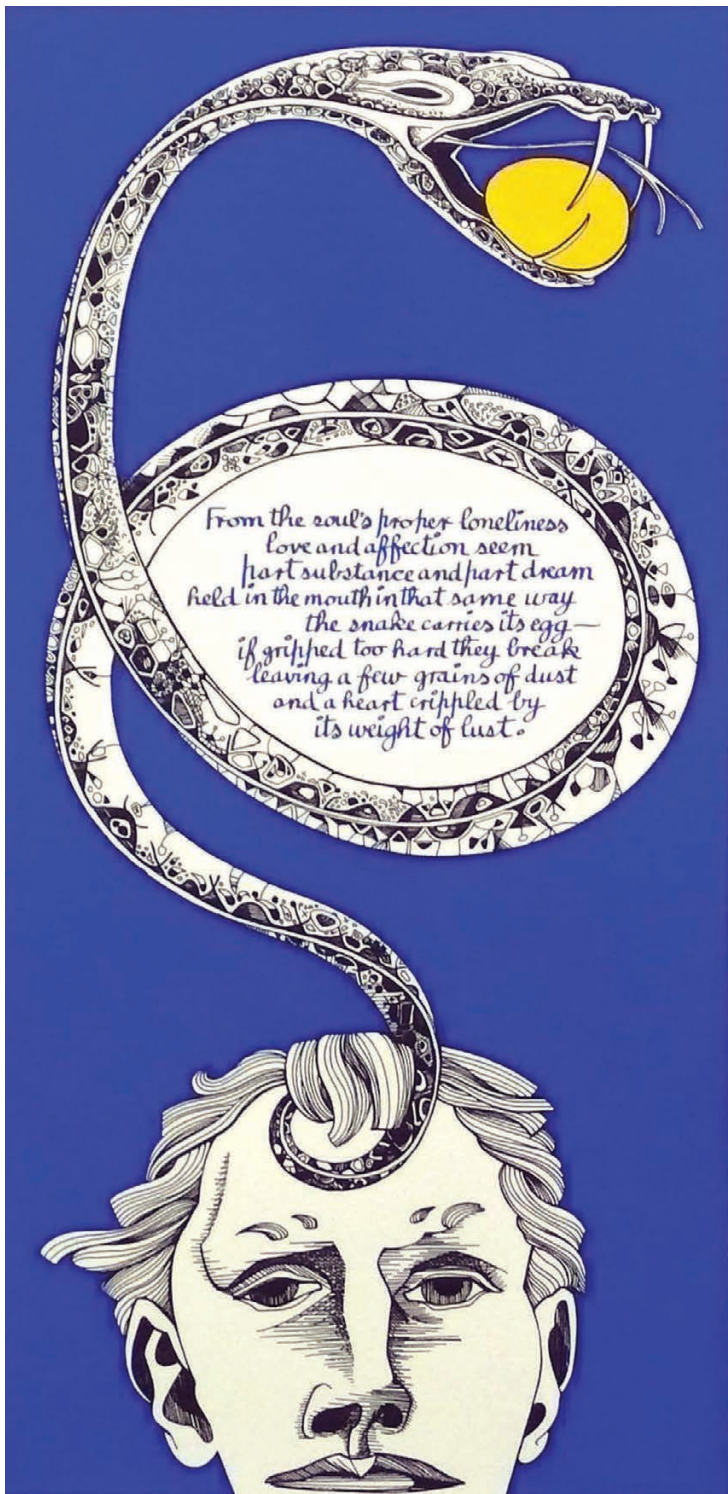
Screenprint

Image Size 53 x 43 cm

Paper Size 53 x 43 cm

Edition of 40

£ 1, 200



From the soul's proper loneliness
love and affection seem
part substance and part dream
held in the mouth in that same way
the snake carries its egg—
if gripped too hard they break
leaving a few grains of dust
and a heart crippled by
its weight of lust.

***From the Soul's
Proper Loneliness***

2007

Screenprint

Image Size 30 x 55 cm

Paper Size 56 x 76 cm

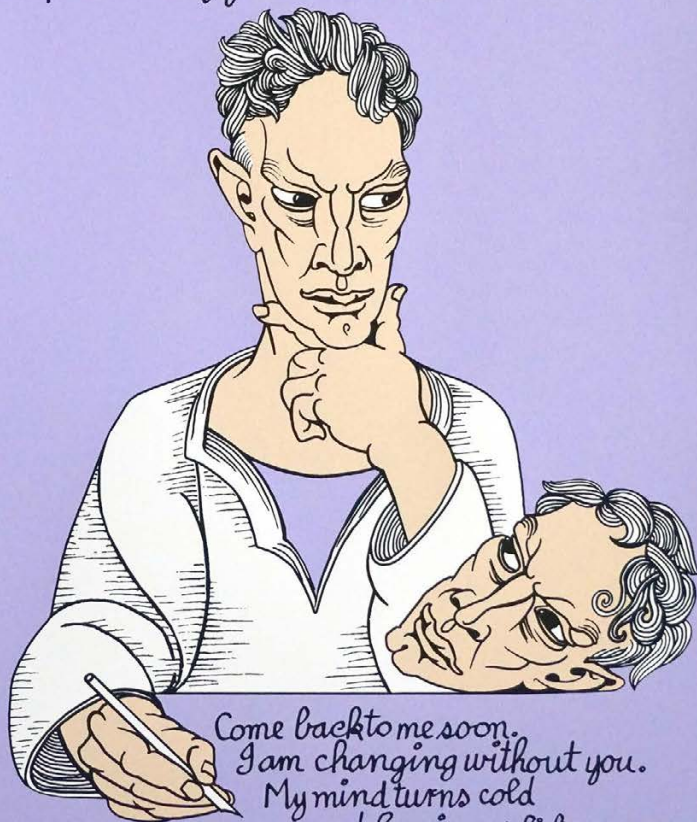
Edition of 60

£ 960

WAKENING

I woke to find pain laid on a bare bed with me
so near his head, cut in pale stone, was my head,
his brain my brain,
and I could not resign my thoughts to that proximity.
He was so close a company he felt like loneliness.

I tried at length to know
a door to make him leave by, a bribe to make him go
but oh my dear, he grins
from everywhere I look, at everything I do.
I meet his image where I once met you.
He feeds at all my meals, beckons down every street
and yet could not withstand
one pressure of your hand.



Come back to me soon.
I am changing without you.
My mind turns cold
and luminous like a moon.
Keys, coins, receipts accumulate in my pockets.
I grow calm and brutal on beer and thick meat.

Wakening

2017

Screenprint

Image Size 55 x 30 cm

Paper Size 72 x 45 cm

Edition of 60

£ 960



Saint Jerome

2017

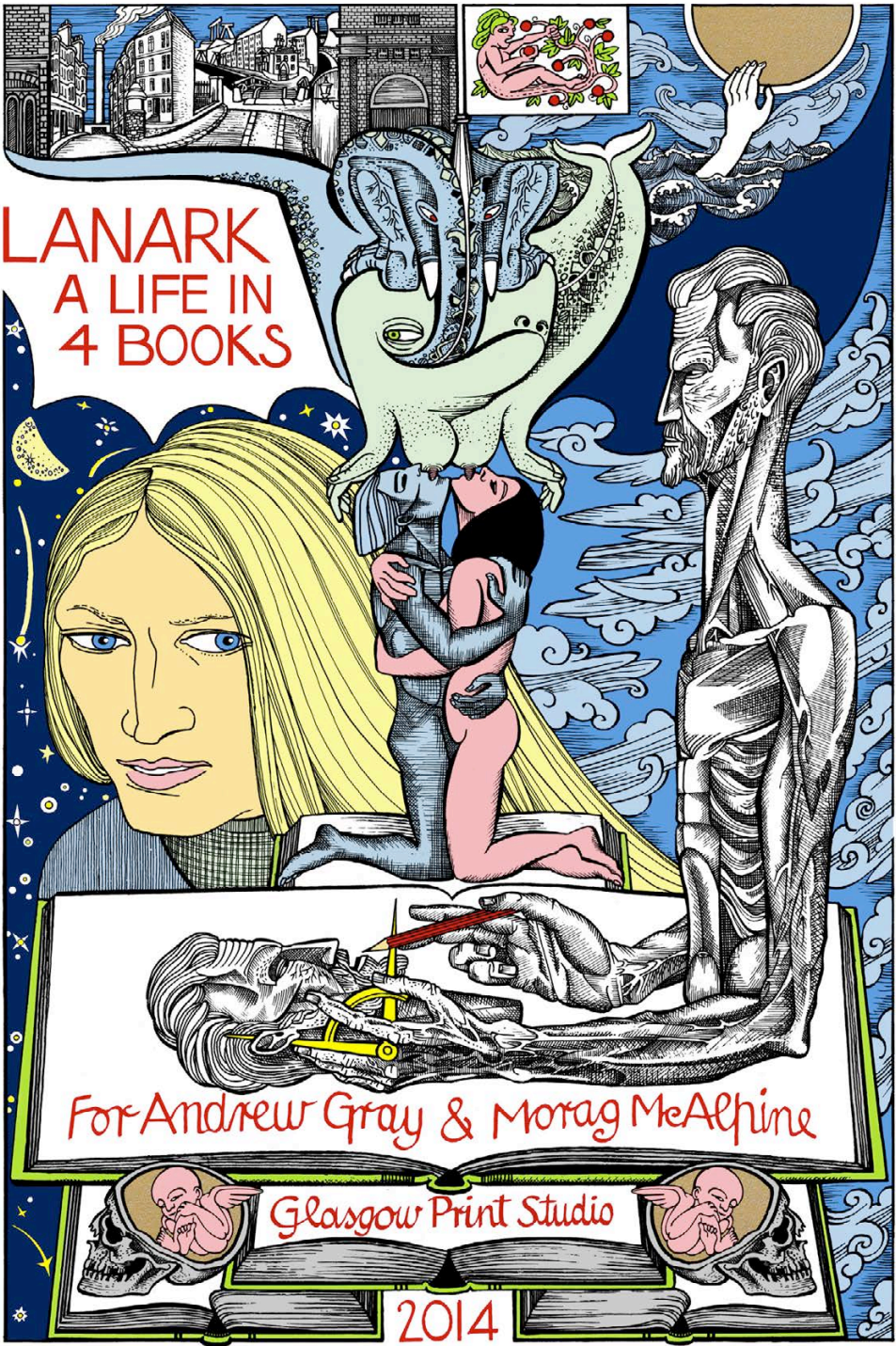
Photo polymer

Paper Size 61 x 46 cm

Image Size 30 x 44 cm

Edition of 40

£ 600



LANARK
A LIFE IN
4 BOOKS

For Andrew Gray & Morag McAlpine

Glasgow Print Studio

2014

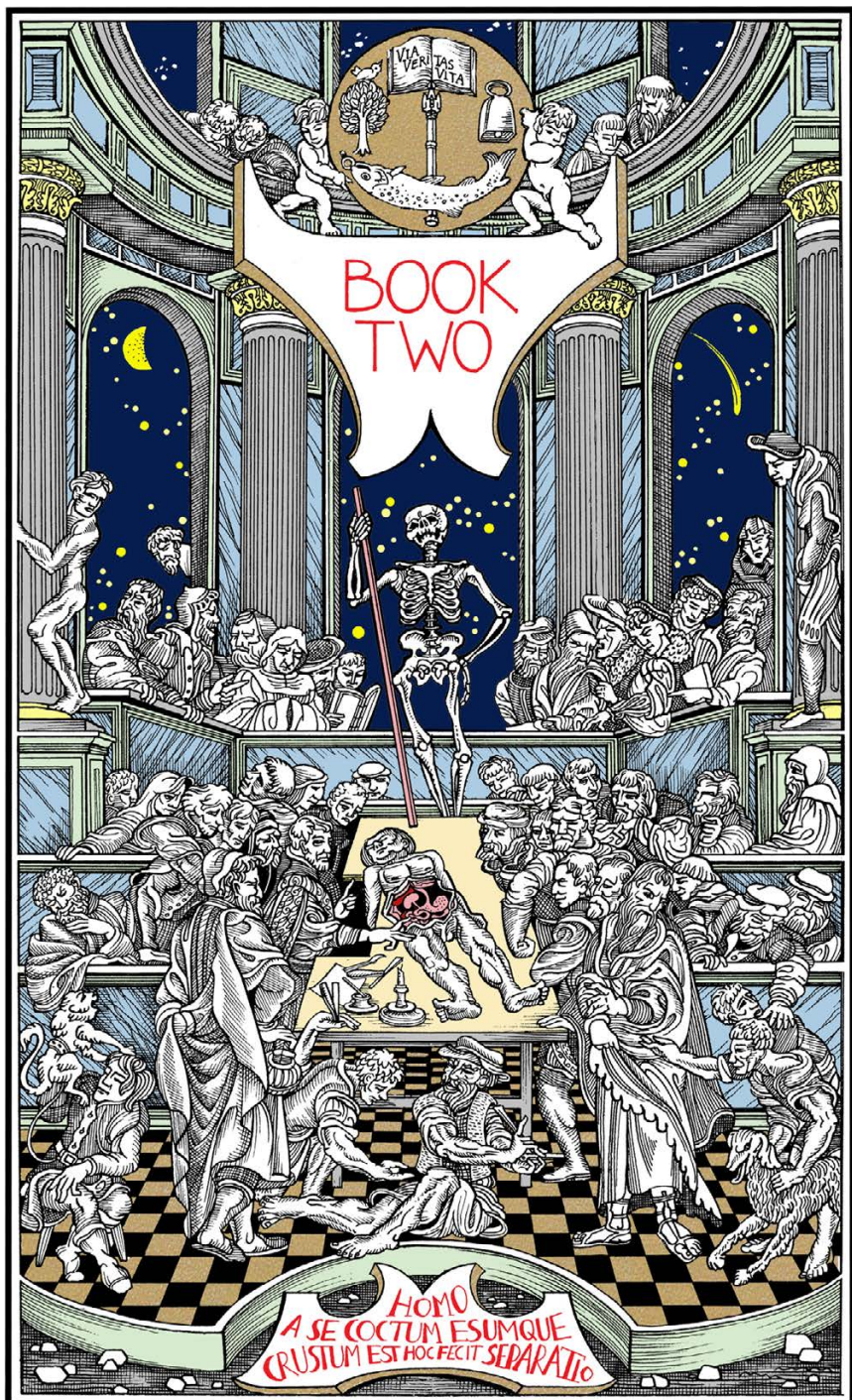
Lanark - Title Page

Screenprint, 2014, image size 58 x 32 cm, paper size 75 x 54 cm, edition of 60. £ 1, 500.



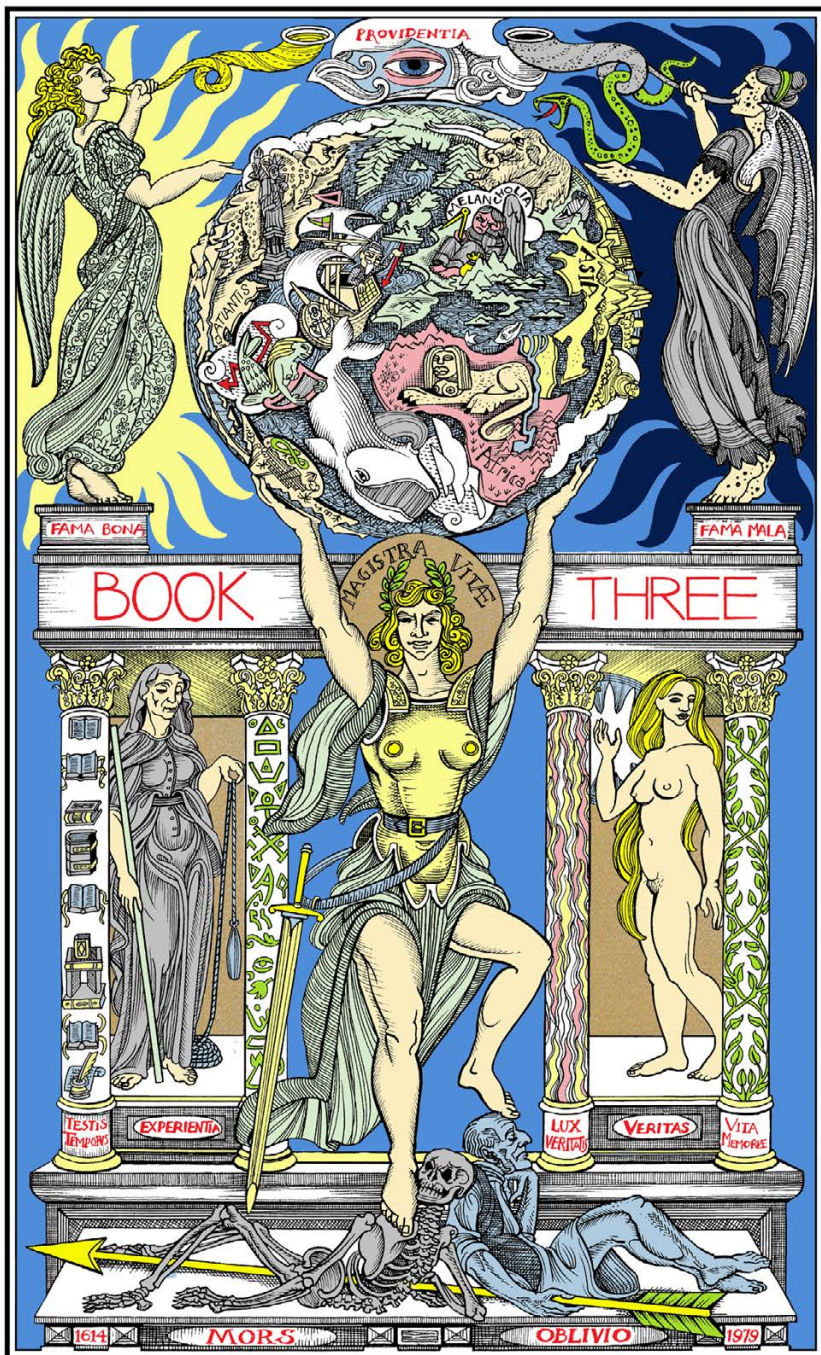
Lanark - Book One

Screenprint, 2014, image size 58 x 32 cm, paper size 75 x 54 cm, edition of 60. £ 1, 500.



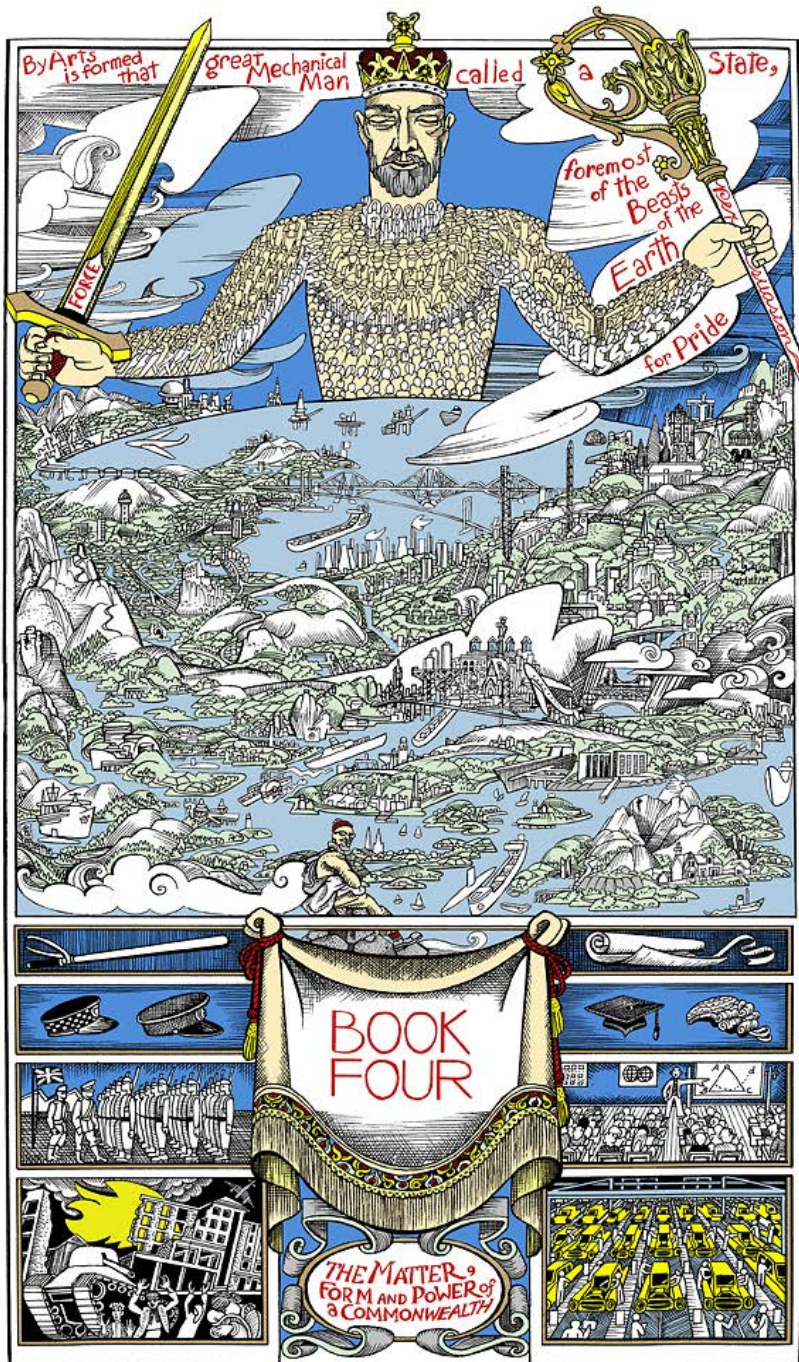
Lanark - Book Two

Screenprint, 2014, image size 58 x 32 cm, paper size 75 x 54 cm, edition of 60. £ 1, 500.



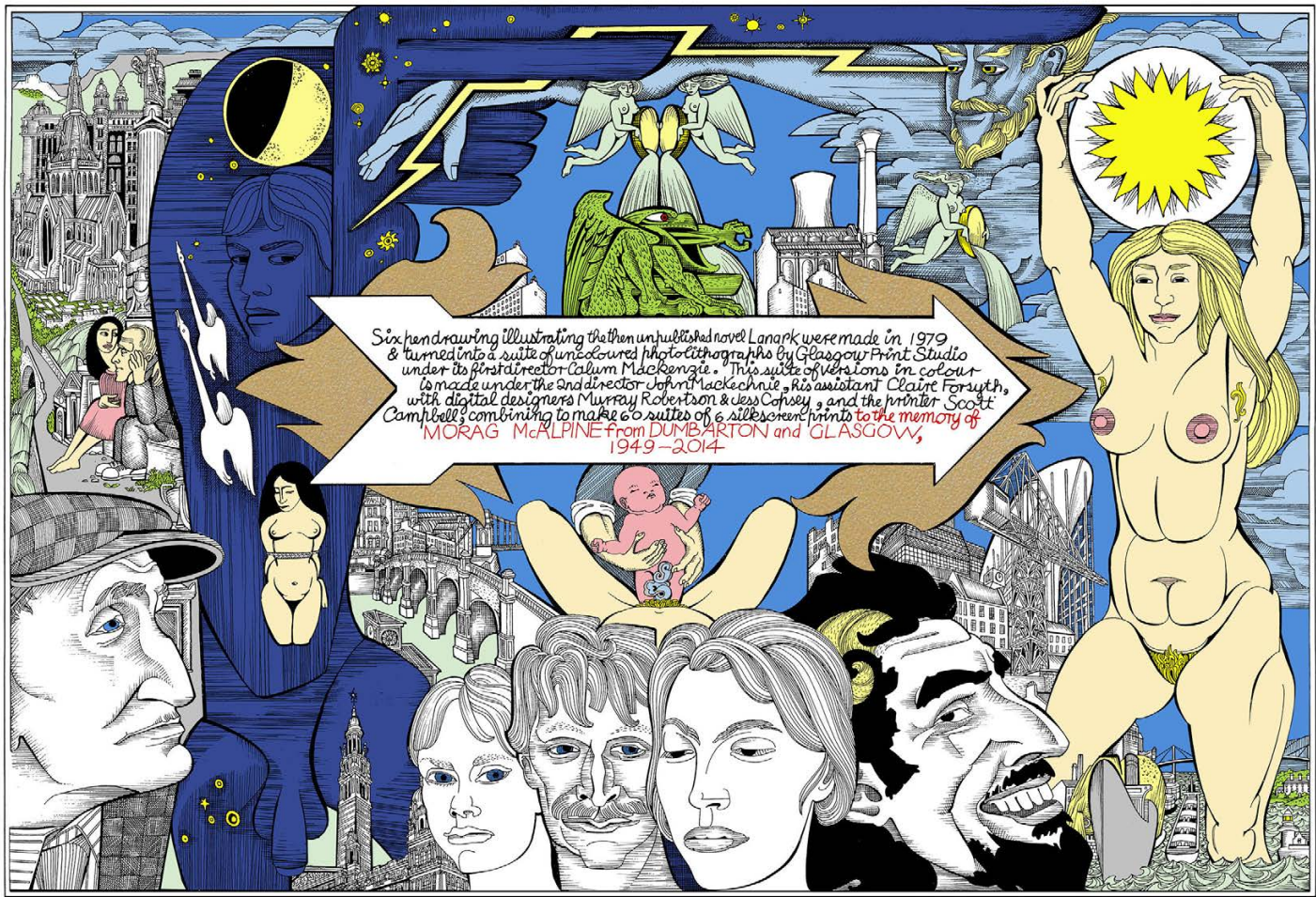
Lanark - Book Three

Screenprint, 2014, image size 58 x 32 cm, paper size 75 x 54 cm, edition of 60. £ 1, 500.



Lanark - Book Four

Screenprint, 2014, image size 58 x 32 cm, paper size 75 x 54 cm, edition of 60. £ 1, 500.



Six hand-drawn illustrations for the then unpublished novel *Lanark* were made in 1979 & turned into a suite of uncoloured photolithographs by Glasgow Print Studio under its first director Calum Mackenzie. This suite of versions in colour is made under the 2nd director John Mackenzie, his assistant Claire Forsyth, with digital designers Murray Robertson & Jess Coshey, and the printer Scott Campbell, combining to make 60 suites of 6, silkscreen prints to the memory of **MORAG McALPINE** from **DUMBARTON** and **GLASGOW**, 1949-2014.

Lanark - Book Jacket

Screenprint, 2014, image size 85 x 58 cm, paper size 103 x 74 cm, edition of 60. £1,500.

PROMETHEUS

a fragment

Standing high above clouds, the apparent God of this world declares he owns all its natural resources, so everyone must obey him. From having claimed the respect due strong public servants he now talks like monksbirds make. Clouds part to show him erect upon Earth's forehead. She grumblingly questions this audacious new claim in an almost continual present tense.

EARTH

*Who was before I am dark
without limbs dancing, spinning
space time without heat who
was before I am bodiless
then not and blazing, dividing
continents on rooking mud who
was before I am breathing
without sight, rooted, floating
bloody with outery who
was before I am a surging
ground worry dank, alight
aboard with leaves, eyes and
gardeners, the last plants I grew
helped by he whose gift of fire
annoyed you who was before I am?*

GOD

*Who is before you now!
I grasp all ground, mother.
The gardeners you grew were a brood
too silly to be any good outside
my states which made them new.
They don't recall being born by you.
They are my image now. I am who
they want to obey, or if not obey, be!*

EARTH

Not Prometheus.

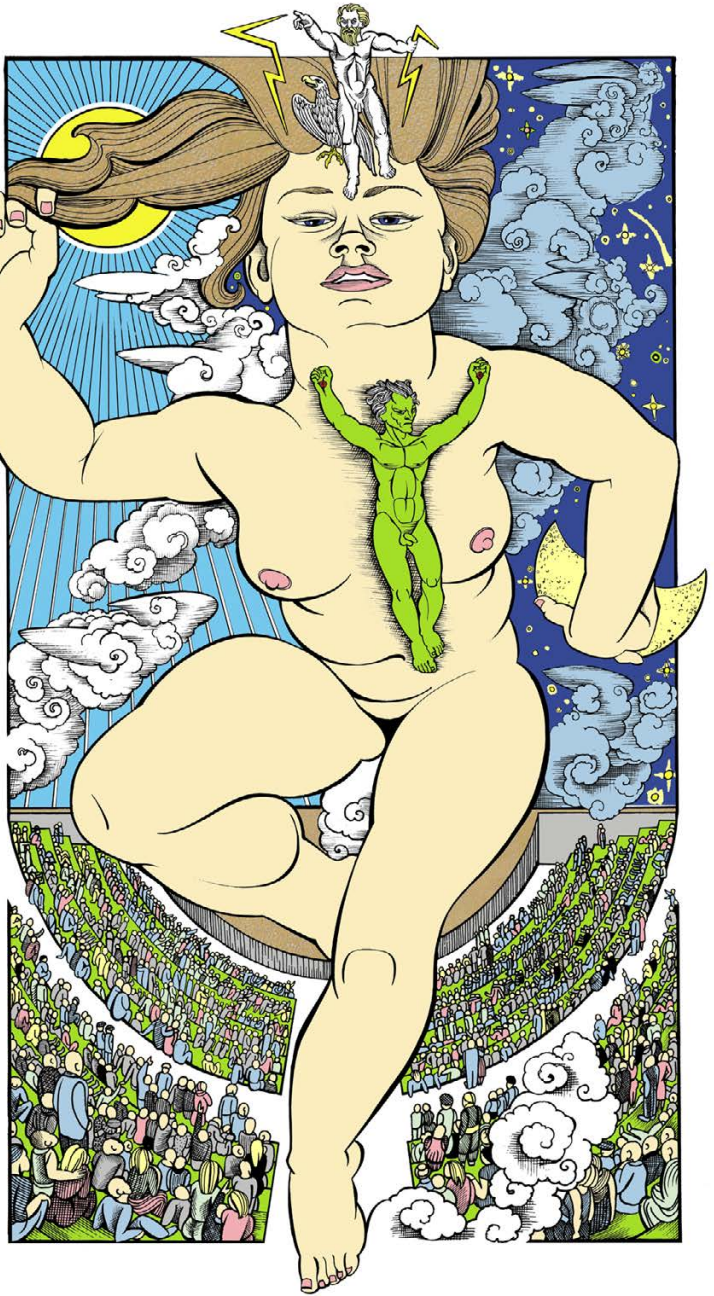
GOD

*Yes, Prometheus.
Punishment is changing him
into a warped replica of me.*

*A cry of dreadful pain draws our
eyes to a strong middleaged giant
crucified between Earth's breasts,
and much bigger than the younger
God above who grimly announces that
this is the fate of the titan who made
man hard to rule by urging all to seek*

LIBERTY

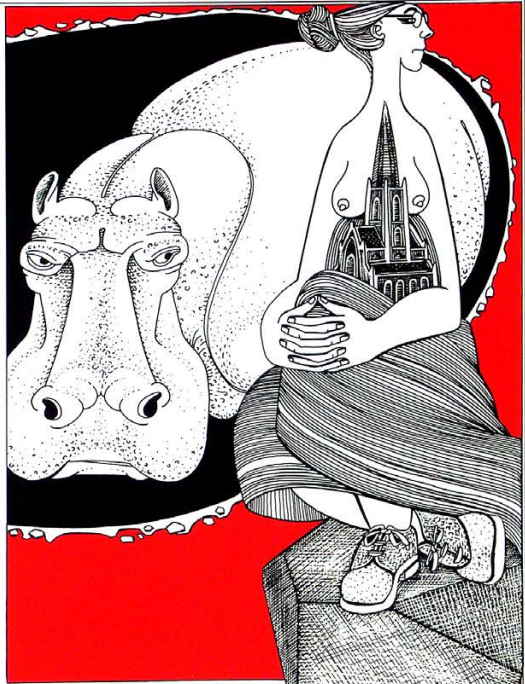
— EQUALITY —
— FRATERNITY —



Prometheus

Screenprint, 2014, image size 93 x 71 cm, paper size 93 x 71 cm, edition of 50. £ 1, 500

1



The muckle rhiphotamus
shelders in glaur upo his kite.
A solid fact he seems to some-
they arena right.
The rhippos coorse digestive tract
erodes through frequent emptying.
The KIRK's the only solid fact
that winna ding.

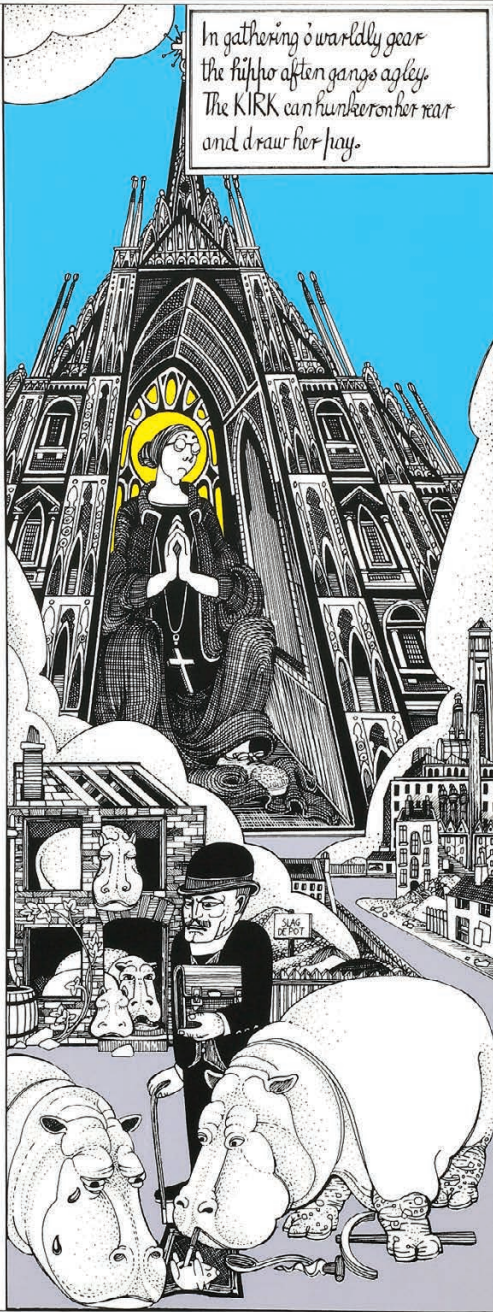


The Scots Hippo 1

Screenprint, 2014, image size 37 x 60 cm, paper size 56 x 76 cm, edition of 90. £ 960.

2

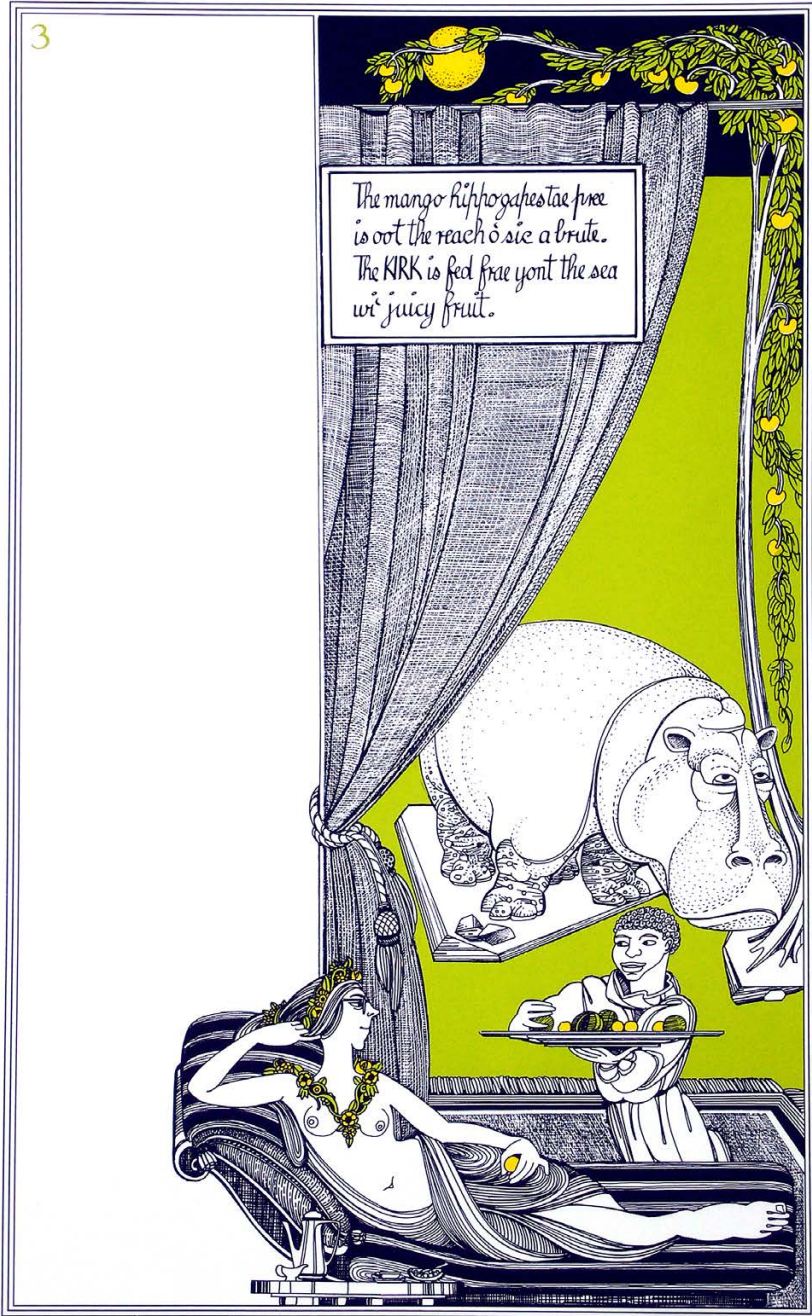
In gathering o' worldly gear
the fihfu aften gangs a'gley,
The KIRK can hunkle on her rear
and draw her hiey.



The Scots Hippo 2

Screenprint, 2014, image size 37 x 60 cm, paper size 56 x 76 cm, edition of 90. £ 960.

3



The Scots Hippo 3

Screenprint, 2014, image size 37 x 60 cm, paper size 56 x 76 cm, edition of 90. £ 960.

4



The Scots Hippo 4

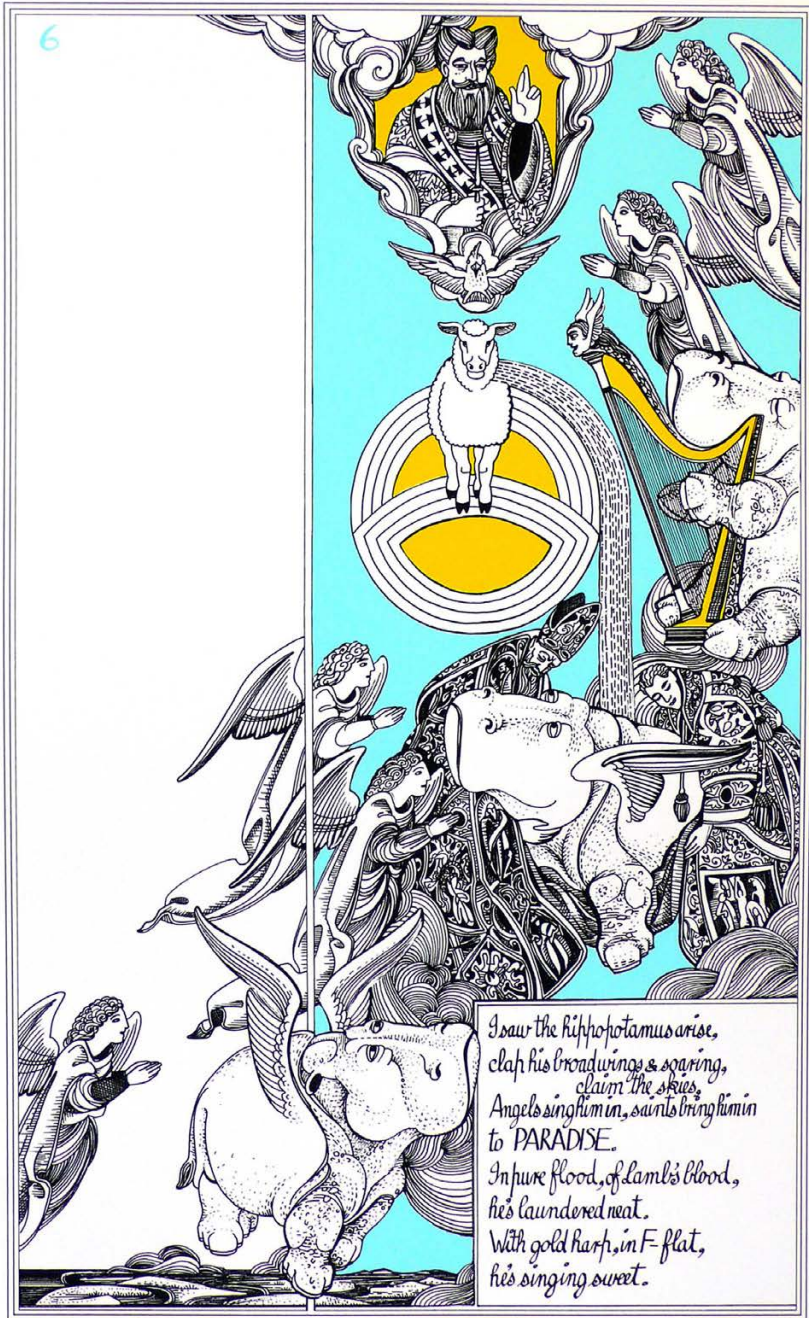
Screenprint, 2014, image size 37 x 60 cm, paper size 56 x 76 cm, edition of 90. £ 960.

5



The Scots Hippo 5

Screenprint, 2014, image size 37 x 60 cm, paper size 56 x 76 cm, edition of 90. £ 960

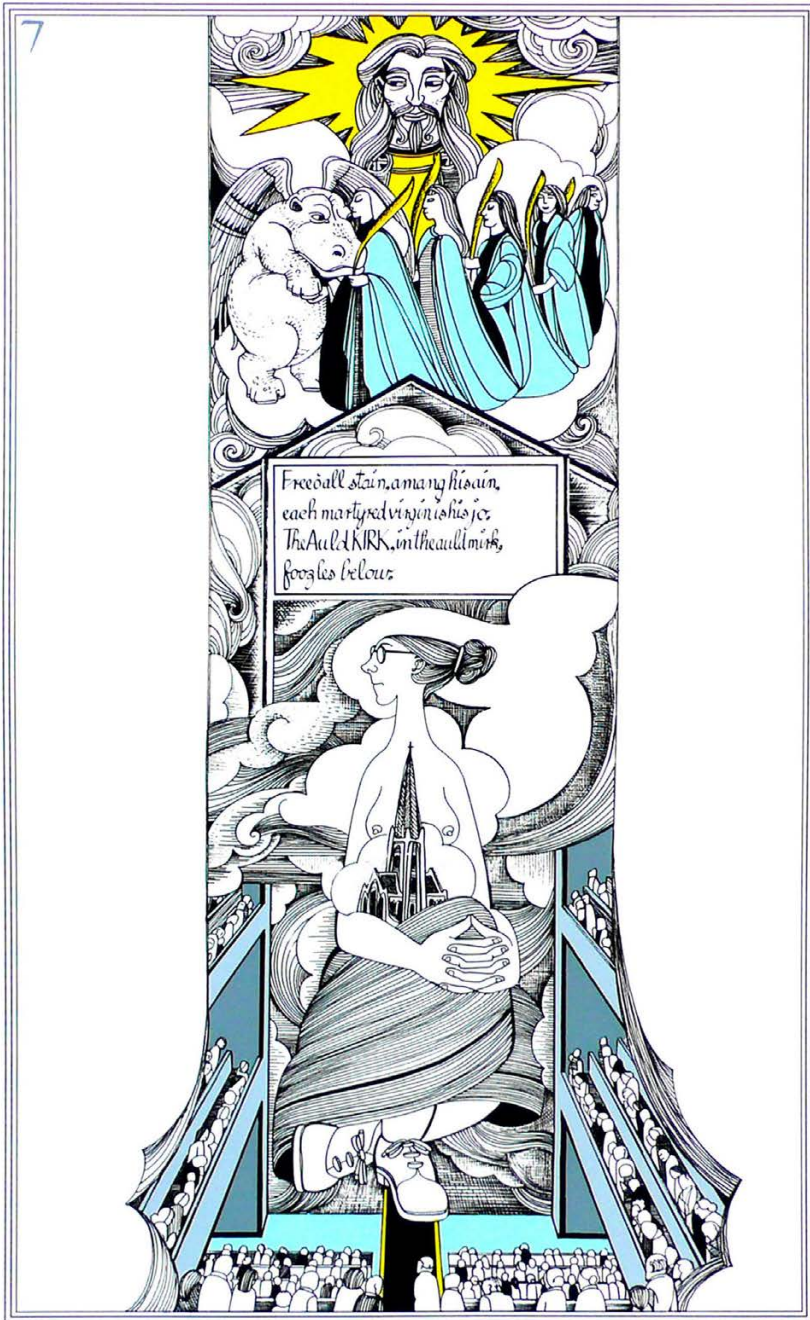


6

Soar the hiphopotamus arise,
clap his broadwings & sparing,
claim the skies,
Angels sing him in, saints bring him in
to PARADISE.
In pure flood, of lamb's blood,
he's laundered neat.
With gold harp, in F-flat,
he's singing sweet.

The Scots Hippo 6

Screenprint, 2014, image size 37 x 60 cm, paper size 56 x 76 cm, edition of 90. £ 960.



The Scots Hippo 7

Screenprint, 2014, image size 37 x 60 cm, paper size 56 x 76 cm, edition of 90. £ 960.
(Price of full set of The Scots Hippo £ 5, 760)



Bella Caledonia

Screenprint, 2019, image size 63 x 44 cm, paper size 63 x 44 cm, edition of 60. £ 960.

IS SCOTLAND A
POSSIBLE NATION?
YES – MAKE IT!



Is Scotland a Possible Nation?

Screenprint, 2014, image size 69 x 53 cm, paper size 69 x 53 cm, edition of 60. £ 720.



Alasdair Gray

28 December 1934 – 29 December 2019

glasgowprintstudio.co.uk



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Glasgow G1 5HD

Open: Tuesday - Saturday 10am - 5.30pm
Sunday 12 noon - 5pm
Admission free