

# COLLECTION HIGHLIGHTS EDUCATION KIT



## Luke Sciberras



**Collection connections**  
Elisabeth Cummings.  
*Minerva Waterhole*

***Creeping Shadows, Flinders Ranges, 2010.*** Oil on board. 120 x 120cm.

Port Macquarie-Hastings Council, donated through the Australian Government's Cultural Gifts Program by the artist, 2012.

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**Luke Sciberras.** Born in 1975. Lives and works in Sydney.

To paint a landscape, Luke Sciberras spends extended periods of time in the landscape: Walking, sitting, painting and drawing. This enables him to develop a deep understanding of the unique character and mood of a particular place and with this understanding he is able to express a strong sense of place in his paintings. A sense of place is perhaps the most essential feature of the artist's landscapes and the desire to really know a place is that which most strongly drives his artmaking practice.

Sciberras is keenly aware of his role as a visitor in the landscapes he paints. When spending time a new place he takes the time to get to know its inhabitants in order to learn their story and understand the meaning and significance associated with their environment. This means that his paintings are portraits as well as landscapes: images that capture personal and cultural histories and human life.

## Questions and activities

### **Luke Sciberras *Creeping Shadows, Flinders Rangers 2010.***

Luke Sciberras is an artist who pays close attention to the rich variety of colours in the landscape. Spend some time in your local natural environment and collect materials such as leaves, twigs and stones in different colours. Back at home sort your materials into different colour groups. How many different tones have you collected? Can you mix paints to replicate these colours exactly?

Luke Sciberras has said that when you spend time walking, hiking and camping in the natural environment you realise that the landscape is "full of incident." Conversely, when you only ever see the landscape from a car window it is reduced to a "scudding horizontal line." What do you think Sciberras means by these statements and what does it say about his relationship with nature?

Many paintings by Luke Sciberras capture the arid qualities that define much of the Australian outback. Fred Williams is a highly revered Australian painter who was also interested in capturing the dry Australian outback. Find out more about Fred Williams. Compare and contrast one of his paintings with a painting by Luke Sciberras.

The Heidelberg School is an important Australian Art movement of the 19th Century out of which many landscape paintings were produced. Research some of the artists involved in this movement. Find out about the conventions of their practice and some of the major themes that dominated their work. What similarities are there between their practice and the practice of contemporary Australian landscape painter Luke Sciberras?