

Press Release

Major Exhibition of John Gould's 'Mammals of Australia'

Commencing Thursday 19th November 2009

Trowbridge Gallery in Old Theatre Lane Claremont is excited to offer for exhibition and sale the complete collection of the *Mammals of Australia* by John Gould. **This is the first time that all 182 hand coloured lithographs have been exhibited in Western Australia.**

John Gould arrived in Australia in 1838 with the sole intention of recording the Birds of Australia but as he stated; *'It was not, however, until I arrived in the country, and found myself surrounded by objects as strange as if I had been transported to another planet, that I conceived the idea of devoting a portion of my attention to the mammalian class of its extraordinary fauna.'*

Gould's fascination for the mammals of Australia evolved into the finest work ever published on the subject.

John Gould produced all 182 hand coloured lithographs between 1845 and 1863. *The Mammals* is one of his rarest works only being sent to a select 125 subscribers including Queen Victoria. It was dedicated posthumously to Prince Albert.

Of great importance is the highly sort after image of the *Thylacene* (Tasmanian Tiger). Gould recognised that certain species would become endangered or extinct. With regard to the *Thylacene* he wrote; *'the numbers of this singular animal will speedily diminish, extermination will have its full sway, and it will then, like the wolf in England and Scotland, be recorded as an animal of the past.'* Many of the other amazing illustrations on show are also now extinct, and for some, these are the only 'true' images available.

Through John Gould's extensive work European eyes were opened for the first time to the new and fascinating fauna of Australia.

Prices for each lithograph range from \$600 to \$20,000.

Please contact Steven Marcuson or Bronwyn Maurice for further information on 08 9384 4814 or admin@trowbridgegallery.com.au