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AMANDA WILLIAMS

There's a resurgent interest in analogue photography in Australia and **Amanda Williams** has produced some stunning images through some unlikely processes.

Marking her art fair debut with The Commercial at Sydney Contemporary last year, Williams presented three large-scale, black and white landscape images of the Mt. Kosciuszko National Park, the Country of the Wolgalu and Nagairgo peoples. Williams photographed the rugged landscapes using long out-of-date Ilford film stock, each of the three resulting images then printed by hand on fibre-based paper. The effect was intriguing. Although the photos are recent, the empty spaces of the land, the skies, and the careful composition of hills and mountains – and the subtle suggestion of the relatively unusual process behind their making – suggest photography of the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Indeed, Williams has drawn critical, curatorial and collector interest for her body of work that explores the importance of the landscape in the history of photography. Works seen in *Light Matter* at the Australian Centre for Photography in 2019 explored landscapes made famous by American photographer **Ansel Adams**, while her submission shortlisted for Sydney College of the Art's Fauvette Loureiro Arts Travel Scholarship referenced Adams' images of the mountains and lakes of America's southwest.

Williams also debuted as a commercial gallery artist in 2019 as part of the group show *Peace Altitude*, again with The Commercial. She is slated to hold her first commercial solo with the Sydney gallery in February 2020. Williams' work has been shortlisted for a number of high-profile prizes including the Hazlehurst Works on Paper Award, building on her 2018 success when she won the much coveted National Photography Prize at MAMA, Albury.

Andrew Frost

Amanda Williams, *Goobarragandra Wilderness
Kosciuszko National Park/WolgaluCountry (#4260/5)*, 2019.
Unique gelatin silver print on fibre-based paper
from expired Ilford film, 108 x 136cm.
COURTESY: THE ARTIST AND THE COMMERCIAL, SYDNEY.