



David GILLISON

Born 1936, Melbourne, Victoria – Artist, photographer, conservationist and educator.

Gillison graduated from the Art School of the National Gallery of Victoria with a Diploma of Fine Art. Following his award of the NGV Triennial Travelling Scholarship, he undertook postgraduate studies at the Slade School of Fine Art, London and in the United States, and with the International Arts Foundation of Japan (KBS).

While at the Slade he apprenticed as a lithographer with the Curwen Studio and assisted in the production of portfolios of leading European and English artists. Later he taught at the Hammersmith College of Art, London. In the United States he worked with the Kobo Group (a Japanese design collective). In Japan, he studied ceramics and painting in Kyoto. In 1970 Gillison became a full-time member of the faculty of the Art Department of Lehman College, City University, New York (CUNY) where he is now professor. Gillison has studied with various artists at the Art Students League of New York.

In 1973 Gillison travelled to the Crater Mountain region of Papua New Guinea with his wife and daughter where he did research on the sources of visual imagery in ritual art. Following his initial two-year sojourn in Crater he has made numerous return visits to the region as a Conservation Fellow of the Wildlife Conservation Society of New York. In 1980 he helped establish The Research and Conservation Foundation of Papua New Guinea. Three thousand square kilometres of the Crater Mountain wilderness are now recognised by the government of Papua New Guinea as a wildlife conservation area/reserve.

In 1996, with Professor Robert Schneider of the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science, he established an inter-departmental collaboration between the Art and Mathematics Departments of Lehman.

Exhibitions and publications

From the late 1960's through the 1980's Gillison exhibited large colour-field paintings and screens—first in Melbourne at Pinacotheca, then in New York. Gillison's photography has been exhibited in New York, Australia and Europe with favourable reviews and mentions from Hilton Kramer, A.D. Coleman and Andy Grundberg all in the New York Times. His published work has appeared in articles for *National Geographic Magazine*, *National Geographic Research*, *Geo Magazine* (Hamburg), *Terre Sauvage* (Paris), *Paris Match* (Paris) and numerous magazines in Italy, Japan and South America. He is a contributing photographer with Magnum Photos, (Paris), and was featured in the May 1990 issue of *Photo Magazine* (Paris) under the title of *L'initiation du peintre*. In 2003 he published *New Guinea Ceremonies*, a study of nature and creativity in the Highlands of Papua New Guinea, with Harry N. Abrams, New York. He is represented by Magnum Photos (Paris) and by Peter Arnold Inc. of New York.