



## Thomas Bock

£20.00

This catalogue accompanies the **first UK exhibition** dedicated to the work of the **Birmingham born convict artist Thomas Bock (1793-1855)**.

A selection of drawings, paintings and photographs demonstrate Bock's technical skill and sensitivity to a wide range of subject matter. **Bock trained as an engraver and miniature painter.**

In 1823 he was found *guilty of 'administering concoctions of certain herbs with the intent to cause miscarriage'* and sentenced to transportation to Australia for 14 years.

**He arrived in Van Diemen's Land, now Tasmania, where he was quickly pressed into service as a convict artist.** An early commission included portraits of captured bushrangers, before and after execution by hanging, including the notorious cannibal Alexander Pearce.

Bock's story is a compelling one, his time in Tasmania brought him recognition within his field, and his work is remarkable not only for its inherent quality but also for the light it **shines on the early years of a penal colony in Australia** – the aspiration and awfulness of it.

Includes essays by **Hamish Maxwell-Stewart** (Professor of Social History at the University of Tasmania), **Gaye Sculthorpe** (Curator and Section Head of Oceania at the British Museum), and **Jane Stewart** (Principal Curator at the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery).

Published on the occasion of the exhibition, *Thomas Bock* at Ikon Gallery, Birmingham (6 December 2017 – 11 March 2018). In association with Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery.

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