

THE GARDEN OF SORROWS

Words by John Hughes

Artwork by Marco Luccio

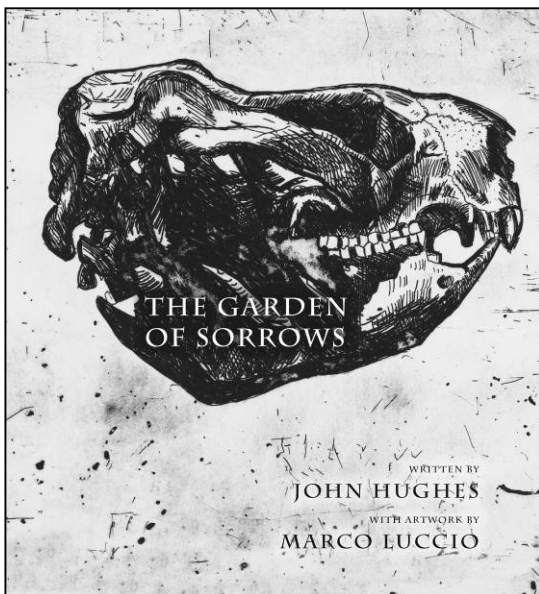
Published October 2013

\$29.99 hb, 152 pp. ISBN: 9781742585147



I was immediately struck by the melancholy beauty of the stories. They offered a graphic imagery that was startling, powerful and frightening whilst still being beautiful and elegant.

– Artist Marco Luccio.



In this darkly beautiful book, *The Garden of Sorrows* author **John Hughes** brings us fourteen fables where iconic Australian animals take on human qualities. These universal stories are accompanied by evocative, wry etchings by award winning artist, **Marco Luccio**.

The Garden of Sorrows creatures are made all too human through the fateful consequences of their own frailty and folly. No amount of wit, strength, trickery or insight can alter the ultimate precariousness of their lives. Yet somehow this sorrowful truth is transformed into a call to engage with life fully, in all of its beauty and contradiction.

John Hughes' (right) first book, *The Idea of Home*, won the 2005 NSW Premier's Award for Non-Fiction, the 2006 National Biography Award, and was the National Year of Reading 'Our Story'



winner for NSW in 2012. His second book, *Someone Else: Fictional Essays*, won the Adelaide 2008 Festival Award for Innovation and the 2008 Queensland Premier's Award for Short Stories. It was also listed for the inaugural 2009 Warwick International Prize for Writing. His third book, *The Remnants*, was published in October last year by UWA Publishing. He is Librarian at Sydney Grammar School. **Marco Luccio's** (left) work

is represented in various collections, including the New York Public Library, the Museum of the City of New York, the New York Historical Society and the National Gallery of Australia. His work has also been shortlisted for major awards including twice for the Dobell Prize, Australia's most prestigious drawing prize. In 2010 Luccio was invited to exhibit his solo show, *'International Cities'*, at the Australian Consulate General in New York. www.marcoluccio.com. **Hughes** and **Luccio** met whilst Luccio was an artist in residence at Sydney Grammar in 2010.

For media queries, images, or to arrange an author or artist interview, please contact Benython Oldfield at Zeitgeist Media Group for UWA: (02) 8060 9715 or 0410 355 790 benython@zeitgeistmediagroup.com

The process of creating the art:

While immersed in Hughes' imaginary kingdom of animal warriors, poets, healers and thieves, Marco Luccio further developed his etchings concept by sketching stuffed and skeletal animal specimens at The Sydney and Melbourne Museums. He also spent time with the very alive animals at the Melbourne Zoo.

Marco Luccio: "My etchings are made by scratching the drawing onto a sheet of zinc. The zinc plate is placed in acid and the acid eats into the scratched line. The plate is then inked up and wiped, leaving only the ink in the lines created by the acid. A beautiful piece of Velin Arches paper is placed over the plate and it is run through a press. The line is transferred to the paper. The process can be repeated if the lines aren't as I wish them to be."

The Garden of Sorrows EXHIBITION(S)

The Garden of Sorrows exhibitions in Sydney & Melbourne feature the 80 original etchings by Marco Luccio that were inspired by, and now accompany John Hughes' stories in the book, *The Garden of Sorrows*.



MELBOURNE

Steps Gallery

8 November – 1 December 2013

Opening Night: 6–8pm, Thursday 7 November.

Artist & Author Talk: 2pm, Sunday 10 November.

Artist Floor Talk: 2pm, Sunday 17 November.

62 Lygon St, Carlton VIC 3053

Talk Bookings essential: 0448 026 643

SYDNEY

Rex-Livingston Art Dealer

5 December – 22 December 2013

Opening Night: 6–8pm, Thursday 5 December.

Artist and Author Talk: 2pm, Saturday 7 December.

59 Flinders St, Surry Hills NSW 2010

Talk Bookings essential: (02) 9357 5988

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