

ARTIST CV/BIO

Grahame was born in Earlwood, Sydney, attending schools in Earlwood, Canterbury and the City. Now in his late 80s he began his career in architecture studying part time at Sydney Technical College. After completing the diploma course (with a prize in year 1) he ventured abroad, living in countries as diverse as the UK, Kuwait, Pakistan, Singapore and Malaysia.

Returning to Sydney with his wife and daughter, he completed a conversion course to a Bachelor of Architecture degree at the University of New South Wales and a Master of Town and Country Planning degree at Sydney University (with a prize in year 1). As a consequence of these studies, he was able to take up a senior position with the Commonwealth Public Service in the Cities Commission in Canberra, (where contrary to his original intentions) he has now resided for over 45 years.

Whilst abroad, he indulged his love of history, travelling extensively to countries now no longer off the beaten track, and others now no longer welcoming visitors. It was during this time that he started to capture the beauty of historic places, firstly with his Exacta and Rolleicord cameras, and then with a pencil and sketchbook.

It is debatable whether nurture or nature influenced his focus on structures; did his love of history result in an interest in ancient monuments? Or was it his career in architecture?

As Grahame's career evolved, he returned to architectural and historic interests and completed a Bachelor of Arts degree at the ANU (majoring in history with a prize in year 3). This in turn led to an involvement in the heritage and environment of Commonwealth owned places, travelling throughout Australia to research and identify both buildings and places for consideration for inclusion in Commonwealth and National Heritage lists. It was at this time that his drawings began to include the natural landscape, a subject he now embraces as much as buildings and bridges.

In retirement, Grahame took art classes in Canberra, Bathurst and with U3A at Strathnairn, and in 2015, together with Roger Beale, held an exhibition: *Distant Voices* at M16 Artspace. Recently, he was a finalist in the 2020 M16 Artspace drawing competition.

Peter Haynes wrote a critique in the Canberra Times (28 September 2015) of Grahame's drawings in the *Distant Voices* exhibition thus:

"Grahame Crocket has elected to use pencil as his preferred medium. In this choice he does not, however, limit his expressive capabilities. His charming images reflect his architectural background and hold a simple directness that is both effective and attractive. Crocket is a skilled draughtsman but does not allow objectivity to deny his pictorialisations of bridges and other places or objects, a degree of warmth reflective of his own attraction to what is depicted in the exhibition. His sound and sensitive use of shading adds to the aesthetic resolve of his works."