

# IKON

## Exhibition Guide

**Pamela Scott Wilkie**

### *Journey*

Based on the experience of driving overland to Asia, this thematically linked series was hand-printed in a limited edition of 45 in 1970 in a temporary studio which Scott Wilkie had set up in a hotel in Rawalpindi, south of Peshawar in Pakistan where the artist was living for eight months.

The layers of colour are printed separately and transparently over each other and because screen inks were unavailable, Scott Wilkie used ones manufactured for letter-press, printing them through a silk-screen onto hand-made paper. The index was typeset and printed by a local firm.

After leaving Europe and crossing the Bosphoros, the route followed was through Eastern Turkey and the Great Sand Desert in central Iran, climbing up from Herat to the northern border of Afghanistan along the Oxus River, down to Kabul past the ancient cliff sculpture in the Valley of Bamiyan and entering Asia through the Khyber Pass.

The artist started to make the prints because it seemed an appropriate and practical way of processing her visual response to travelling. The journey began when it was possible to drive through countries which were at peace with each other. But while she was there, it became one of those times when the world feels poised, everything is shifting and awareness is heightened.

Scott Wilkie found herself re-drawing her own map because of a sudden close bereavement. Tensions in Asia were increasing towards the war between India and Pakistan and it was acquiring its nuclear potential. China was building a highway through the Karkoram Mountains and conflict had begun in Sri Lanka, the 'Land of Serendipity'.

The artist was living in a place where people looked at the patterns of life and death, history and continuity, from old honoured perspectives. The intention of these prints evolved into one which tried to create a sense of balance and suggest a timeless connecting thread. They are designed to be seen as a sequence.