

# Trenton Doyle Hancock : Bye and bye (nine sad etchings)

Author

Hancock, Trenton Doyle, 1974-

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2006

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The Museum of Modern Art, Department  
of Prints and Illustrated Books

Exhibition URL

[www.moma.org/calendar/exhibitions/88](http://www.moma.org/calendar/exhibitions/88)

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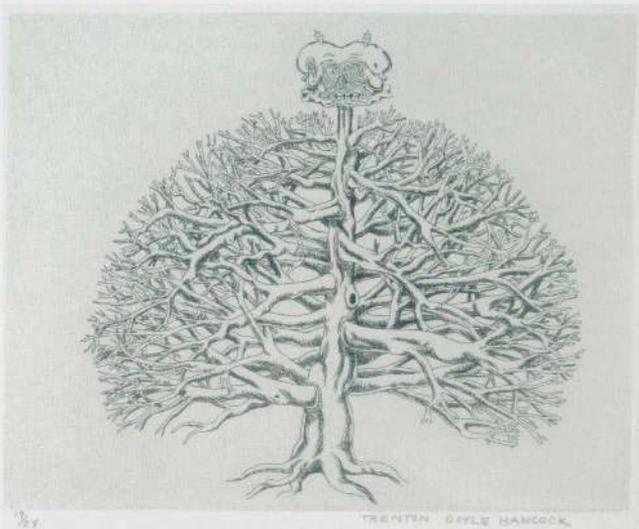
Hancock has purposely used to confound us. More comically, the lion's text concludes, "The presence of the great mound was felt by us all and shall be missed.... Oh, by the way, I suggest you guys scatter, eulogizing makes me hungry."

**Bye and Bye** is one of many prints and portfolios published in the last ten years that together can be taken as a revival of the "old master" technique of etching. Invented around 1500, the medium has gone in and out of favor over time. The current fascination with etching stands in contrast to the dominance of large-scale woodcuts and lithographs in the 1980s and 1990s. It further departs from the many Conceptual and photo-based print projects of the same period, in which the execution of the work was often somewhat removed from the "hand" of the artist. It also counters more recent expectations for a strong emergence of digital printmaking. Characterized by exceptionally fine, fluid, often meticulous lines, etching is usually executed on a small scale and results in images that inspire close inspection and subtle delight. For many contemporary artists, including Hancock, the delicacy, intimacy, and precision of this medium lend themselves especially well to their very personal, even diaristic subjects.

Starr Figura, Assistant Curator  
Department of Prints and Illustrated Books

Produced in conjunction with the exhibition **The Compulsive Line: Etching 1900 to Now**, January 25–April 17, 2006

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