

Ruth Pullin

Von Guérard's Volcanoes

Lake Gnotuk and the Mosenberg Maar



Eugen von Guérard, Basin Banks, 14 March 1857, Sketchbook XXVI, 1857, Victoria.

Eugen von Guérard, Alter Krater. Mosenberg bei Manderscheid, 23 Sept, 43, Sketchbook XV, 1843, the Eifel.



In 1843 von Guérard trekked into the rugged volcanic landscape of the German Eifel region, following the example of his teachers at the Düsseldorf Academy, Carl Friedrich Lessing and Wilhelm Schirmer. Like them, his interest in volcanic phenomena was fired by contemporary German geognostic theories which argued that volcanic activity could explain the formation of the earth's surface. Travelling through Victoria's Western District in 1857 von Guérard immediately identified and understood the 'unwritten' landscape. His interpretation of the landscape was indelibly shaped by his experience of the Eifel, an experience intimately linked with landscape painting of the Düsseldorf School. The geological accuracy of his drawings of crater lakes and volcanic cones reflected his commitment to the theories of Alexander von Humboldt and Carl Gustav Carus.

Monday 13 November 6.30 pm
Room 148 Elisabeth Murdoch Building
All Welcome