

# ONE PHOTO

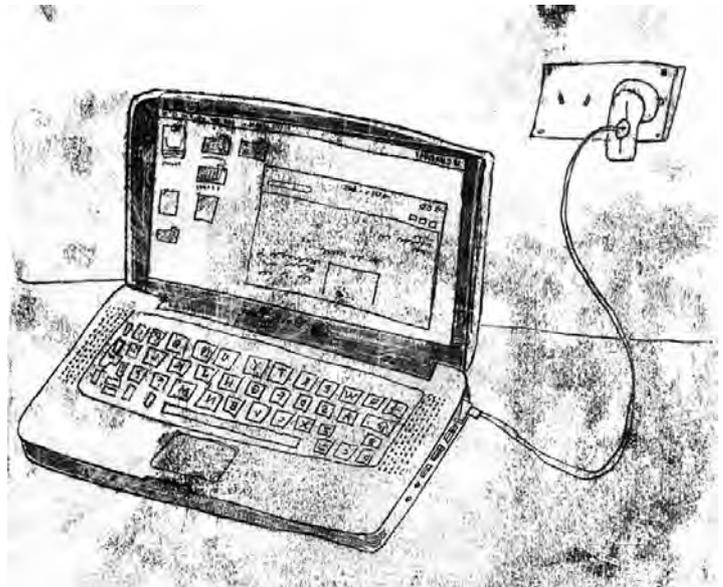
## ARTIST'S NOTES

This is a story about facing the loss of a family member through terminal illness. When the dad in *One Photo* finds out he has early onset Alzheimer's disease his response is practical - he takes up photography – to record objects in the world around him.

Reading Ross's original manuscript made me cry. It also made me think very carefully about how to best create artwork that reflects the fragile feelings in the book.

I chose mono print. Like 'old fashioned' photography, printmaking is a mechanical process with elements of chance. You never quite know how each drawing will turn out and it only prints once. You can take second impressions but the ink quickly fades.

The nature of the process also slows you down, things become difficult. If you lean on the paper the ink underneath will smudge your drawing. You need to draw and write everything back to front for it to appear the correct way round on the print. This intentionally reflects what is happening to dad as his faculties fail.



The quirky, slightly awkward line always sits on top of all the other elements in the artwork. I added colour to the pages digitally, building up layers by scanning in pieces of collage and painted shapes.

Dad does not appear much in the book. He is behind the lens, turned away, walking out of the page or set within a larger landscape. It is the objects he selects which carry the pictorial story.



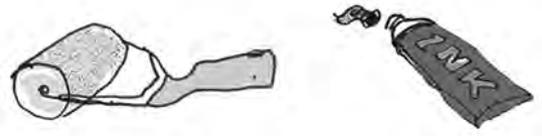
I continued this notion into the endpapers. At the front of the book I imagined dad's own photo album, recording the major events of his life up until the birth of his son. The back papers are the boy's album. Having now inherited the camera he is experimenting with taking photos too.

The research drawings for this book were largely made in my own family home. Shortly afterward my mother died unexpectedly and our house was sold. This book gave me an opportunity to draw the things that meant much to me and those drawings I will keep forever.

We all one day will lose someone we love. My hope is that this book provides some comfort, especially where Alzheimer's has changed that person so sadly before they departed.



## To Make Your Own Mono Prints



You will need:

Black printing ink (water soluble is much easier to clear up)

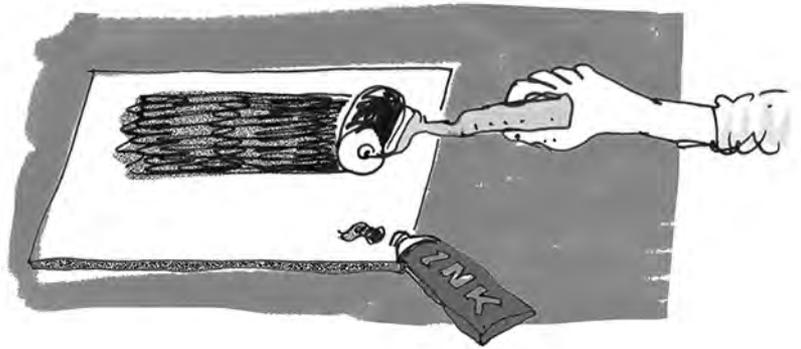
2 printmakers rollers

A flat surface to roll your ink onto – A4 plastic sheets are good

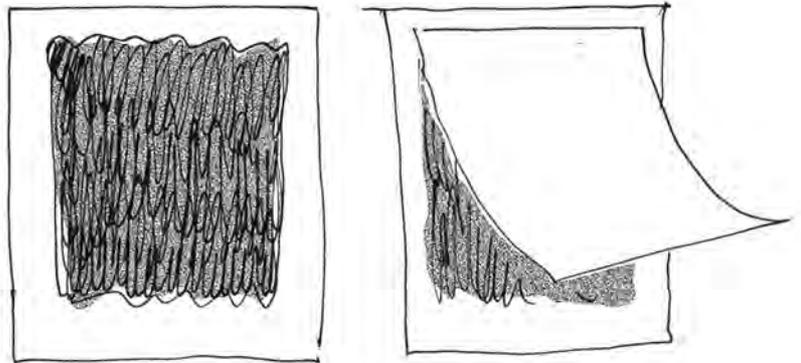
A4 thin white paper

A pencil and or pen

1. Squeeze a small amount of ink onto your surface and roll it out so that it is thin and even



2. Place your sheet of paper over the inked surface



3. Draw onto the paper, experimenting with different marks.

Try using your fingers too. Wherever you press on the paper it will pick up ink. Remember the print will be the reverse of your drawing!

