

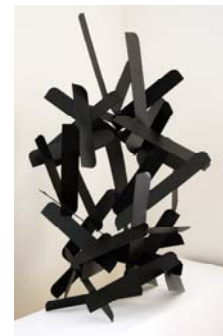
- 31. *Nude with Arm Raised* 1994
Lithograph
31 x 42.5cm
- 32. *Approaching Red Canyon Fraser Island* 2000
Oil on paper
27 x 36 cm
- 33. *Nora Heyson* 2008
Oil on board
61.5 x 46 cm
- 34. *Striped Circumvision of Hills* 2002
Mixed media on paper
29.5 x 20cm
- 35. *Flowers at Sunset* 2009
Oil on canvas on board
63 x 53 cm
- 36. *Out of the Blue* 2008
Oil on canvas on timber
63 x 47.5 cm
- 37. *Yidney Rocks, Fraser Island* 2000
Oil on paper
27 x 36 cm
- 38. *Sandstone Blue* 2008
Oil on linen
35 x 25 cm
- 39. *Ancient Erosion* 2008
Oil on linen
40 x 30 cm
- 40. *Tumble* 2002
Oil on paper
68.5 x 57.5 cm
- 41. *The Hammock* 2004
Aquatint on paper
50.5 x 40 cm
- 42. *Girl in Black Hat* 2007
Oil on canvas on board
48 x 34 cm
- 43. *Rock and Tree* 2001
Mixed media on paper
35.5 x 27 cm
- 44. *Ascent in a Desert circa* 1990
Oil on board
46.5 x 37 cm
- 45. *Roslyn Oxley* 1987
Oil on canvas
93.3 x 58 cm

John Seed

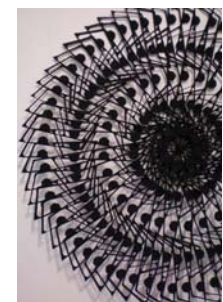
- 46. *Tycho's Supernova* 2009
Galvanised painted steel
90 x 50 x 50 cm
- 47. *Whirlpool* 2009
Galvanised painted steel
70 x 80 x 50 cm
- 48. *Cosmic Shells* 2009
Galvanised painted steel
45 x 24 x 20 cm and
45 x 24 x 20 cm
- 49. *Cygnus Loop* 2009
Galvanised painted steel
70 X 50 x 50 cm
- 50. *Magellanic Cloud* 2009
Galvanised painted steel
55 x 52 x 40 cm
- 51. *Tethus* 2009
Galvanised painted steel
105 x 45 x 40 cm
- 52. *Andromeda* 2010
Galvanised painted steel
70cm diameter
- 53. *Perseus* 2010
Galvanised painted steel
135cm diameter



John Seed
Tethus 2009
Galvanised painted steel



John Seed
Tycho's Supernova 2009
Galvanised painted steel



John Seed
Andromeda 2010
Galvanised painted steel
(detail)

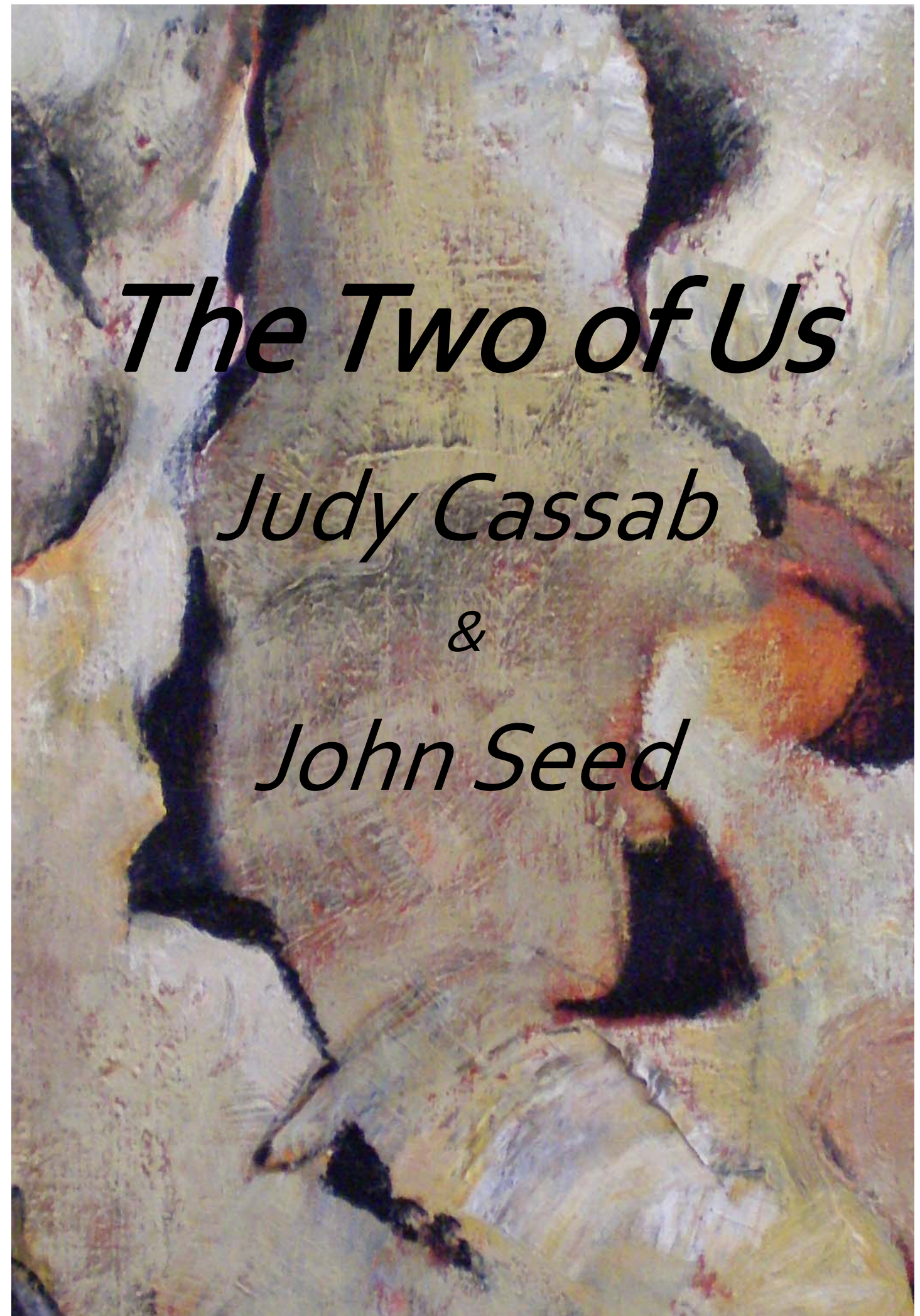
All works courtesy of
Judy Cassab and John Seed

Cover Image: Judy Cassab *Pedestal* 1985
Oil on Canvas (detail)

Cowra Regional Art Gallery
77 Darling Street Cowra NSW 2794
Ph: 02 6340 2190 Fax: 02 6340 2191
Hours: Tues – Sat 10-4pm, Sun 2-4pm Admission is Free
cowraartgallery@cowra.nsw.gov.au www: cowraartgallery.com.au
The Cowra Regional Gallery is a cultural facility of the Cowra Shire Council



This exhibition has been made possible with the assistance of the Embassy of
The Republic of Hungary, Canberra



Introduction

It is with great pleasure that the Cowra Regional Art Gallery presents the work of celebrated artist Judy Cassab and John Seed her sculptor son. Judy Cassab was born in Vienna in 1920 and came to Australia from post-war Hungary with her young family in 1950. From the 1960's to the present she has developed an international reputation for her portraits, and was the second woman (Nora Heyson was the first) to win the Archibald Prize, which she won twice. The exhibition brings together a wonderful selection of Judy Cassab's colourful art works including portraits and still life paintings, landscape paintings and mixed media works inspired by trips to Central Australia and Fraser Island, as well as, several figurative drawings and prints. The works in the exhibition by John Seed have been selected from a new series he began in 2009. These consist of abstract welded forms influenced by star-borne objects and intricate mandalas constructed from galvanised steel off-cuts he collects from scrap yards.

The Cowra Regional Art Gallery is extremely grateful to Judy Cassab and John Seed for their support of the exhibition and the unique opportunity to exhibit their work in association with the 2010 Cowra Festival of International Understanding. I would also like to acknowledge Robert Maconachie from Eva Breuer Gallery for his splendid catalogue essay.

Finally, the genesis of this project began when I discussed the exhibition with the Ambassador of Hungary Gábor Csaba in 2009. I would like to acknowledge his support and the generous support of the Embassy of the Republic of Hungary.

Brian Langer - Director, Cowra Regional Art Gallery.

The Two of Us

Robert Maconachie

We are bound to our mothers. They give us life, love and an unconditional maternal connection that can move mountains. Our mothers are always part of us and we are intrinsically part of them. This maternal bond, this dichotomy within us, is something that as sons we live with forever. *The Two of Us* is a celebration of the unique and cherished relationship between Judy Cassab and John Seed; mother and son. One, an internationally acclaimed painter, the other one of this country's most vital conservationists and an inspired sculptor.

Judy Cassab is one of Australia's most important painters. Her work is represented in the National Gallery of Australia, all state galleries, many regional galleries, as well as many other public collections in Australia and abroad including the National Portrait Gallery, London and the National Gallery of Hungary, Budapest. She has been the recipient of innumerable coveted awards including two Archibald Prizes.

John Seed's recycled welded steel sculptures were exhibited at the Bonython and Holdsworth Galleries, Sydney, in the '60's and '70's as well as at the Centerprise Gallery in London. At that time he worked under the name of John Kampfner. After a 35 year hiatus while he sculpted reality rather than steel, creating the Rainforest Information Centre at Lismore, and protecting rainforests around the world, making films and music CDs and supporting the conservation of nature and indigenous survival, John has now returned to his first love and is once again sculpting in Sydney. As an environmentalist John creates work from a sustainable point of view. The individual elements within each of the sculptures, (this exhibition shows work made during 2009 and 2010) are reclaimed off-cuts from car manufacture. Seed's objects are inspired by astronomy and the elements. The steel off cuts are skillfully welded into repeated and overlaid patterns echoing clusters of stars or the sharp arcs of an invisible wind. Looking through the netted negative spaces of Seed's structures the viewer is reminded of the charcoal crosshatching techniques of Cassab's mixed media works on paper.

Artistically, the exhibition is an opportunity to observe these exchanges between the painter and the sculptor; Judy's important abstract paintings, John's nonfigurative sculpture; Judy's connection with the Australian landscape, John's devotion to rainforest conservation. But there is also perhaps a psychological reading of *The Two of Us* - the duality of these two artist's individual personalities; the difficult role of the artist-mother and the equally difficult role of the son of the artist-mother.

Judy and John, have lived lives repeatedly punctuated by the ebb and flow of dichotomy and confluence. At 19 Judit Kassab married Jancsi Kampfner. The two were separated during the war when Jancsi was imprisoned in a forced labour camp. Judy assumed the identity of her family's maid and dear friend Maria Koperdak. John too would change his name in later life. Judy and Jancsi survived the horrors of World War II and arrived in Australia in 1951 with two Budapest born boys Janos (John) and Peter. The family began a new second life in Sydney.

Within a few short years of arriving in Australia with her family, Judy Cassab had emerged as one of Australia's most celebrated artists. Her insightful portraits such as *Portrait of Margo Lewers* 1968 (collection Art Gallery of New South Wales), and her powerful landscapes like *Corroboree Cave* 1961 (collection National Gallery of Australia) quickly earned her an international reputation with exhibitions in London, Paris and important clients, including Royalty. Judy divided her time between her role as wife and mother to her young family and the enormous drive to paint which brought the constant demand of exhibitions and portrait commissions.

Judy's sons grew up amid this great ascent to fame and success. John inherited his mothers eye for abstraction and her love of nature as well as a view of the world which would earn him the self imposed title of enfant terrible. For some years a tension existed between the two of them as John carved out a path for himself through his earlier sculpting, music, travel, the environment and finally now back to the beautiful intricate welded mandalas and star-borne objects of his youth.

Judy has always been fascinated by personal narratives – from her own teeming journals made public in the Judy Cassab Diaries (Random House Australia 1995) to the portraits she sows with the stories of her sitters. In Lou Klepac's 'Judy Cassab Portraits of Artists and Friends' 1998, Judy gives some insight into the process; 'I am passionately interested in people's childhood, why they choose the path they are on... In our age of the short attention span, the only other place where one could talk about these things is the psychiatrist's couch.' (1). It is fitting then that *The Two of Us* will explore one of Judy's most intimate relationships, that with her son. Today, at 89 years of age, Judy spends many of her days at John's studio, sketching him at work with his welding tools and steel sculptures. John laments that he is not a more figurative artist as he cannot return the favour and sculpt his famed mother. Yet the love of nature and the Australian landscape, both mother and son explore with a shared fervour. In all there is a message of understanding in *The Two of Us*. In essence it seems both artists, mother to son, son to mother are saying 'We are here because of and in spite of the two of us.'

REFERENCES: (1) Judy Cassab quoted in Lou Klepac's *Judy Cassab Portraits of Artists and Friends*, The Beagle Press, Sydney, 1998.

List of works

Judy Cassab

1. *Marina in a Hat* 2007
Oil on canvas on timber
45 x 59.5 cm

2. *Girl Thinking* 2007
Oil on canvas on timber
70 x 50 cm

3. *High Country* 2007
Oil on canvas on timber
59.5 x 83.5 cm

4. *Glen Helen landscape* 2006
Oil on canvas on timber
69 x 91cm

5. *Still Life with Sculpture* 2006
Oil on canvas on timber
89.5 x 69 cm

6. *Below and Above* 1984
Oil on canvas on masinite
84 x 102 cm

7. *Girl and Mirror* 2007
Oil on canvas on board
42 x 57.5 cm

8. *Max Germaine* 1992
Acrylic and oil on canvas
91.5 x 71.2 cm

9. *Still Life with Blue Pot* 2008
Oil on canvas on board
87 x 60.5 cm

10. *Cascading Waves - Byron Bay* 1999
Oil on canvas on board
66 x 87 cm

11. *Orange Circumvision* 1984
Oil on canvas on board
81 x 95 cm

12. *Pedestal* 1985
Oil on canvas
129 x 146 cm

13. *Towards the Light 2 - Rainbow Valley* 1999
Gouache and charcoal on paper
97 x 125 cm

14. *Transition - Rainbow Valley* 2002
Gouache and charcoal on paper
75.5 x 105 cm

15. *Untitled circa* 2002
Gouache and charcoal on paper
81 x 60 cm

16. *Circumvision - Rainbow Valley* 1997
Gouache and charcoal on paper
76 x 102 cm

17. *Rainbow Valley at Dawn* 2002
Gouache and charcoal on paper
76 x 102 cm

18. *Images of the Desert II* 1981
Acrylic and oil on canvas on board
107 x 83 cm

19. *Bald Rock Creek - Girraween* 2006
Acrylic and oil on linen on wood
98 x 76 cm

20. *Margaret Fink* 1987
Oil on canvas
97 x 65.5 cm

21. *Thomas Keneally* 1987
Oil on canvas
80.5 x 65.5 cm

22. *Resonance - Rainbow Valley* 2004
Gouache and charcoal on paper
56 x 76 cm

23. *Blue Night - Rainbow Valley* 2004
Gouache and charcoal on paper
85 x 103.5 cm

24. *The Thinker* 2008
Oil on linen
46.5 x 62 cm

25. *Sisters* 1985
Pen on paper
24 x 32.5 cm

26. *Repose* 2008
Mixed media on paper
35 x 25 cm

27. *Yellow Rose* 2008
Acrylic and oil on canvas on board
61 x 45 cm

28. *Personage Ormiston* 1992
Acrylic and oil on canvas on board
55.5 x 45 cm

29. *Thinking* 2008
Acrylic and oil on canvas on board
73 x 63 cm

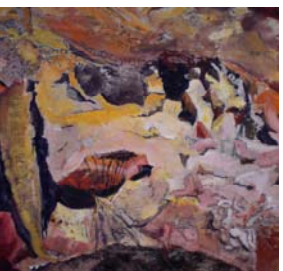
30. *The Roads Through circa* 1985
Acrylic and oil on canvas on board
30 x 40cm



Judy Cassab
Thinking Girl 2009
Oil on Canvas on timber (detail)



Judy Cassab
Flowers at Sunset 2009
Oil on canvas on board



Judy Cassab
Glen Helen landscape 2006
Oil on canvas on timber (detail)