

COWRA REGIONAL ART GALLERY



ANNUAL REPORT

2013 PROGRAM & ACTIVITIES

Until 3 February 2013

Desert Psychedelic: Jimmy Pike

This flamboyant exhibition of textiles and prints on paper celebrated the creative genius of Jimmy Pike. The exhibition featured textile works produced by Desert designs which was launched in 1985 to showcase Jimmy's work. Jimmy Pike had an ability to capture the essence of the Australian desert and landscape through a particularly bold and striking use of colour and gained Pike a worldwide recognition through the application of his art to textiles. The exhibition was curated by Brisbane's Artisan Gallery. Cowra Regional Art Gallery was the only NSW Regional Gallery to present this exhibition.



16/18/22 January 2013

Summer Art Workshop for Children

The 2013 Summer Art Workshops for children were presented by tutors with professional art experience. Each workshop session is 2 hours long and there are two sessions per day covering a range of art making activities such as painting, drawing, printmaking and sculpture in a fun environment and allowing the development of individual skills. Age groups are 6 - 8 years and 9 -11 years. The 2012 workshop activities comprised *Mixed Media 3D Art* with artist Trudi Refshauge (2 sessions), *Mosaics* with artist Catherine Bennett (2 sessions) and *Decoration and Still Life Painting* with Heather Valance. There were a total of 30 enrolments for the 6 sessions.



10 February to 10 March 2013

Remote and Wild

This dramatic exhibition of large scale colour photographs by wilderness photographer Richard Green was a powerful testament to the timelessness of Australia's natural environment. Richard has built up a reputation as one of Australia's most sought after landscape photographers and the works in this exquisite collection included recent photographs from the Top End of Australia. His images have been selected for permanent display in the Australian Museum in Sydney and during 2008 his highly successful exhibition *Wild Places* at the National Library of Australia in Canberra was attended by over 30,000 people.

Public Program

Exhibition Opening - The exhibition was opened on 9th February 2013 at 2.30pm by farmer and environmentalist, Dr Guy Fitzhardinge. Over 80 people attended the opening.



Floor Talk – Photographer Richard Green gave an illustrated floor talk about the various techniques used to capture his panoramic photographs. The talk took place on the 9th February 2013, prior to the opening. It was free public event attended by over 50 people. An information flyer was produced for visitors.



Until 13 February 2013

2012 Operation Art (Cowra Library)

Operation Art includes a wide variety of media, from drawing and painting to collage, photography, printmaking, computer graphics and textiles. Artworks are eventually hung in children’s wards in hospitals throughout NSW.

17 March to 28 April 2013

g.w.bot: the long paddock – A 30 YEAR SURVEY

This exhibition consisted of a collection of works by Canberra based artist G. W. Bot from 1981 to 2010 including relief prints, paintings, artist’s books and sculpture. While her earlier works in this unique survey exhibition contained motifs and symbols G.W. Bot’s recent work has evolved from the more literal figurative representations of the 80s to the almost pure ‘glyph-marking’ that we see now. This was a ‘must see’ exhibition for artists, students, printmakers and art collectors as well as the general public interested in art. The exhibition was curated by Peter Haynes and toured by Goulburn Regional Art Gallery. An information flyer was produced for visitors.

Public Program

Exhibition opening – The exhibition was opened on 16th March, 2013 by Peter Haynes Consultant, curator, writer, art historian, and heritage advisor; over 30 people attended the exhibition opening.

Floor Talk – Artist G W Bot presented a floor talk about the 30 year retrospective of her work. It was held on the 16th March, 2013 prior to the exhibition opening and was attended by over 30 people.



Adults Workshop – G.W.Bot presented a workshop for local artists/teachers/hobbyists, titled *Drawing With a View to Printing a Linocut* on 17th March, 2013. The workshop ran from 10am to 1pm and was well-received.



26 March to 11 May 2013

100 Frames (Cowra Library)

This exhibition was inspired by photographs taken by community members living in the Gannawarra Shire, Victoria during major flooding in January 2011. It offered a gentle and healing insight into the size of the natural disaster and its effect on the Gannawarra community and the region.

The exhibition tour was organised by the Gannawarra Shire Council's Arts program in response to the 100 Year Flood.



5 May to 16 June 2013

2013 Calleen Art Award and Central West Regional Art Award Finalists Exhibition

Always exciting and enjoyable the Calleen Art Award and Central West Regional Art Award aim to foster creativity, diversity and an appreciation of the visual arts in the local community. The Calleen Art Award was initiated by Mrs Patricia Fagan OAM in 1977 and during the past 36 years the award has developed nationally as a major acquisitive art prize for painting. The award in 2013 was worth \$17,000. The winner of the 2013 Calleen Art Award was Gladly Kemarre from Utopia NT for her piece *Anwekety (Bush Plum)*.

The Central West Regional Art Award is a non acquisitive award for painting and drawing and was established by the Gallery in 2009. The award is non acquisitive and worth \$2,000. The winner of the Central West Regional Artists Award is also offered the opportunity of an exhibition at the Cowra Regional Art Gallery. The Award is open to artists living and working in the local government areas of Bathurst, Blayney, Cabonne, Cowra, Forbes, Lachlan, Lithgow, Mid-Western Region, Oberon, Orange, Parkes and Wellington. Jo Bertini from Peelwood was the winner of the Central Western Regional prize for her piece *Wongitta Wadi Gold*.

This year 229 entries were received from across Australia and 72 artworks were selected for exhibition by a pre-selection panel. An information flyer was produced for visitors.

Schools

An invitation to the exhibition opening, information flyer and catalogue were sent to all schools in the region, prompting visits by several schools from throughout the district. The Gallery also prepared exhibition activity sheets for younger visitors.

Public Program

Exhibition opening – The Awards were opened on 4th May, 2013 at 6.15pm. A welcome was given by Deputy Mayor, Cr Ian Brown, followed by the announcement of the winners by the awards judge Anne Flanagan, Deputy Director of the Art Gallery of NSW. Musical entertainment was provided by the *Tout Suites*, and *Consonance* a touring ensemble of students from the Sydney Conservatorium of Music. An information flyer was produced for visitors.



23 June to 28 July 2013

Colours of the Country II + Print Profiles: Printmaking from the Region

Following the success of the first tour of the Alice Springs Beanie Festival exhibition “*Colours of the Country*” Artback NT created “*Colours of the Country II*”, a 10 year retrospective of the festival featuring some of the most creative and colourful beanies produced by festival participants.

This collection of beanies from the Alice Springs Beanie Festival demonstrates the growth of the beanie as an art form over the years and the imagination, creativity and fine craftsmanship presented in each piece. The collection also highlights the works produced by Indigenous artists from the Central Desert region who are regular collaborators in this cross cultural event.

Print Profiles: Printmaking from the Region was a selection of works by leading and emerging print makers from the Central Western Region. Bill Moseley, David Stanley, Judy Thatcher, Jane Tonks, Lynn Winters and Tim Winters contributed prints showcasing a variety of printmaking techniques. The exhibition was curated by the Gallery Director Brian Langer. A special exhibition catalogue and information flyer were designed and printed in-house.

Public Program

Exhibition opening – Both exhibitions opened on Saturday 22nd June at 3pm. Guest speaker was Christine Godden, an artist, writer and business consultant formerly with Desert NT. Prizes were given for the most original beanie worn to the opening. The event was a huge success, with over 100 people in attendance.



Community project – Members of the Cowra Art Group were invited by the Gallery Director to create a knitted work on a tree at the Gallery entrance during the *Colours of Country II* exhibition. It was decided to knit a giant coat for the tree and create a new knitted sign for the Gallery. This was a highly successful project with great interest from the local community, many of whom photographed friends and family members with the knitted tree. The art group knitters also contributed range of knitted beanies to be sold in the Gallery Shop as a special fundraiser.



31 July to 4 August 2013

Scared Footsteps Tour

Over five days a group of visiting Tibetan Buddhist Monks from monasteries in India created a *Sand Mandala* in the Gallery as part of the *Sacred Footsteps Tour 2013*. The monks begin each day with a session of deep voice chanting to mentally prepare for the days work on the mandala. The exact design of the mandala, proportions and use of colours are laid down in ancient Buddhist text and memorised by the monks. On the final day the completed mandala was swept away by the monks during a special dissolution ceremony to remind us that all things are impermanent.



Public Program

Special Events – The public was invited to attend meditation and chanting with the monks each morning before they commenced work on the mandala. Over 550 people visited the gallery during the 4 day event. On the final day, the public were invited to attend the dissolution ceremony, when the monks brush away the mandala.

Schools

An invitation was sent to all schools in the region, prompting visits from several schools over the course of the week day activities. Many of the local schools also booked follow up visits, as students enjoyed their initial trip so much. Many children accompanied by their parents attended the last day and dissolution ceremony.

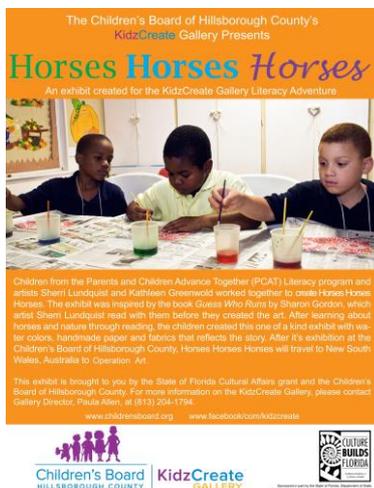


5 July to 22 August 2013

Horses, Horses, Horses (Cowra Library)

This was an exchange project with the KidzCreate Gallery based in Florida USA and Operation Art NSW. The Cowra Regional Art Gallery was invited to host the exhibition in the Cowra Library.

The exhibition consisted of five quilted wall hangings 60 x 74cm with images of horses. The works were inspired by a book called *Guess Who Runs* by Sharon Gordon and were created by students in Hillsborough community, Florida. The aim was to encourage students to read through their love of creating.



10 August to 29 September 2013

Stars of the Tokyo Stage: Natori Shunsen's Kabuki Actor Prints

Stars of the Tokyo stage: Natori Shunsen's kabuki actor prints revealed the dynamic world of Japan's kabuki theatre in the 1920s and 30s. The exhibition consisted primarily of a superb collection of colour wood block prints created by artist Natori Shunsen (1886–1960) depicting portraits of famous kabuki actors.

An inspiration to artists for centuries, kabuki draws on Japan's rich folklore, literature and history, as well as violent, romantic and scandalous events, to present lavish dramatic performances. Kabuki actors – the movie stars of their day – were wildly popular for flamboyant portrayals, extraordinary characters and colourful personal

lives. Shunsen's prints provide a fascinating glimpse into this glamorous world, while demonstrating consummate mastery of traditional Japanese printmaking techniques.

Exclusively from the National Gallery of Australia collection, *Stars of the Tokyo stage* explores kabuki and modern Japanese printmaking in the context of the astounding changes taking place in Tokyo as the 20th century unfolded. The exhibition also included two rare kimono's worn by kabuki actors.

Public Program

Exhibition opening – *Stars of the Tokyo Stage* was opened on 9th August, 2013 by Melanie Eastburn, Curator of Asian Art at the National Gallery of Australia. The opening was well attended, with approximately 60 patrons enjoying Japanese food provided by the Friends of the Gallery, wine tasting provided by Kalari wines, and entertainment provided by the Torsion dance group.



Floor Talk – Melanie Eastburn provided a floor talk on 10th August, 2013, covering major points about the exhibition, including stories, printing techniques and historical context. The talk was attended by 10 people.



Schools

An opening invitation and education pack were sent to all schools in the region, prompting visits by several schools. Floor talks were provided for each visit, at the request of visiting schools. A colourful catalogue and gift cards were also on sale during the exhibition. An information flyer was produced for visitors and visiting schools.

5 October to 20 October 2013

Lachlan Valley Biennial Art Awards

The Lachlan Valley Biennial Art Awards is staged by the Cowra Art Group and open to artists living within 100 km of Cowra. These awards have been held in Cowra for several decades and hosted by Cowra Regional Art Gallery since 2000, offering local artists a unique opportunity to reach new audiences. 2013 winners were: Mixed Media: *Deep and Silent* by Christine Lanham; Traditional: *Evening Pastoral – Hay* by David Lake; Works on Paper: *Mullock Heaps – Coober Pedy* by Dennis Claydon.



Public Programs

Exhibition opening – The exhibition was opened on 5th October, by Annabel Wallace, who also judged the competition. The opening was attended by 57 people and was catered by the Art Group



9 October and 11 October

Artist- in-Residency

The Gallery presented a series of children's workshops on the 26 and 27 September (during the school holidays) led by guest artist-in-residence Gabriella Hegyes from Sodwalls near Bathurst.

Over the two days, the artist presented four 2 hour sessions which attracted 40 enthusiastic children. Participants used a variety of natural materials, such as twigs, grasses, leaves, shells and clay, to make sculptures, prints and wall hangings.

Day one saw children aged seven to nine spend the morning binding together natural and man-made objects using wire and string to create dolls and fantasy creatures. In the afternoon, children aged ten to twelve made plaster wall hangings and prints by pressing objects into clay.

On the second day, the Gallery's workshop room overrun with prints on fabric and paper, made using the impressions of objects in wet clay. The older children used the afternoon session to create free-standing sculptures using wire and woven aluminium.

Gabriella Hegyes' own works explore memory, place and identity through the use of site-specific materials and relics. Her enthusiasm for the natural environment encouraged children to look at materials like twigs and branches in a fresh way, creating new patterns and forms from naturally occurring shapes.



26 October to 23 November

Rolling Stone: The Covers 1972 – 2010 + Portraits: The Good, the Bad and the Beautiful

The exhibition *Rolling Stone: The Covers 1972 – 2010* presented audiences with a showcase of 150 of the greatest *Rolling Stone Australia* covers including captivating images by Annie Leibovitz and Ralph Steadman. The *Rolling Stone* magazine is a cultural icon, graced by everyone from politicians to pop stars. This was an artisan (Craft Queensland) touring exhibition supported by Rolling Stone Australia.



Portraits: The Good, the Bad and the Beautiful consisted of a selection of portraits by renowned Australian and International documentary and photo journalists, on loan from the Josef Lebovich Gallery. Photographers included Max Dupain, Merv Bisshop, Neil Duncan and Sally McInerney. The exhibition was curated by the Gallery Director Brian Langer and a special in-house catalogue and information flyer were produced for visitors.

Public Programs

Exhibition opening – Both exhibitions were opened on Saturday 26th October by Gallery Director, Brian Langer.





Floor Talk – Neil Duncan and Mervyn Bishop gave a floor talk on Sunday 3rd November 2013. They discussed their life and work, several featured *in the exhibition*.

Outreach/Schools Project

Invitations + floor talk information were sent out to schools in the surrounding area.

30 November to 15 December 2013

Regional Student Youth Art Exhibition and Awards

This was the tenth ***Regional Student Youth Art Exhibition and Awards*** presented by the Cowra Regional Art Gallery. The exhibition and awards focus on the work by young artists in years 10, 11 and 12 from high schools in the Central West. The 2013 exhibition attracted 136 entries from 11 regional high schools including, Cowra High School, St Raphael’s Central School, Henry Lawson High School, Blayney High School, Mackillop College, Parkes High School, Young High School, Hennessy Catholic College, Molong Central School and Canowindra High School. This year’s prize was judged by Lisa van den Dolder, coordinator of Operation Art; 21 awards and prizes were awarded to students.



Public Program

Exhibition opening – The exhibition was opened by Councillor Judy Smith. Over 100 people attended the opening, which was catered by the Friends of the Gallery and Eagle Boys Pizza. Students and their families were able to enjoy the work in a gallery space and also view the work of their contemporaries.



20 December 2013 to 2 February 2014

Greg Daly: 40 Years in the Making - The Pots I Kept

This exhibition of Greg Daly's ceramics examined his 40 plus years as a maker. The exhibition was drawn from Daly's own collection covering his development of forms, platters, vases and bowls including his distinctive glazes and surfaces incorporating gold and silver leaf, lustres of different types, enamels and acid etching.

Recent pieces in the exhibition featured his new lustre glaze work relating to the atmospheric early morning and late afternoon light at his studio in Cowra. A special 32 page colour catalogue documenting the exhibition and Greg Daly's art practice was published, and an information flyer was produced for visitors.



Public Program

Exhibition opening + Artist Talk – The exhibition was opened by Peter Haynes Consultant, curator, writer, art historian, heritage advisor on Saturday 21 December 2013 at 2pm, followed by a special artist talk *Greg Daly in conversation with Peter Haynes*.



Until 3 March 2014

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