

# **COWRA REGIONAL ART GALLERY**



## **Annual Report**

# **2015 PROGRAM & ACTIVITIES**

## Until 1 February 2015

### **Stephen Bowers: *Beyond Bravura***

*Stephen Bowers: Beyond Bravura* was the first in a series of solo exhibitions rolled out by the Jam Factory in Adelaide celebrating the achievements of South Australia's most outstanding and influential craft and design practitioners with significant national and international profiles and considerable influence in their chosen field.

*Stephen Bowers: Beyond Bravura* is a major survey of one of Australia's foremost contemporary ceramic artists. The exhibition featured an array of large vessels and other objects made by various collaborators – including wheel-thrown plates, vases and mugs as well as handmade surfboards featuring a variety of decorative techniques and brimming with recurring imagery such as the ubiquitous cockatoos, Willow pattern, Sydney Harbour bridge, Boofhead and the Opera House which reflect Stephen's Australian larrikin spirit.

### **Public Program**

**Exhibition Opening + Floor Talk** The exhibition opening was held on Saturday 13 December 2014 commencing with a floor talk by Stephen Bowers at 5.30pm and the official opening conducted by Peter Haynes, Consultant Curator, Art Writer and Historian at 6pm.



### **Artist Talk**

On Sunday 14 December 2014 at 2pm visitors joined Stephen Bowers for a special illustrated talk discussing his inspirations, influences and collaborations along with his creative techniques and methods. The opening was catered by the Friends of the Gallery and both events were well attended with 53 people in attendance in total.

## 21 to 23 January 2015

### **Summer Art Workshops for Children**

The 2015 Summer Art Workshops for Children are designed by tutors with professional art experience. There are two workshop sessions per day for two hours covering a range of art activities such as paintings, drawing, printmaking and sculpture in a fun environment as well as allowing the development of individual skills. Age groups are 7 - 9 years and 10 -12 years.



The 2015 workshop activities comprised *Creative Mosaics* with artist Catherine Bennett (2 sessions), *Creative Design using Coloured Clay and Inlaying* also with artist Catherine Bennett (2 sessions) and *The Wonder of Watercolour* with artist Shani Nottingham (2 sessions). There were a total of 44 enrolments for the 6 sessions.



**Until 27 February 2015 (Cowra Library)**

***Operation Art 2014***

*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. A touring exhibition of school age children’s art is presented in association with the NSW Department of Education. A local primary teacher’s workshop was held on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2015.

**4 March to 14 April 2015 (Cowra Library)**

***Best Wishes***

*Best Wishes* presented works on loan from the Korean Culture Office in the Cowra Library to coincide with Cowra’s Festival of International understanding; South Korea being the guest nation.



**7 February to 15 March 2015**

***Transplantation: A Sense of Place and Culture – British and Australian Jewellery***

Jewellery offers an art form which provides a means of recording memory and experience in a portable and wearable form. Through this medium it is possible to express ideas, thoughts, and concerns, which may not be achievable in other ways. This exhibition brings together twelve contemporary jewellery artists from the UK and Australia who draw on and interpret their own experiences of “transplantation”. Each artist has created up to three pieces of work which explore a sense of place and cultural identity. Toured by Museum and Gallery Services Queensland.



## 7 February to 15 March 2015

### **Recent Acquisitions**

A selection of recent acquisitions from the Gallery collection including works by GW Bot, Peta Dzubieli, Peter Gardiner, Gladly Kemarre, Margaret Loy Pula, Naomi White. Curated by Brian Langer, Gallery Director.



### **Public Program**

**Exhibition Opening** - The exhibition was opened on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> February at 6:30pm by Grace Cochrane AM, Independent Curator and Writer. The opening was catered by the Friends of the Gallery with 28 people in attendance.

**Floor Talk** – On Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> February Grace Cochrane AM, Independent Curator and Writer gave a floor talk about the exhibition and the artists' practice. It was attended by 28 people.

**Outreach/Schools Project** – Exhibition invitations were sent out to regional schools prior to the opening with a significant positive response in addition to the preparation and distribution of an information kit to local schools. Several schools attended more than once with different age groups, and subsidised travel to the exhibition was available if requested.

## 22 March to 26 April 2015

**The 2014 Jacaranda Acquisitive Drawing Award (JADA)** The JADA provides artists who reside in Australia a unique opportunity to explore the complexity of drawing through the Australia's richest regional drawing award. The JADA seeks to encourage and promote innovation and excellence in drawing and plays a vital role in fostering Australian drawing practice. Toured by Grafton Regional Art Gallery.

### **Public program**

**Exhibition opening preview and floor talk** – The exhibition was opened with a floor talk about the JADA and the exhibition by Jude McBean, Director Grafton Regional Art Gallery on Saturday 21 March 2015 and was well attended and catered for by the Friends of the Gallery.

**Outreach/Schools Program** - Exhibition invitations were sent out to regional schools prior to the opening with a significant positive response.





#### 4 May to 15 June 2015

***The Calleen Art Award and the Central West Regional Art Award*** The *Calleen Art Award* is an acquisitive award for painting with prize money in 2015 of \$19,000. The development of the Calleen Art Award continues to build a collection of enduring significance and regional achievement. Recent winners include Claire Martin, Peter Gardiner, Gladly Kemarre and Yvonne Boag in 2015.

The *Central West Regional Art Award* is non acquisitive for painting and drawing. The award prize money in 2015 is \$2,500. Past winners include Joanna Logue, Tim Winters, Rachel Ellis, Genevieve Carroll, Jo Bertini and in 2015 Nic Mason from Napoleon Reefs via Bathurst.

A winner who has not previously won the award is also offered the opportunity of an exhibition at the Cowra Regional Art Gallery. A special colour catalogue is produced by the Gallery as part of the finalist's exhibition. There is also a People's Choice Award of \$500. The 2015 awards received 308 entries and 50 artists from around Australia were selected as finalists by a panel of art professionals.

**Exhibition opening + Preview** - The winners of the 2015 Calleen Art Award and Central West Regional Art Award were announced by the Awards Judge Dr Andrew Frost, Art Critic, Writer and Broadcaster at the gala opening event on Saturday 2 May 2015 which included canapés, wine and live music from a local flutist and graduate students of the Sydney Conservatorium of Music. About 110 people attended the opening including many finalists and guests and the two award winners.



**Outreach/Schools Program** - Exhibition invitations and a complimentary exhibition catalogue were sent to primary and secondary schools in the region. Subsidised bus travel was available if requested.

#### 22 June to 26 July 2015

##### ***Kensuke Todo – Sculpture and Drawings***

This exhibition examines the paradoxical works of Japanese-born, Canberra-resident, Kensuke Todo. Born in Kyoto, educated in Japan and Australia, Todo extends his bi-cultural perspective to sculptures and drawings that gesture towards imaginary architecture, with rigorously considered in-between spaces that function ambivalently as voids and energy fields. The exhibition was curated by Peter Haynes, Consultant Curator, Art Writer and Historian. A catalogue and information flyer was produced for visitors.

**Exhibition Opening** - The opening for the exhibition was held on Saturday 20 June 2015 commencing with a floor talk by the Kensuke Todo at 2.00pm and the official opening conducted by exhibition Curator Peter Haynes at 2.30pm. Catering was by the Friends of the Gallery and was attended by 34 people.

### Outreach/Schools Program

Exhibition invitations and complimentary exhibition catalogues were sent to primary and secondary schools in the region and subsidised bus travel was available if requested.



### 29 July to 2 August 2015

#### Special public Event: *Sacred Footsteps Tour*

Over five days a group of Tibetan Buddhist Monks visiting from monasteries in India will create a *Sand Mandala* in the Gallery as part of the *Sacred Footsteps Tour 2015*. The monks will 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 is then swept away by the monks during a special dissolution ceremony to remind us that all things are impermanent.

The week with *the Sacred Footsteps - Mandala* display was highly successful with 1,040 visitors including the volunteers 'Christmas in July' dinner and Friends movie afternoon.

**Public programs:** Morning chanting and meditation sessions and special closing event and display of Tibetan arts and crafts.

### Outreach/Schools Program

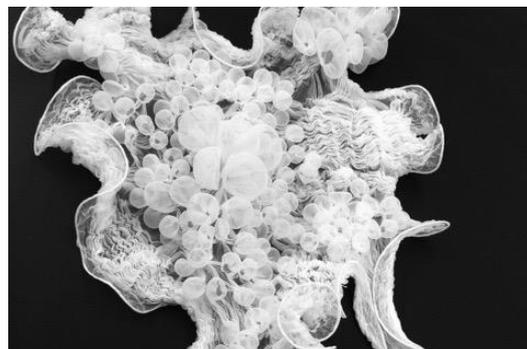
Exhibition invitations and information flyers were sent to primary and secondary schools in the region and subsidised bus travel was available if requested.



## 1 to 28 September 2015 (Cowra Library)

### **Reef Textiles**

Australias' underwater world of Anemones, Corals, Seaweeds and Jellyfish through the Art of Japanese Shibori, Dyeing, Free-motion Thread Painting and Embellishment by renowned fibre textile artist Maureen Locke-Maclean.. All works featured in boxed frames.



## 8 August to 6 September 2015

### **Contemporary Gallipoli**

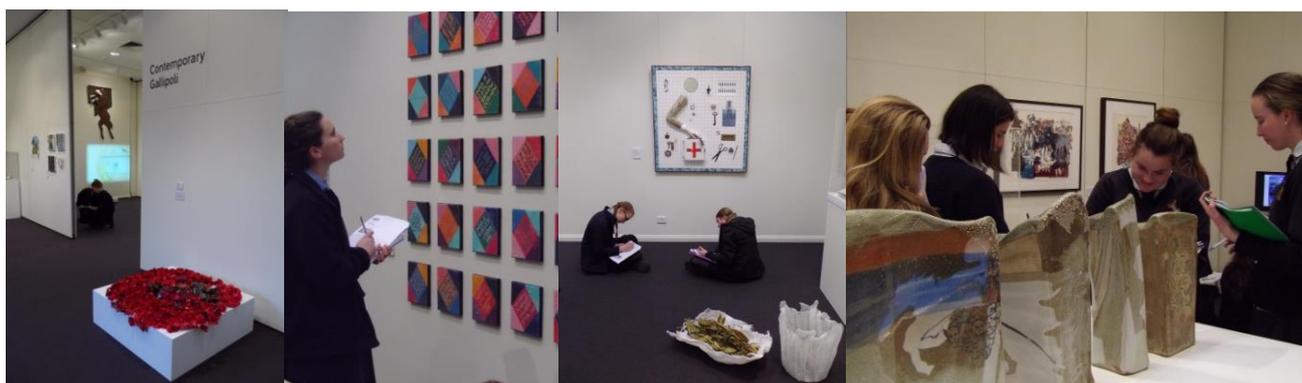
The exhibition '*Contemporary Gallipoli*' includes an array of new works created by both emerging and established artists from Canakkale, near the Gallipoli Peninsula, Turkey, and Australia, whose work unites to take the viewer on an experiential journey of remembrance, and a search for meaning beyond myth and memory.

Featuring concepts of friendship and healing, the works comprise music, painting, drawing, printmaking, hand-built ceramic, sculpture, textile, mixed media installation, Artist books, wearables, photomedia and digital animation. Artists featured in the exhibition include: Ros Auld, Cenk Beyhan, Meredith Brice, Stephen Copland, Mark Davis, Ihsan Doğrusöz, Kate Downhill, Dianne Jones, Burt Muller, Susan O'Doherty, Toby Roberts and Chris Sainsbury. *Curated by Meredith Brice and toured by Macquarie University Art Gallery.*

### **Public program**

**Exhibition Opening and preview including floor talk** - Opening night for *Contemporary Gallipoli* was held on 7 August commencing at 6.30pm - guest speaker was Professor John Simons Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) Macquarie University. The curator and several participating artists were in attendance.

**Outreach/Schools Program** - Invitations were sent to local primary and secondary schools in addition to the distribution of an Education Kit to secondary schools in the region. Subsidised the bus travel of 39 secondary



students and 3 teachers to attend the exhibition from Young.

## 12 September to 18 October 2015

### **Stars & Stripes: American Art of the 21st Century from the Goldberg Collection**

Drawn from the private collection of Sydney-based Lisa and Danny Goldberg, Stars + Stripes: American Art of the 21st Century from the Goldberg Collection is a vibrant selection of 51 works across the mediums of painting, drawing, photography and sculpture and highlights the cutting edge practices of a generation of American artists that explore the creative and conceptual possibilities these mediums hold.

Curated by Richard Perram OAM, Director, Bathurst Regional Art Gallery, in conjunction with Lisa and Danny Goldberg, and toured by Museums and Galleries of NSW the exhibition captures a fascinating snapshot of recent contemporary art from North America and provides a unique opportunity to present works by artists not easily accessible to Australian audiences. The exhibition was highly successful with over 1,000 visitors to the Gallery.

#### **Public program**

**Exhibition opening and Floor Talk** – The exhibition was opened on Friday 11 September at 6.30pm by guest speaker, the exhibition curator Richard Perram OAM Director Bathurst Regional Gallery.

**Outreach/Schools Program** – Exhibition invitations and correspondence linking the online education kit were sent to primary and secondary schools in the region with a positive response by local schools.



## 12-13 September 2015

### **Adult Art Workshop/ Artist-in-residence workshop**

Renowned Shibori textile artist Barbara Schey presented a successful two day workshop focusing on Shibori and new dyeing techniques including eco dyeing.



## 24 – 25 September 2015

### **Spring Art Workshops for Children**

The *Spring Art Workshops for Children* are designed by tutors with professional art experience. Over 2 days there are two workshop sessions per day for two hours covering a range of art activities such as paintings, drawing, printmaking and sculpture in a fun environment as well as allowing the development of individual skills. Age groups are 7 - 9 years and 10 -12 years



The Spring Art Workshops comprised *Zentangles* and *Paper Mosaic Mask* making with tutor Helen Daly and artist Catherine Bennett. There was total of 38 enrolments for the 4 sessions.

## 24 October to 15 November 2015

### **2015 Lachlan Valley Biennial Art Awards**

The presentation of the *Lachlan Valley Biennial Art Awards* presented by the Cowra Art Group at the Cowra Regional Art Gallery is open to artists living within 100 km of Cowra. The exhibition offers entrants from different art backgrounds and exhibition experience a unique opportunity to show their work in a public gallery and reach new audiences. Award categories include painting, drawing, watercolour, pastel, mixed media, and for the first time, miniatures. The 2015 Awards Judge was Lisa Loader, Director Orange Regional Gallery.

## Public program

**Exhibition opening and awards presentation** – The exhibition was welcomed and officially opened on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October at 6:30pm by Cowra Mayor Mr Bill West. The awards were presented by President of the Cowra Art Group Mrs Yvonne Lawrie and by Judge Lisa Loader. A large crowd of over 100 people attended and the event.



**Outreach/Schools Program** – Exhibition invitations were sent to primary and secondary schools in the region.

### 22 November to 6 December 2015

#### ***UpstART 2015 - Regional Art Exhibition and Awards for Students Yrs 10 -12***

Now in its 12th year, the Gallery's annual regional youth art exhibition *UpstART* is a showcase of *talent and creativity by young artists in years 10, 11 and 12 from high schools across the Central West region*. The 2015 exhibition encompasses a striking collection of works including painting, drawing, printmaking, photography, 2D digital art, ceramics and sculpture by 131 visual art students from 8 high schools in the region. The participating schools for 2015 were Canobolas Rural Technology High School, Cowra High School, Forbes High School, Molong Central School, Parkes High School, St Raphael's Catholic School, The Henry Lawson High School and Young High School. The 2015 awards judge was Tracey Callinan, CEO ArtsOutWest.



## Public program

**Exhibition opening and awards presentation** – 2pm Saturday 22 November 2015. Welcome and announcement of the winners and presentation of the awards by Cowra Mayor, Cr Bill West (the awards judge was not available). Catering was by exhibition sponsor Eagle Boys Pizza and the Friends of the Gallery. Over 100 people attended the event. Admission was free.

**Outreach/Schools Program** – Exhibition invitations were sent to primary and secondary schools in the region with visits by two local schools.

### 2 December 2015 – 27 February 2016 (Cowra Library)

#### ***Operation Art***

A unique and stimulating exhibition of artworks made by children for sick children in hospital. Toured by the NSW Department of Education + teachers workshop.



## 12 December 2015 – 7 February 2016

### ***Lola Greeno: Cultural Jewellery***

This is the eighth exhibition in the ongoing series *Living Treasures: Masters of Australian Craft*, initiated by Object Gallery to celebrate the achievements of the most influential and iconic figures within the Australian crafts movement. Lola Greeno is a highly respected indigenous shell worker, sculptor, installation and fibre artist and the first Indigenous Living Treasure in the series. She is originally from Cape Barren Island but now lives in Launceston Tasmania. With more than 30 years of traditional shell necklace making; the knowledge and customs that were passed down from mother to daughter; Lola is one of a handful of women shell stringers who have been responsible for ensuring the craft is passed on from their Elders and continued to the present day.

Greeno has developed a major body of work specifically for this exhibition; supplementing fragile strings of coastal harvest shells, local to her 'country', with other traditional materials and techniques – fibre weaving, kelp, quills, bones, found objects. An Object: Australian Design Centre National Touring Program.

#### **Public program**

**Exhibition Opening and preview including floor talk** - The exhibition opening for *Lola Greeno: Cultural Jewels* was held on Saturday 12 December 2015 at 1.30pm with a floor talk by guest speaker Sandra Brown, exhibition curator and touring coordinator, Object: Australian Design Centre. Drinks and finger food were served by the Friends of the Gallery.

**Outreach/Schools** – Exhibition invitations were sent to primary and secondary schools in the region with a positive response to the exhibition from the community.

