

COWRA REGIONAL ART GALERY

ANNUAL REPORT

2011 PROGRAM AND ACTIVITES

Cowra Regional Art Gallery - 2011 Annual Report

Until 30 January 2011

Exhibition: *Countryscapes*

The 2010 Country Energy Art Prize for Landscape Painting – *Countryscapes* showcased the work of 41 finalist artists from Country and Coastal regions in New South Wales. The Art Prize is one of the richest annual landscape art prizes in Australia. Artists included Mandy Martin, Rachel Ellis, Wendy Teakel (winner) Mike Riley and Guy Gilmour.

Public Program

Exhibition Opening: Saturday 15 December 2010 – Guest speakers included a welcome by Cr Bill West, Mayor Cowra Shire Council and opened by Chas McPhail - Regional General Manager, Central Western Division at Country Energy, and the 2010 award winner Wendy Teakel. This was a highly successful event with over 100 people attending including Councillors, GM, Department Directors and Country Energy Management and PR staff. The event was hosted by Country Energy.



17/19/21 January 2011

Workshops: *Summer Art Workshop for Children*

The 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 including. Age groups are 7 - 9 years and 10 -13 years. The 2011 workshop activities were : *Still Life Drawing and Painting* with Teacher/Painter Inel Date (2 sessions), *Monsters from the Heap*, Sculpture with Ken Hutchinson (2 sessions), *Mosaics* with Catherine Bennett ceramicist (2 sessions) There were a total of 72 enrolments (12 participants per workshop).



1 November 2010 to 10 February 2011

Cowra Library – *Operation Art* (2010)

Operation Art includes a wide variety of media, from drawing and painting to collage, photography, printmaking, computer graphics and textiles. The viewer can't help being drawn into this incredible fantasy world of these talented young artists.

Public Program

Exhibition Opening - 10 November 2010 – Welcome by Gallery Director opened by Cr Ian Brown Deputy Mayor Cowra Shire Council.

5 February to 6 March 2011

Exhibition: *Returning*

Returning featured work by eight textile artists that reflect the fact that they have at some stage been drawn away from Tasmania but have returned, as well as, engaging with a wide range of ideas including fashion, Australian history, and travel with references to "other places". This project was assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body. Exhibition artists were Elena Gallegos, Irene Briant, Julie Gough, Kathy Deprez, Petra Meer, Rosemary O'Rourke, Sara Lindsay and Tara Badcock. Total attendances 586 visitors

Public Programs

Exhibition Opening: Friday 3 February 2011 – Welcome by the Gallery Director and opened by exhibition artist Petra Meer.

Floor talk & artist talk: Saturday 4 February 2011 – Guest artist talk with Melbourne based and exhibition artist Petra Meer.

Outreach/Schools

Contact with teachers - Local/regional school teachers were invited to exhibition and an exhibition education kit was available if requested. School Groups - 1



12 March to 10 April 2011

Exhibition: *Cultural Connections*

This showcase exhibition of paintings, prints, ceramics and video was curated by the Cowra Regional Art Gallery Director Brian Langer in association with the Cowra Festival of International Understanding. Each year the festival features a different guest nation, with Turkey the guest nation in 2011. *Cultural Connections* featured the work of four artists of Turkish descent with varied contemporary art and craft practices, Huseyin Sami (Sydney), Gokcen Altinok (Sydney), Ebru Arda (Sydney) and Sarit Cohen (Canberra). The exhibition was supported by the Cowra Shire Council and the Turkish Embassy, Canberra. The Gallery produced a colour catalogue with information about each artist and their work in the exhibition.

Public Program

Exhibition Opening: Friday 11 March 2011- Welcome by Cr BILL WEST, Mayor Cowra Shire Council and opening by His Excellency MR OĞUZ ÖZGE, Ambassador of Turkey to Australia.

Outreach/Schools

Contact with teachers - Local/regional school teachers were invited to the exhibition, and exhibition information sheet was emailed to schools and an exhibition catalogue was available if requested.



6 April to 22 May 2011

Exhibition: 2011 Calleen Art Award and Central West Regional Artists Award

The Calleen Art Award was established in 1977 with the support of local arts patron Mrs Patricia Fagan. The award is now considered one of the most respected and richest acquisitive regional art awards in NSW. In 2011 the award was worth \$15,000. As an acquisitive award, each year the winning work enters the Calleen Art Collection house at the Cowra Regional Art Gallery. Past winners include Meg Buchanan, Martin Coyte, David Fairbairn, Rowen Mathews, Mandy Martin, Wendy Teakel and Marzena Wasilowska. The 2011 winner is Newcastle artist Peter Gardiner.

The Central West Regional Artists Award commenced in 2009 with the support of a local patron of the Gallery, 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 2011 Award was 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. The 2011 winner of the Central West Regional Arts Award was Time Winters from Stuart Town.

214 entries were received into the 2011 Awards and 71 works were selected as finalists. A special colour catalogue is produced by the Gallery as part of the awards. Total visitors 1227

Public Program

Exhibition Opening: Friday 15 April 2011 - Welcome by the Gallery Director and opening address by Cr BILL WEST, Mayor Cowra Shire Council opened the exhibition. The announcement of the award winners was presented by the awards judge Deborah Ely CEO, The Bundanon Trust. An estimated 150 people attended the opening, including about 30 of the finalists.

Exhibition Floor Talk: Saturday 21 May 2011 - Special floor talk by the winner of the 2011 Calleen Art Award, Peter Gardiner from Newcastle

Outreach/Community

Group Visit - 11 May 2011 - after hours visit 25 members of the Cowra CWA.

Group Visit - 27 May 2011 - Council Staff Morning tea hosted by the Gallery

Outreach/Schools

Contact with teachers - Local/regional school teachers were invited to the exhibition and an exhibition catalogue was available if requested.

School Visit - Friday 20 May 2011- Bus group 24 students and 1 teacher from Forbes High School (Subsidised travel from 2011 Program Grant Arts NSW)



28 May to 3 July 2011

Exhibition: *There's A War On! World War II at Home*

World War II was a time of great change for the people of NSW. For some, supporting the war effort led to adventure, love, lasting friendships and new experiences. For others, wartime meant loss and hardship. *There's a War On! World War II at Home* showcases the varied experiences of the men, women and children who fought the war on the home front. Included with the touring exhibition was a showcase of local memorabilia including the two restored altar panels created by Italian Prisoners of War which were originally housed in the Italian Chapel at the Cowra Prisoner of War Camp. A touring exhibition by Museums and Galleries NSW. Total visitors 775

Public Program

Exhibition Opening: Friday 3 June 2011 – Welcome by the Gallery Director and opened by guest speaker Michael Rolfe, CEO Museums and Galleries, NSW

Floor talk: Saturday 4 June 2011– Exhibition curator Sarah Jane Rennie

Website Workshop: Saturday 4 June 2011– Exhibition curator Sarah Jane Rennie

Outreach/Schools

Contact with teachers - Local/regional school teachers were invited to the exhibition and an exhibition information flyer was emailed to schools.

School Visit - 28 June 2011 – Bus group 50 students and 1 teacher from Forbes High School



3 to 29 July 2011

Public Art Project: *Kalari Bila banners at Cowra Regional Art Gallery*

During July the Gallery displayed 3 banners created by members of Weigelli Art Group on flag poles in Darling Street to celebrate NAIDOC week. The three banners were comprised of goggar (goanna), the sand goanna, and the totem of the Wiradjuri people who lived in the land of three great rivers – the Kalari, Murrumbidgee and Murray. The long-necked turtle, which is the totem for Cowra. And the third banner was a map of the Cowra area. The project was developed with the support on Cowra artist Catherine Bennett and Weigelli Centre.



25 July to 5 August 2011

Cowra Library: *Snapshots*

Three textile artists from NSW and Victoria and known as the *Zig Zags* produced a series of textiles works utilizing quilting techniques, based on a series of photographs from still life to landscape.



9 July to 7 August 2011

Exhibition: *Max Dupain on Assignment*

Max Dupain (1911-1992) is widely considered one of Australia's greatest photographers. This exhibition showcases the diversity and longevity of Dupain's commercial career, tracing his development as a photographer and artist from the 1940's to the 1970's. A Touring Exhibition from the National Archives of Australia

Public Program

Exhibition Opening: Saturday 9 July 2011 - Welcome by Gallery Director and opening by guest speaker Ian Batterham Assistant Director, Preservation, National Archives of Australia.

Public talk: Saturday 9 July 2011 - Information workshop by Ian Batterham on Digital Photography

Outreach/Schools

Contact with teachers - Local/regional school teachers were invited to the exhibition and an exhibition information flyer was emailed to schools. *Distribution of an information kit and teaching aid prepared by the gallery for local school groups*

School Visit – 19 July 2011 - local group 18 students and 1 teacher from St Raphaels Central School

School Visit – 29 July 2011 - bus Group 40 and 1 teacher from Hennesy High School

School Visit – 5 August 2011 - bus Group 18 and 1 teacher from Molong High School (Subsidized travel from 2011 program grant Arts NSW)

Outreach/Community

Group visit – 13 July 2011 - Weigilli art group visited

Group visit – 15 July 2011 - Carewest community group visited the Gallery

Group visit – 28 July 2011 - U3A community group visited the Gallery



9 to 14 August 2011

Community project: *Sacred Footsteps*

A touring exhibition consisting of 3 Tibetan monks and 2 assistants travelling throughout Australia bringing the Australian public a range of extraordinary experiences such as Tibetan ritual art forms, Buddhist practices and Tibetan culture. During their time at the Gallery the monks created a unique sand mandala, using traditional patterns. This was a rare opportunity to meet artists from another cultural background.



Outreach/Schools

Contact with teachers - Local/regional school teachers were invited to the mandala event and an exhibition information flyer was emailed to schools.

School visit – 11 August 2011 – 10 students from Holman primary school

School visit – 12 August 2011 - 4 x groups total 104 students and 4 teachers from St Raphaels Central

School visit – 12 August 2011 – 10 students and 5 teachers from ABC/Goodstart pre-school

20 August to 25 September 2011

Exhibition: Jeff Mincham: Ceramics

Jeff Mincham: Ceramics was a *Living Treasures: Masters of Australian Craft* exhibition, initiated by Object Gallery to celebrate the achievements of the most influential and iconic figures within the Australian crafts movement. Jeff Mincham was chosen as the fifth *Living Treasures* exhibition. His extraordinary body of work arises from direct experiences within the landscape. Mincham is an artist in his creative prime and his work in this exhibition showcased the unique results of his passionate research and experimentation with surface textures and firing techniques.

Public Program

Exhibition Opening: Saturday 20 August 2011- Welcome by Gallery Director guest speaker Greg Daly, Ceramicist and Lecturer ANU Art School.

Public Talk: Saturday 20 August 2011- Jeff Mincham in conversation with Greg Daly

Artist-in-Residence Project: During the first five days of the exhibition Jeff Mincham undertook several public and educational activities as an artist- in-residence. This consisted of a special ceramic workshop and visual presentation at Conowindra High School and schools talk about his work in the exhibition at the Gallery.

Outreach/Schools

Contact with teachers - Local/regional school teachers were invited to the exhibition and an exhibition information flyer was emailed to schools. A letter and the *Teachers Notes* information were sent to High schools and Infants schools in the region.

School visit – 7 September 2011 – group 16 students and 1 teachers from St Raphaels Central School

School visit – 13 September 2011 – 4 x group 93 students and 3 teachers from St Raphaels Central School

School visit – 23 September 2011 – group 36 students and 1 teacher from St Raphaels Central School

School visit – 24 August 2011 - group 3 students and 1 teacher from Hennessy High School

Outreach/Community visits

Group Visit - 15 September 2011 – community bus group, Weigilli art group

Group visit - 25 September 2011 – tourist bus group



10 September to 23 October 2011

Cowra Library: Patterns in Nature

A popular and colourful touring exhibition organized by members of the Mosaic Association of Australia and NZ with the theme “patterns in nature”.



1 October to 16 October 2011

Exhibition: *Lachlan Valley Biennial Art Awards*

The 2011 Lachlan Valley Biennial Art Awards was open to art enthusiasts living within 100 km of Cowra. This distinctive biennial exhibition presented by the Cowra Art Group has been running since the 1960's and is a unique opportunity for local artists to have their work displayed in a public gallery.

Public Program

Exhibition Opening: Friday 30 September – Welcome by Gallery Director and opened by the Awards Judge artist Rowen Matthews.

Outreach/Schools

Contact with teachers - Local/regional school teachers were invited to the exhibition and an exhibition information flyer was emailed to schools.

Saturday 16 December 2011

Community workshop project: *Origami workshop* –presented in association with the Sakura Festival by renowned Origami practitioners and teachers Michael Clonaris and Etsuko Nagashita-Clonaris. Activities included making of a variety of basic objects such as a crane, fox, mask, finger puppets. The workshop was free and open to young and old as well as families.

22 October to 20 November 2011

Exhibition: *REPLANT a new generation of Botanical Art*

REPLANT included works by Winsome Jobling from Darwin, Debra Wurrkidj from Maningrida, Marita Sambono from Nauiyu, Irene Mungatopi from the Tiwi Islands, Fiona Hall from Adelaide, and Judy Watson from Brisbane. The exhibition was comprised of fine art prints made from intricate etchings that featured a range of the unique characteristics of native plants that survive and prosper through the climatic extremes of monsoonal rains, long dry seasons and intense wild fires in the top end of Australia.

Public Program

Exhibition Opening: Saturday 22 October 2011 - Welcome by Gallery Director and opening/floor talk by Fiona Sivyer, Manager, Nomad Art Gallery, Canberra.

Outreach/Schools

Contact with teachers - Local/regional school teachers were invited to the exhibition and an exhibition information flyer and teachers notes were emailed to schools.

School Visit - 2 November - local group 15 students and 1 teacher from St Raphs Central School

School Visit - 14 November - bus Group 15 and 1 teacher from Canowindra High School

School Visit - 18 November - bus Group 10 and 1 teacher from Hennessy High School



22 October to 20 November 2011

Exhibition: *Rachel Ellis - New Works*

The exhibition *Rachel Ellis - New Works* consisted of a selection recent paintings by Rachel Ellis which respond to her immediate surroundings in and around the city of Bathurst. In 2010 Rachel won the Central West Regional Artists Award which includes an exhibition at the Cowra Regional Art Gallery the following year.

Public Program

Exhibition Closing: Sunday 20 November – Welcome by Gallery Director closing guest speaker Richard Perram, Director Bathurst Regional Art Gallery.

Artist Workshop – A two day workshop was cancelled as Rachel Ellis was not available.

Outreach/Schools

Contact with teachers - Local/regional school teachers were invited to the exhibition and an exhibition information flyer was emailed to schools.

School visit - 2 November - local group 15 students and 1 teacher from St Raphs Central School

School visit - 14 November - bus group 15 and 1 teacher from Canowindra High School

School visit - 18 November - bus group 10 and 1 teacher from Hennessy High School



1 November 2011 to 27 February 2012

Cowra Library: *Operation Art (2011)*

Operation Art includes a wide variety of media, from drawing and painting to collage, photography, printmaking, computer graphics and textiles. Children create their artwork knowing that they will be appreciated by sick children in hospital and their families. The talent and creativity of all the children who submitted artworks is amazing.

26 November to 11 December 2011

Exhibition: Regional Student Youth Art Exhibition and Awards

High school students in years 10, 11 and 12 from across the central west region enter works into the *Regional Student Youth Art Exhibition and Awards*. This was the eighth year the Cowra Regional Art Gallery has presented this popular showcase of works by young artists in a variety of media including painting, sculpture, printmaking, photography, digital media, collage, textiles and ceramics. The exhibition was supported by principal sponsor Essential Energy, local and regional businesses, and local donors.

Public Program

Exhibition Opening: Saturday 26 November 2011 - Welcome by Gallery Director, opening by Cr Bill West Mayor Cowra Shire Council and awards presented by the awards judge artist Joanna Logue.

17 December 2011 to 29 January 2012

Exhibition: 2010 Jacaranda Drawing Award - Touring Exhibition.

The Jacaranda Acquisitive Drawing Award (JADA) aims to promote excellence and innovation in Australian drawing. The JADA is a premier biennial arts event with entries received from a wide cross-section of established and emerging artists based in every state and territory in Australia.

Public Program

Exhibition Opening: Saturday 16 December 2011 – Opened by the Gallery Director Brian Langer special entertainment was Baroque key board music by Orange based musician Tracey Callinan.

