

COWRA REGIONAL ART GALLERY



ANNUAL REPORT

2012 PROGRAM & ACTIVITIES

Until 29 January 2012

2010 Jacaranda Drawing Award

The Jacaranda Acquisitive Drawing Award (JADA) aims to promote excellence and innovation in Australian drawing. The exhibition's diverse and innovative works give it a broad appeal. The JADA is a premier biennial arts event with entries from every state and territory in Australia and from a wide cross-section of established and emerging artists. It is a Grafton Regional Art Gallery touring exhibition.

Public Program

Exhibition Opening - The Exhibition was opened on Saturday 16 December 2011 by Brian Langer, Gallery Director Cowra Regional Art Gallery. The opening included Baroque Keyboard music presented by Tracey Callinan. Over 39 people attended the opening.



Until 27 February 2012

2011 Operation Art (Cowra Library)

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.

16/18/20 January 2012

2012 Summer Art Workshop for Children

The 2012 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 Painting* and *Colour Your World (Abstract Painting)* with artist Catherine Hale (2 sessions), *Decoration and Painting Zeppo Chairs* and *Landscape Art* with art teacher Inel Date and *Monsters from the Heap* with sculptor Ken Hutchinson (2 sessions). There were a total of 43 enrolments for the 6 sessions.



4 February to 11 March 2012

CCP Documentary Photography Award

Now in its 15th year, this biennial exhibition continues to support documentary practice, a task of increasing importance as our definition and interest in the real rapidly evolves. Arguably more important than ever before, and certainly more controversial, documentary photography always draws a large and diverse audience and sparks debate.

Olive Cotton: Photographs

Olive Cotton: Photographs is an exhibition of Olive Cotton photography from the Cowra Regional Art Gallery Collection and works on loan from the Josef Lebovic Gallery, Sydney. The exhibition included significant photographs that highlight Olive Cotton's love of nature, her astute powers of observation, as well as, her enduring interest in the play of light. Olive Cotton lived and worked in the in the Cowra district for more than 50 years.

These two exhibitions took place during the Cowra Festival of International Understanding 9 -11 March 2012.

Public Program

Exhibition opening – The opening for both exhibitions was Friday 4 February 2012 commencing at 6.30pm with guest speaker Helen Innes Associate Professor ANU School of art Canberra.

Schools

All high schools and art teachers in the region were sent a calendar of the 2012 exhibition program and information regarding bus subsidies during the year as well as the distribution of the CCP Documentary Photography Award Education Kit, invitation to the exhibition opening and information flyer.



17 March to 15 April 2012

1. *ISLAND to ISLAND: Tim Winters*

Tim Winters is a printmaker and painter based in Stuart Town, Central West NSW. In 2008 he travelled to *Sark* a tiny island in the English Channel and the remote island *Orkney* located off the northern coast of Scotland. During this period he also had an artist-in-residency at the Peacock Visual Arts studio in Aberdeen, Scotland. This journey of discovery to such unusual and isolated islands has developed into an ongoing project, exploring ideas of physical and emotional dislocation contrasted with his experiences of the vast and open spaces of Australia.

“The series of works in *ISLAND to ISLAND* presented at the Cowra Regional Art Gallery explores the physical nature and philosophical idea of islands and our relationship to them.” Tim Winters said. Winter's was the winner of the 2011 Central West Regional Artists Award and this exhibition is presented in association with the award.

2. FROM THE COLLECTION: NEW ACQUISITIONS

This exhibition of new acquisitions showcased additions to the Cowra Regional Art Gallery Collection from 2009 - 2012. During this period the collection has progressed in its diversity of Australian art not only through the support of private donors and the acquisition of new works through the Calleen Art Awards, but also through the Commonwealth Governments Cultural Gifts Program and the purchase of works through the fundraising efforts of the Friends of the Gallery. The development of diverse collection adds to the Gallery's cultural heritage for future generations as well as providing new exhibition opportunities for visitors to the Gallery to enjoy.

Public Program

Exhibition opening - *Island to Island: Tim Winters* and *From the Collection: New Acquisitions* were opened on Saturday 17 March at 1pm by Professor Mandy Martin ANU Canberra. There was a floor talk by Tim Winters prior to the opening. Entry was free to both public activities.

Floor Talk – Tim Winters presented a floor talk about the background and works in the exhibition.

Workshop – As part of the Tim Winters exhibition the Gallery presented a Tim Winters Drawing workshop for artists on Saturday the 31 March from 10am to 4pm. The workshop focused on mixed media drawing using memory and imagination.

Schools

An invitation to the exhibition opening, information flyer and catalogue were sent to all schools in the region.



22 April to 2 June 2012

2012 CALLEEN ART AWARD AND CENTRAL WEST REGIONAL ARTISTS AWARD

The Calleen Art Award worth \$16,000 in 2012 is an acquisitive award for painting. It was established in 1977 by local art patron Mrs Patrica Fagan OAM and through the support of the Calleen Trust it continues building a collection of enduring significance and regional achievement. Past winners include Meg Buchanan, Martin Coyte, David Fairbairn, Rowen Mathews Mandy Martin, Wendy Teakel, Marzena Wasilowska, Claire Martin and in 2011 Peter Gardiner. **The winner of the 2012 Calleen Art Award was G.W. Bot, who is a Canberra based artist.**

The Central West Regional Artists Award was established by the Gallery in 2009 with the support of a 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 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. **The winner of the 2012 Central West Regional Artists Award was Genevieve Carroll who is based in Hill End.**

The 2012 Awards Judge was Jason Smith Director/CEO Heide Museum of Modern Art. The exhibition consisted of works by 60 finalists selected from 228 entries. The Gallery produced a colour catalogue for the exhibition.

Public Program

Exhibition opening – the opening of the 2012 *Calleen Art Award and Central West Regional Artists Award* was Saturday 21 April at 6.30pm with guest speaker Cr Bill West Mayor of Cowra Shire Council followed the announcement of the award winners by the awards judge Jason Smith Director/CEO Heide Museum of Modern Art.

Schools

An exhibition invitation, *Awards* catalogue and an information flyer were distributed by email/post to all High School teachers in the region. Three school groups, two bus groups and one community group visited the exhibition.

Exhibition Activity Sheets – The Gallery prepared a special children's activity sheet for the exhibition.



10 June to 22 July 2012

SHELL-SHOCKED: Australia after Armistice

The exhibition explored the personal impact of war on Australian men, women and children, and the nation's attempts to recover from the loss or injury of almost three-quarters of its soldiers serving overseas. It showed how the nation channelled its grief into public commemoration, honouring the fallen with national monuments and ubiquitous small town memorials. The exhibition featured photographs, personal letters, service files and memorabilia from the National Archives collection.

Also on display was *Mapping our Anzacs*, an innovative and popular website presenting information on servicemen and their communities in a fundamentally different way, using Google Maps technology. Visitors could explore some of the National Archives most popular records and add personal photos, letters and other mementos using the online scrapbook. A National Archives of Australia touring exhibition.

Public Program

Exhibition opening – Shell-Shocked was opened by Frank Bridges Vice President, Cowra RSL Sub Branch on Friday 8 June 2012 from 6.30pm to 8pm.

Guest Speakers – Archives staff presented MAPPING OUR ANZACS from 11am – 1pm Saturday 23 June 2012. This consisted of a presentation about the National Archives online collection including information and photographs about the men and women who served in the Australian forces during WWI.

Schools

An invitation to the exhibition opening and information flyer were sent to all schools in the region. Two community groups and one school group visited the exhibition.



Gallery upgrade

During the period 23 July to 3 August 2012 the Gallery was closed to allow for new flooring to be installed and the installation of a new foyer/reception area. This included:

- New electrical/wiring work for new wall sockets re shop equipment in reception/shop area
- Painting of the coloured walls back to the exhibition wall colour and painting of the foyer doors and door trims in the foyer (3 days) .
- Pack office equipment/files/furniture/books etc and shop items and display equipment
- Move to temporary office and storage area
- carpet laying (2 days)
- Installation of the new reception desk/shop area + administrators new work station including adjustments and additions to reception desk (2 days)
- Wiring and new sockets re new reception desk (1 day)
- Re-pack office equipment/files/furniture/books etc and shop items and display equipment
- Set up new admin/shop area and Directors office



4 August to 26 August 2012

New Directions – Sydney Printmakers

The medium of fine art printmaking is often misunderstood particularly since new technologies, such as digital printmaking have emerged and become integrated within many art practices. The exhibition was designed to incorporate traditional printmaking techniques such as etching, lino, woodblock and lithograph alongside computer-generated images or as 'hybrid prints' in which several techniques were combined.

New Directions included 50 works, all high quality forms of fine art limited edition printmaking. It was also an anniversary celebration of the *Sydney Printmakers* group established in 1961.

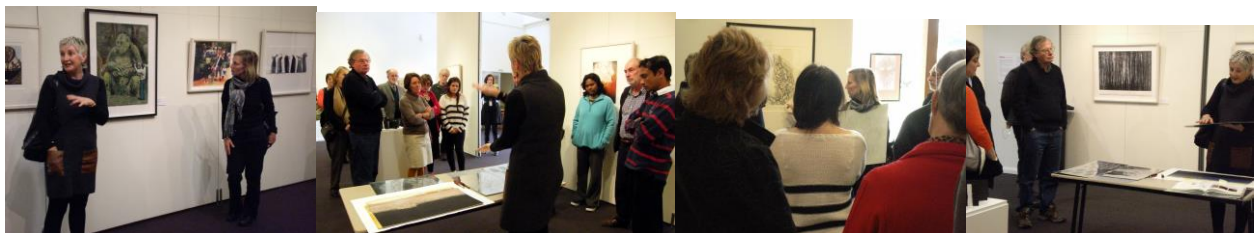
Public Program

Exhibition opening – the exhibition was opened by Karen Ball, President, Sydney Printmakers on Saturday 4 August 2012 from 1 pm to 3pm

Exhibition floor talk – prior to the exhibition opening at 12.30pm Karen Ball presented a floor talk about the exhibition

Schools

An invitation to the exhibition opening and information flyer were sent to all schools in the region.



1 September to 14 October 2012

2012 Archibald Prize: New South Wales Regional Tour

The Archibald Prize is one of Australia's oldest and most prestigious art awards. JF Archibald's primary aims were to foster portraiture, support artists and perpetuate the memory of great Australians. The Archibald Prize was first awarded in 1921 and over the years some of Australia's most prominent artists have won, including George Lambert (1927), William Dobell (1943, '48 and '59) Brett Whiteley (1976 and '78) and William Robinson (1987, '95). The subjects of Archibald winners have been equally celebrated in their fields and include 'Banjo' Patterson, Margaret Olley, Patrick White, Paul Keating, John Bell and David Wenham. The 2012 Archibald Prize winner was Tim Storrier for his self portrait *The histrionic wayfarer* (after Bosch). The 2012 Archibald Prize NSW Regional Tour was an Art Gallery of NSW exhibition toured by Museums and Galleries NSW.

Public Programs

Exhibition opening - Breaking with convention the opening for the 2012 *ARCHIBALD PRIZE: NSW Regional Tour* commenced in the main foyer of Cowra Civic Centre from 6pm on Friday 31 August. Over 100 people attended the special opening night. Opening speeches commenced at 6.45pm with a welcome by Cr Bill West, Mayor, Cowra Shire Council and guest speaker Anne Flanagan Deputy Director, Art Gallery of NSW, who opened the exhibition. This was followed by a preview of the exhibition and floor talk by artist Tim Storrier, winner of the 2012 Archibald Prize. About 90 people attended the special viewing. Darling Street was closed during the opening activities. A entry fee to the exhibition went to Friends of the Gallery as a fundraiser. The Friends organised the catering and provided finger food and local winemaker *Rosnay* provided the wine. The opening was highly successful.

Exhibition Activity sheets – The Gallery prepared special children's activity sheets for the exhibition.



Workshop

Spring workshops for children – The Gallery presented several children's activities for 6 to 9 year olds and 10 to 13 year olds in association with the Archibald exhibition during the school holidays. These included workshops on Wednesday 3 October 10am – 12pm, and Thursday 4 October from 10am – 12pm and 1pm - 3pm years. Tutors were local artists Heather Vallance and Catherine Bennett.



Public events

Friends Afternoon Tea - The Gallery was open during the September long weekend and Sunday 30 September the Friends committee organised an afternoon tea as a special community activity from 1pm – 4pm with the assistance from the Gallery Director. A good time was had by all.



Outreach Activities

Archibald information sessions - a special "Volunteers Information Session" was held by the Gallery in association with the Art Gallery Of New South Wales on Thursday 19th July 2012. The session was presented by Daniella Gullotto K-6 Programs Coordinator, Access Programs Coordinator including some excellent insights into the history of the Archibald Prize and the finalists of the 2012 touring exhibition. There was also a "Teachers Information Session" in the afternoon.



Additional Staff - During the presentation of the 2012 Archibald Prize exhibition the Gallery employed a casual Gallery Assistant (Visitor Services). This was essential due to an expected increase of visitor numbers, school bookings and group visits to the exhibition thereby increasing visitor and education services. In retrospect over 5,000 people visited the exhibition including 33 school groups and 16 adult groups. The employment of a casual Gallery Assistant (Visitor Services) contributed greatly to the overall success of the exhibition at the Cowra Regional Art Gallery.

Schools

Travel Subsidies – Prior to the presentation of the 2012 Archibald exhibition schools in the region were sent an invitation to the exhibition opening and information flyer about the exhibition. The Gallery subsidised bus travel to the exhibition for 3 schools in the region.



19 September to 25 October 2012

A CONTINUING VISION (Cowra Library)

This community exhibition was a showcase exhibition celebrating 50 years of enthusiastic endeavour in the visual arts and crafts by members of the Cowra Art Group. This was part of a series of events and exhibitions in the community celebrating the rich history of shared creativity by this dedicated group of art and craft enthusiasts.

20 October to 18 November 2012

GEOFF CRISPIN – FORM FIRE AND FRUITION

A potter for 40 years Geoff Crispin has established a national reputation for his wood-fired stoneware and porcelain. The exhibition included a broad range of works incorporating various production methods including throwing, slip casting and slab. His use of raw materials found in his local region (whenever possible) is also a feature of his pottery. He is considered one of Australia's outstanding ceramic artists and is an exhibiting member of the Australian Ceramics Association. He has also worked extensively with remote indigenous communities, in particular Tiwi Islands and Ernabella and several works from these communities were also in the exhibition. This was a Grafton Regional Gallery touring exhibition.

The Gallery was notified in December 2011 that it had successfully received an Incoming Touring Exhibition Grant 2012 (ITEG) of \$5,300 (ex GST) from Museums and Galleries NSW (MGNSW). The funding was used to provide extended educational and public program activities in association with *Form Fire & Fruition – Geoff Crispin: a regional practice in clay* and also allow the Gallery to host Geoff Crispin as artist-in-residence for five days following the opening of his exhibition. During his residency Geoff Crispin undertook a range of activities (see below). These activities not only supported the development of new outreach activities for the Gallery but also provided new audience development opportunities to further enhance its profile in the region.

Public Programs

Exhibition opening – The exhibition was opened on Saturday 20 October by Andy Greenslade Curator, Aboriginal and Torres Islander Program, National Museum of Australia commencing at 1.30pm. Prior to the opening from 12.30pm Geoff Crispin presented an illustrated talk about his how he works as a pottery + images of his studio and kilns in Grafton and a floor talk about the works in the exhibition.

Master class workshop – on Sunday 21 October from 10am – 3pm the Gallery presented a workshop and demonstration *Working with Porcelain* with Geoff Crispin - BYO lunch + snacks, hot drinks - cost \$10 (Friends \$8) - 12 participants attended.

Public talk – on Wednesday 24 October from 11.30am to 12.30pm the Gallery presented a special Artists talk for schools and the general public. Geoff Crispin spoke about his work as an artist working in different aboriginal communities in Australia and projects he had undertaken various communities overseas - admission was free. Participants included a school group of 24 students from Canowindra High School and several adults.

Outreach/Schools Project

An invitation to the exhibition opening and information flyer were sent to all schools in the region.

School Workshop – The Gallery organised a artist talk and demonstration/workshop activity with Geoff Crispin at Canowindra High School on Tuesday 23 October 2012. Twenty-five year 9 and 11 students attended the 3hour artist talk/workshop session.



24 November to 9 December 2012

REGIONAL STUDENT YOUTH ART EXHIBITION AND AWARDS

This was the ninth annual youth art exhibition and awards presented by the Cowra Regional Art Gallery. This exhibition focuses on work by young artists from Central West high schools in years 10, 11 and 12. Award categories include painting, drawing, mixed media, photography and 3D art. This year 9 Schools and over 120 students participated in the exhibition.

Public Program

Exhibition opening – The exhibition was opened by Cr Bill West, Mayor, Cowra Shire Council commencing at 1.30pm on Saturday 24 November 2012 including the presentation of the awards by 2012 Awards Judge, Bathurst based artist Rachael Ellis.



27 November 2012 to 9 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. Children create their artwork knowing that they will be appreciated by sick children in hospital and their families.

15 December 2012 to 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.

Public Program

Exhibition opening - The exhibition was opened by Ngaio Fitzpatrick, Designer / Senior Fashion Designer, Desert Designs (1985 – 1990) on Saturday Saturday 15 December 2012 commencing at 2pm. Prior to the exhibition opening Ngaio Fitzpatrick presented a talk about the exhibition titled *Behind the Design* based on her experiences working with Desert Designs including facilitating the transfer of Jimmy Pike's images to textile and then to garment.

