

COWRA REGIONAL ART GALLERY



ANNUAL REPORT

2014 PROGRAM & ACTIVITIES

Until 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*.



15/17/22 January 2014

Summer Art Workshop for Children

The 2014 Summer Art Workshops for children were presented by tutors with professional art experience. Each workshop session was 2 hours long and there were one to two sessions per day covering a range of art making activities such as painting, drawing and sculpture in a fun environment and allowing the development of individual skills. Age groups are 6 - 8 years and 9 -11 years. The 2014 workshop activities comprised *Painting and Drawing* with artist Trudi Refshauge (2 sessions), *Mosaics* with artist Catherine Bennett (1 session) and *Monsters from the Heap* with Ken Hutchinson (2 sessions). There were a total of 49 enrolments for the 5 sessions.



18/19 January 2014

Adult Mosaics Workshop

Local artist Catherine Bennett ran an adult mosaic workshop over two days in early January, with sessions lasting from 10am to 3pm each day. Participants were invited to bring along objects such as table tops, garden ornaments and bird baths. These were then covered using handmade pottery shards, imported ceramic tiles, found objects and bright coloured grout. The workshop generated a lot of interest, with the 11 places selling out quickly.



8 February to 16 March 2014

Moving House

Moving House was a collaborative exhibition of works by artist couple Peter and Susan O'Doherty. Even though their work practices are very different, Peter being a figurative painter and musician and Susan painter and assemblage maker, there is a common thread to their aesthetic in terms of feel, composition, colour and vibrancy. Susan and Peter grew up in families that were constantly moving house from suburb to suburb, town to town, state to state and sometimes country to country. Susan's mixed media constructions and Peter's paintings also convey ideas of memory and personal identity.



Calleen Revisited

Calleen Revisited featured a selection works from the Calleen Collection established in 1977 by Mrs Patricia Fagan OAM. The Calleen Collection is comprised of the Calleen Art Award winners. The selected works in this exhibition included early acquisitions side by side with more recent additions, highlighting the diversity and significance of the collection.

Public Program

Exhibition Opening - Both exhibitions were opened on Friday 7th February 2014. *Moving House* was opened by Rhonda Davis, Senior Curator at Macquarie University Art Gallery and *Calleen Revisited* was opened by Brian Langer Gallery, Director, Cowra Regional Art Gallery. The opening event was catered by the Friends of the Gallery and was well attended.

Artists Floor Talk – On Saturday 8 February 2014, Peter and Susan O' Doherty gave a floor talk about the exhibition and their artistic practice. It was attended by 20 people.

Outreach/Schools Project – Exhibition invitations were sent out to regional schools prior to the opening with a significant positive response. Several schools attended more than once with different age groups.



Until 3 March 2014

Operation Art 2013 (Cowra Library)

Operation Art is an initiative of the Children's Hospital at Westmead in collaboration the Department of Education and Communities. This program encourages students from Kindergarten to Year 10 in all NSW schools to create artworks for children in hospital. It is an important statewide visual arts exhibition that focuses on creating a positive environment to aid the healing and recovery process of young patients.



8 March 2014

Live Painting – Mural Project

On Saturday 8 March 2014 the Cowra Regional Art Gallery presented a public art outdoor live painting session with Sydney-based street artists, *Ears* (Daniel O'Toole) and *The Dirt* (Jaime Preisz).

Ears is a multidisciplinary artist, widely known throughout Sydney and Melbourne for his large scale murals. His work has been featured in numerous solo and group shows across Australia, and is held in private collections internationally.

The Dirt draws inspiration for his work from a diverse range of fields, from comic books to scientific studies. Some of *The Dirt's* most recent work includes a 75 metre mural on Foley Street commissioned by Sydney Mayor, Clover Moore, and a string of successful solo shows across Sydney.

The pair collaborated for the first time to create two large murals on shipping containers used by the Gallery. The completed murals centre on the theme of reconciliation, drawing inspiration from Cowra's natural environment.

The Gallery staff and volunteers put on a barbeque for visitors during the event. The event drew a significant crowd throughout the course of the day and was featured on local news networks.

Public Program

Artist Talk – Street artist *The Dirt* presented a talk to year 9 and 10 art classes at Cowra High School on Monday 10 March 2014. His talk covered his artistic practice and how he came to have a career as an artist. It was followed by a question and answer session, which was well-received by the students. A letter of thanks was sent to the Gallery from the High School.



22 March to 27 April 2014

STUDIO: Australian painters photographed by R Ian Lloyd

STUDIO is an exclusive behind-the-scenes photographic tour of a variety of Australian artists working in their studio environments providing a unique insight into the minds, moods and creative processes of some of the nation's most acclaimed painters. R. Ian Lloyd, renowned for his National Geographic work, uses large photographic portraits to examine the fascinating detail of the individual artist's space.

The Wattle Room: Force of Circumstance, Chapter 7

This exhibition formed a series of new works by Hill End artist Genevieve Carroll based on an ongoing project circumnavigating the world in which she lives. This collection of works was presented by the Gallery as part of Genevieve Carroll winning the 2012 Central West Regional Art Award.

Public Program

Exhibition opening and Floor Talk – Both exhibitions were opened on Saturday March 22 at 1pm. Photographer R. Ian Lloyd opened proceedings with a floor talk about his exhibition *STUDIO* followed by Gavin Wilson, curator and author who opened *The Wattle Room*. The opening was catered by the Friends of the Gallery and was well attended by 80 people.



4 May to 15 June 2014

2014 Calleen Art Award and Central West Regional Art Award Finalists Exhibition

The Calleen Art Award and Central West Regional Art Award foster and encourage originality, creativity and excellence in the visual arts. The Calleen Art Award was established as an acquisitive art prize in 1977 and recently has developed into a significant national painting art award (in any subject) worth \$18,000 in 2014. The winning work will join the Calleen Collection, at the Cowra Regional Art Gallery. The Central West Regional Art Award was established in 2009 with the aim to benefit and provide professional development opportunities for artists from the Central West region. The award is non-acquisitive in the categories of painting and drawing (in any subject) with a prize of \$2,000. There is also a People's Choice Award of \$500.

The 2014 finalist's exhibition consisted of a diverse and compelling range of artworks by 59 finalists selected by a panel of art professionals from 299 entries received from across Australia.



Public Program

Exhibition opening – The winners of the 2014 Calleen Art Award and Central West Regional Art Award were announced by the Awards Judge Michael Rolfe CEO Museums and Galleries of NSW at the gala opening event on Saturday 3 May 2014. The opening event was catered by the Friends of the Gallery and over 100 people attended.



Outreach/Schools – Exhibition invitations and a complimentary copy of the awards catalogue were sent to primary and secondary schools in the region. Two schools sent 200 students of different age groups to see the exhibition. Also, two seniors groups visited the Gallery during the exhibition.

31 May and 1 June 2014

Adult Felting Workshop

Participants attended a special 2 day workshop learning about the art of felt-making and dying with Rachel Meek, a maker and teacher with over twenty years experience. Day One focused on the basics of wet felting using merino wool, silk and fibre to create a work suitable as a book cover, place mat or framed artwork. Techniques taught included blending colours, cutting and using abstract shapes, incorporation of different fabrics, yarns and fibres. Day two included nuno felting (felting through fabric) and creating a unique article of wearable art.



21 June to 27 July 2014

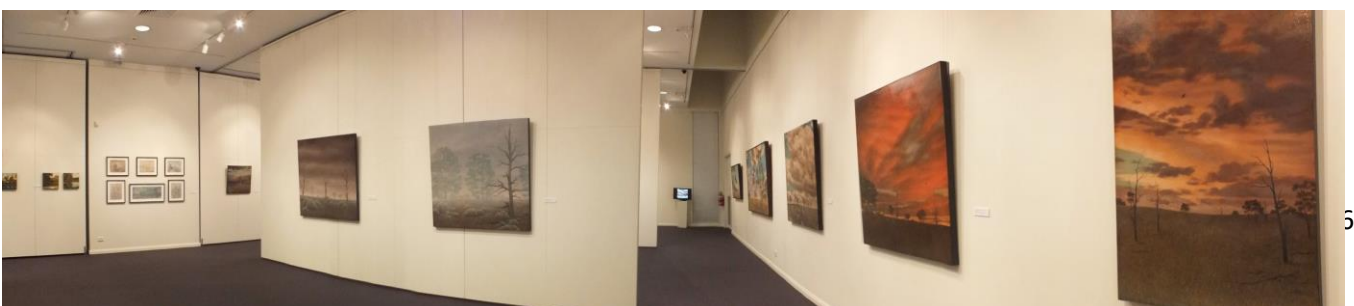
Jason Benjamin: Everyone is Here

The paintings and drawings in this touring exhibition of works by Jason Benjamin, one of Australia's leading landscape painters, were a distillation and pared-back vision of light and space around distinct landscape sites particularly around the Hay Plain and the Monaro region of New South Wales. The works bear witness to Benjamin's disciplined scrutiny of topography, vegetation and climate, as well as environmental concerns.

Public Program

Exhibition opening – The opening for the exhibition was held on Friday 20 June 2014 at 6.30pm by Jason Benjamin including a floor talk by the artist.

Outreach/Schools – Exhibition invitations were sent to primary and secondary schools in the region. Two school groups and a community attended the exhibition.



2 August to 10 August 2014

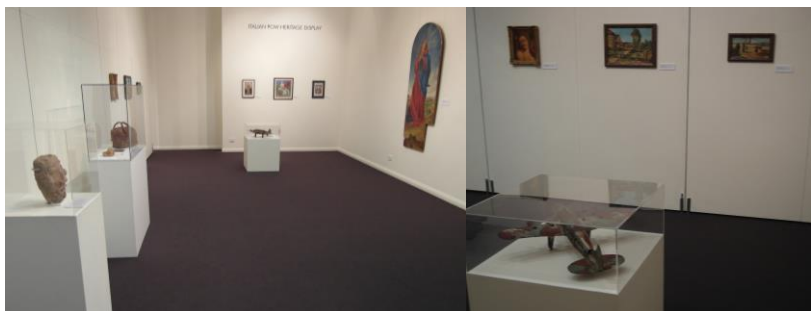
70th Anniversary of the POW Breakout in Cowra: World Heritage in Japan: a photographic exhibition

The exhibition consisted of a collection of stunning images from World Heritage listed sites, encapsulating the beauty and diversity of Japan's natural and cultural legacies by renowned Japanese photographer Kazuyoshi Miyoshi with the assistance of the Japan Foundation, Sydney.



Italian POW Heritage Display

This commemorative display of Italian POW heritage items included artworks from the Gallery POW collection and Cowra Shire Council.



Public Program

Exhibition opening – The exhibition opening for the world heritage site photographs was on Friday 1 August at 7.15pm with a welcome by Cr Judy Smith Deputy Mayor, Cowra Shire Council and Guest speaker Mr Nao Endo Director, Japan Foundation, Sydney.

Special Events – Pre-opening Cocktail Reception Cowra Civic Centre at 6.30pm

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

18 August to 4 October 2014 (Library exhibition)

Community Project - Knitted Neurons

This special community based project and display in the Cowra Library was presented by the Gallery in collaboration with the Cowra Art Group. The project was a great success with participants learning to knit and also use their individual creativity to produce a number of brightly coloured neurons. Nine of the knitted neurons made by the students were sent to Hazelhurst Regional Gallery and Arts Centre in Sydney as part of a bigger project *Neural Knitworks*.



16 August to 5 October 2014

National Photographic Portrait Prize 2014

The 2014 National Photographic Portrait Prize exhibition consisted of a diverse selection of 45 finalists from a national field of over 1400 entries by aspiring and professional portrait photographers. The National Portrait Gallery offers a prize of \$25,000 to the most outstanding photographic portrait that reflects a distinctive vision.

Opening and Floor Talk - The exhibition was opened on Saturday 16 August from 2.30pm by guest speaker Hamish Ta-mé, photo-media artist, independent curator and finalist in the National Photographic Portrait Prize 2014.

Public Talk - Hamish Ta-mé presented a special illustrated talk about his photographic practice on Sunday 17 August from 1pm to 2pm.

Schools - Exhibition invitations were sent to primary and secondary schools in the region including a special artists floor talk with finalist Hardy Lohse. He presented two talks to local school groups totalling 61 students. This was supported by the National Portrait Gallery.



20 – 21 September 2014

Artist - in - Residency Project

Blackheath NSW based artist Rowen Matthews was invited to present a 2 day *plein air* landscape painting & drawing workshop in Cowra district. Called *Transferring Sensation - Painting and Drawing on the Land* Rowen Matthews introduced participants to new ways of experimenting with painting and drawing to produce a finished artwork of the local landscape.



23 September 2014

School Holiday Children's Workshops

During the September school holidays local artist Catherine Bennett presented two Mosaic workshop activities for children 7 to 9 years & 10 to 12 years. During the 3 hour workshops the participants decorated a handmade terracotta candle holder or mirror provided by the artist, suitable for hanging on a wall. After designing a motif, the participants transferred their designs onto the terracotta surface using mosaic techniques and then finish their pieces with brightly coloured grouts.



11 October to 16 November 2014

Wild Wild West

The exhibition *Wild Wild West* by Jo Bertini was a survey of her recent paintings and drawings based on her experiences as an expedition artist, often travelling with camels to very remote and inaccessible desert regions of Australia for periods of 6 weeks to 3 months. Jo Bertini's paintings offer an alternative version to the predominantly archived, non-indigenous (western), male history and vision of the desert landscape genre. The Gallery published an exhibition catalogue including an essay by Anne Flanagan Deputy Director, Art Gallery NSW. *Wild Wild West* was presented in association with the Central West Regional Art Award presented to Jo Bertini in 2013.

Exhibition opening – *Wild Wild West* opened on Saturday 11 October at 2pm. *Guest speaker* was Andrew Harper, FRGS, Explorer, Founder and Managing Director of Australian Desert Expeditions.

Public Program – The Gallery presented a special illustrated public talk by desert walker, explorer and photographer Andrew Harper FRGS about his journeys to remote desert regions of Australia together with artist Jo Bertini who spoke about her experiences as an expedition artist and travelling with camels on Saturday 1 November 2014 commencing from 1.30pm. Over 50 people attended the event.



2 November to 7 December 2014

UpstART - Regional Art Exhibition and Awards for students in years 10,11and 12

Now in its 11th year the new name *UpstART* and logo was initiated to bolster the significance of this long standing visual art event for youth in the Central West. The exhibition and awards focus on the work by young artists in years 10, 11 and 12 from highs schools in the Central West. The 2014 exhibition attracted works including painting, sculpture, photography and drawing by 95 young visual artists from 8 high schools in the region. The participating schools for 2014 are Blayney High School, Canobolas Rural Technology High School, Cowra High School, Forbes High School, Molong Central School, Orange High School, Parkes High School and Young High School. The 2014 Awards Judge is Catherine Bennett, Potter and teacher.

Public Program

Exhibition opening – The official opening and announcement of the award winners was on Saturday 22 November from 2pm. Special guest to open the exhibition is Cr Bill West, Mayor, Cowra Shire Council.



13 December 2014 to 1 February 2015

Stephen Bowers: Beyond Bravura

For over 35 years Stephen Bowers has been creating works that fire the imagination, combining intellect and inventiveness with skills and traditions that stretch back thousands of years. From familiar, everyday items, to the transformative alchemy of deluxe and super deluxe bravura pieces, his art is acclaimed and collected across Australia and overseas.

Bowers' practice differs from the majority of ceramic artists, in that he does not seek to be the 'sole creator'. He uses an array of large vessels and other objects made by various collaborators – including wheel-thrown plates, vases and mugs as well as handmade surfboards. He creates images and stories on ceramic surfaces that blend art historical references with Australian motifs and icons from popular culture. A visions touring exhibition from the JamFactory.

Public Programs

Exhibition opening – The exhibition was officially opened at 6pm with guest speaker Peter Haynes, Consultant Curator, Art Writer and Art Historian.

Floor Talk – Stephen Bowers presented a floor talk prior to the exhibition opening at 5.30pm

Artist Talk - Stephen Bowers presented a special illustrated talk about his inspirations, influences and collaborations, along with his creative techniques and methods on Sunday 14 December at 2pm. Admission was free.



13 December 2013 to 1 February 2015

2014 Operation Art (Cowra Library)

Operation Art is an initiative of the Children's Hospital at Westmead in collaboration the Department of Education and Communities. This program encourages students from Kindergarten to Year 10 in all NSW schools to create artworks for children in hospital. It is an important statewide visual arts exhibition that focuses on creating a positive environment to aid the healing and recovery process of young patients.