

COWRA REGIONAL ART GALLERY



ANNUAL REPORT

2016 PROGRAM & ACTIVITIES

Until 31 January 2016

Lola Greeno - Cultural Jewellery

This was the eighth exhibition in an ongoing series, *Living Treasures: Masters of Australian Craft* which celebrates the achievements of the most influential and iconic figures within the Australian crafts movement. Lola Greeno is the first Indigenous Living Treasure who is a highly respected Indigenous shell worker, sculptor, installation and fibre artist with more than 30 years of traditional shell necklace making.

Public Programs

An exhibition opening and floor talk took place Saturday, 12 December 2015; guest speaker was Sandra Brown, *Cultural Jewels* Curator, Object Gallery: Australian Design Centre.

Schools Program – Local schools received promotional information prior to the exhibition.



Until 5 February 2016

Operation Art

During summer the Gallery presented *Operation Art* in the Cowra Library. This regional tour of artworks was created by children from Kindergarten to Year 10 across NSW schools for children in hospital. It was an important state-wide visual arts initiative that recognises the creative talents and the community spirit of young students.

20 to 22 January 2016

Workshop: Summer Art Workshops for Children

The 2016 *Summer Art Workshop for Children* was designed by tutors with professional art experience. Two workshop sessions per day ran for two hours and they covered a wide range of art activities. Mosaics, printmaking and clay sculpture were demonstrated in a fun environment that encouraged the development of individual skills. Age groups were 7-9 years and 10-12 years.



13 February to 15 March 2016

Selling an American Dream: Australia's Greek Café

This major photographic exhibition explored an important chapter in the development of Australian culture. Critically applauded since its initial launch at the National Museum of Australia in 2008, the curators Alexakis and Janiszewski have cleverly utilised a revealing interplay of historical and contemporary photographs, married to extended oral history captions and overlaid by a dramatic multimedia presentation created by film-maker Michael Karris. This resulted in a social history exhibition that powerfully resonated with audiences across the country.

Public Programs - An exhibition opening and preview took place Saturday, 13 February 2016 and included a floor talk by Leonard Janiszewski, historian.

Schools Program – Local schools received promotional information prior to the exhibition. Holman Place School visited the exhibition.



19 March to 24 April 2016

Wilkins Collection (Art Express)

This survey exhibition of selected pieces from was on loan from The Wilkins Collection at the NSW Department of Education and focuses on landscape and figurative works. The works were acquired during the past 15 years from former Higher School Certificate Visual Arts Examination submissions and presented a unique range of vibrant and inspiring artworks by young artists from across NSW.



19 March to 24 April 2016

Wild

This exhibition of new works by Nic Mason follows her win in the 2015 Central West Regional Art Award hosted by Cowra Regional Art Gallery and was the first substantial body of work shown by her since she began painting in oils only five years ago. This solo exhibition references Masons' long background in conservation management and her ongoing relationship with the Australian landscape, specifically the bush and big skies of the Blue Mountains and west of the Great Dividing Range. This environmental focus is mixed with stories from the artist's domestic and family life.

Public Program - Exhibition opening and preview included a floor talk by Kimberley Oates, Saturday 19 March 2016.

Schools Program – Local schools received promotional information prior to the exhibition. Neville Public School, St Raphael's School, Cowra High School and Canowindra High School visited the exhibition.



30 April to 19 June 2016

2016 Calleen Art Award

The Calleen Art Award, established in 1977, is an acquisitive award for painting that encourages originality, creativity and excellence in the visual arts. Development of the *Calleen Art Award* continues to build a collection of enduring, significant and regional achievement. Recent winners include Peter Gardiner, Gladly Kemarre, Naomi White and Yvonne Boag.

Prize money of \$19,000 was offered in 2016 along with a People's Choice Award of \$500. Entries totalling 272 were received from all over Australia, with 47 of those selected as finalists.

Public Program - An exhibition opening took place Saturday, 30 April 2016 and welcomed guest speakers Cowra Mayor, Bill West and Awards Judge John Cheesman, Director of Mosman Art Gallery.

Schools Program – Local schools received promotional information prior to the exhibition. Monteagle Public School, Cowra Public School, Condobolin Public School and St Raphael's School visited the exhibition.



25 June to 31 July 2015

Warakurna - All the Stories Got Into Our Minds and Eyes

This exhibition of contemporary paintings and sculptures documents a new art movement emerging from the Western Desert community of Warakurna in Western Australia. These paintings combine familiar Western Desert symbols and dots with a new, more figurative style to recreate scenes of everyday life and to tell historical and contemporary stories.

Public Program - The Exhibition opened Saturday, 25 June 2016 and welcomed guest speaker Andy Greenslade, Curator Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Program, National Museum of Australia.

Schools Program – Local schools received promotional information prior to the exhibition. Cowra Public School Aboriginal Studies and Home School Group visited the exhibition.



6 August to 4 September 2016

Max and Olive: The Photographic Life of Olive Cotton and Max Dupain

Olive Cotton and Max Dupain are key figures in Australian visual culture who shared a long, close personal and professional relationship. This exhibition looks at their work created between 1934 and 1945 - the period of their professional association. This was an exciting period of experimentation and growth in Australian photography and Cotton and Dupain were at the centre of these developments.

This touring exhibition included 71 photographs from the collection of the National Gallery of Australia and focuses on the key period in each artist's careers.

Public Program - An exhibition opening and preview took place Saturday, 6 August and included a floor talk by exhibition curator Shaune Lakin, Senior Curator Photography, National Gallery of Australia.

Schools Program – Local schools received promotional information prior to the exhibition. Cowra Public School visited the exhibition.



10 September to 9 October 2016

Three Ways - G.W.Bot, Meg Buchanan, Anita McIntyre

Three Ways showcases the recent work of three artists whose major aesthetic explorations are concerned with the Australian landscape as it impacts on them through the immediacy of their living and working environments and through each artist's particular histories of their relationship with the land (in its broader sense). *Three Ways* of the title refers not only to the aesthetic and conceptual approaches of the artists but also to the formal means they chose to visualise their imaginative creations. A range of means was used to express the reactions to and embracing of the land. Bot is printmaker, painter and sculptor; Buchanan is a painter, printmaker and drawer and McIntyre is a ceramist.

Public Program - An exhibition opening and preview took place Saturday, and included a floor talk by Peter Haynes, an established curator, writer and visual arts historian.

Schools Program – Local schools received promotional information prior to the exhibition. Holman Place School visited the exhibition.



29 – 30 September 2016

School Holiday Workshops for Children

The 2016 *Spring Art Workshop for Children* was designed by tutors with professional art experience. Two workshop sessions per day ran for two hours and they covered a wide range of art activities. Painting, drawing, printmaking and sculpture were demonstrated in a fun environment that encouraged the development of individual skills. Age groups were 7-9 years and 10-12 years.



15 October to 20 November 2016

Punuku Tjukurpa

A stunning collection of works from the Maruku archive, this exhibition is made up of a material from the early days of Maraku arts, plus photographs, audio and video. This touring exhibition is presented by *Artback NT: Arts Development and Touring* and *Maruku Arts*. Showcasing a diverse array of sculptures and paintings from some of Australia's finest artists, works include piti (wooden bowls), miru (spearthrowers), tjara (shields), kulata (spears) and beautiful carvings of desert birds and animals.

Public Program - The official opening took place Saturday, 15 October 2016 and included a Smoking Ceremony and Welcome to Country. Guest speaker was Steve Fox, Curator of *Punuku Tjukurpa*, former PUNU MAN and Director of *Maruku Arts*, plus visiting artists in the exhibition from Maruku Arts NT.

Schools Program – Local schools received promotional information prior to the exhibition. Cowra Public School Art Club visited the exhibition.





26 November to 11 December 2016

UpstART 2016 - Regional Art Exhibition and Awards for Students Yrs 10 -12

This is the 14th annual youth art exhibition and awards presented by the Cowra Regional Art Gallery. The exhibition consisted of works by 113 young artists in years 10, 11 and 12 from eleven high schools in Central West NSW. Categories included painting, drawing, mixed media, photography and sculpture.

Public Program - The Exhibition opening and awards presentation took place Saturday, 26 November 2016 and was officially opened by Cr Bill West, Cowra Mayor.

Schools Program – Local schools received promotional information prior to the exhibition. Wyangala Public School, Koorawatha Public School, Greenethorpe Public School, Cowra Public School and St Raphael's School visited the exhibition.



17 December 2016 to 8 January 2017

The Affordable Art Show

This special Gallery event showcased a diverse range of over 170 fine art prints by 65 leading Australian artists and printmakers. Local art lovers and collectors were inspired by the selection of artworks on view at affordable prices. This was a great opportunity for art lovers to start a collection or add to a current collection.

Public program

The exhibition opening took place Saturday, 17 December 2016 with guest speaker, Janie Miller who is Distributor of Fine Art Prints and exhibitor Max Miller, 2016 Wynne Prize finalist each giving a floor talk.

Schools Program – Local schools received promotional information prior to the exhibition. Mulyan Public School visited the exhibition.



Please Note: Cowra Library exhibitions are a Gallery partnership program developed in association with the availability of the Cowra Library.