

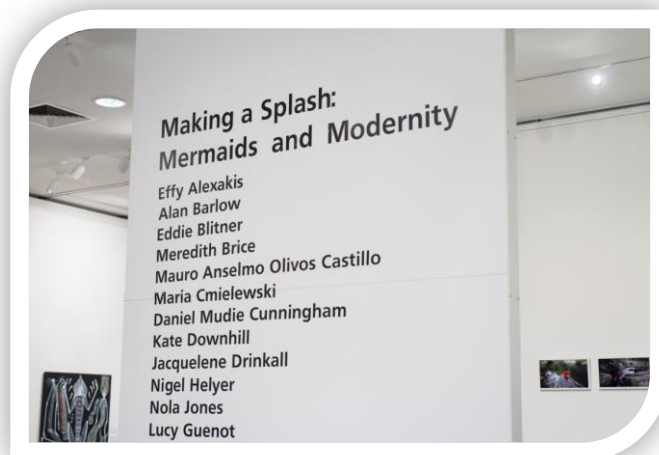


# **2019 ANNUAL REPORT PROGRAM & ACTIVITIES**



To 3 February 2019

## *Making a Splash: Mermaids and Modernity*



### **Public Programs**

The exhibition, presented by the Gallery in partnership with Macquarie University, featured a diverse range of new works including painting, photography, sound and installation by ten artists offering fresh interpretations of the mermaid including whimsical mermaid imagery and folklore as well as new associations that connect contemporary issues with particular places and circumstances opened on Saturday, December 15, 2018.

A public program of guest speakers and artist floor talks included Macquarie University co-curators Rhonda Davis, Phil Hayward and Leonard Janiweski and artists Meredith Bryce, Effy Alexakis all from New South Wales and Mauro Anselmo Olivos Castillo from Chile.

## Summer Art Workshops for Children



## 23 and 24 January 2019 – Children’s Workshops

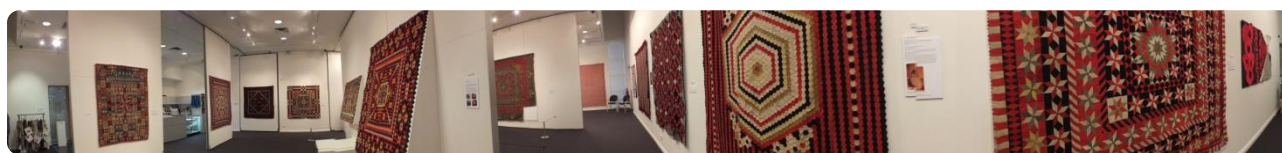
The annual Summer Art Workshops for Children are designed by tutors with professional art experience. For 2019 there were two workshop sessions per day over two days for two hours per session covering a range of art activities such as paintings, drawing, printmaking and sculpture in a fun environment also allowing the development of individual skills. Age groups are 7 - 9 years and 10 -12 years. Four workshops for children including mosaics and creative collage were held over two days with local artist/tutors Libby Murray and Catherine Bennett. A total of 26 children from the community attended the workshops.

## 23 February to 28 April 2019 – Exhibition

### *WAR and PIECED: The Annette Gero Collection of Quilts from Military Fabrics*



A blockbuster exhibition *War and Pieced* was a stunning exhibition and unique showcase of spectacularly complex geometric quilts made from military fabrics by soldiers and military tailors in the time of war. Once termed “soldiers’ quilts” or “convalescent quilts,” the pieced textiles in this exhibition are associated with World War I and World War II as well as the earliest quilts from the Napoleonic wars, the late eighteenth century, conflicts in India, South Africa and wars during the nineteenth century. A highly successful exhibition with a Grand Total of 3465 visitors, 12 groups attended with additional volunteers deployed for orientation and security.



## Public Programs

Dr Annette Gero was the Guest Speaker at the exhibition opening on Friday, 22 February 2019, introduced by Cr Bill West, Mayor of Cowra. Members of the Cowra RSL Sub-branch were invited and attended the opening event. Dr Gero presented a Public Lecture at the Cowra Civic Centre Theatre on Saturday 23 February 2019. The lecture was well attended with over 75 people present followed by afternoon tea and book signings.



L-R Cowra Mayor Cr Bill West, Dr Annette Gero and Gallery Director Brian Langer



Annette Gero presented a public lecture on Saturday 23 February 2019 about how she found the quilts in this exhibition, the history of these visually stunning quilts all made from military fabrics and some of the exciting stories along the way about how she discovered these quilts. There are only about 100 known in the world and no one knows why these quilts were made or what they were used for, or why the patterns are so visually extraordinary.



L-R Cowra RSL Sub-branch Mr Jonathan and incoming President Mr Steven Overman with Gallery Administration Officer Jacque Perry

## Outreach/Schools Program

Preparation and distribution of information to local schools, the Cowra RSL sub-branch and Quilt Groups attracting Quilt Groups from Canberra, Orange, Millthorpe, Newcastle and Cowra and members of the Cowra Sub-Branch RSL. The Gallery Administration Officer gave guided floor talks to groups to enhance their visit.

**5 May to 16 June 2019**

## **2019 Calleen Art Award**

The Calleen Art Award encourages originality, creativity and artistic excellence and is an acquisitive national painting prize in any subject and style established in 1977 by Mrs Patricia Fagan OAM. The winner of the 2019 Calleen Art Award Wendy Sharpe from Sydney, NSW, received \$20,000 in prize money made possible by the generous support of the Calleen Trust. Sharpe's winning work *Erskineville Train Station 2019* joined The Calleen Collection at the Cowra Regional Art Gallery.



L to R: Cr Mayor Bill West, Sarah and Mrs Jenni Fagan, Judge Jane Watters, CRAG director Brian Langer and Mr Peter Fagan

A People's Choice Award (non-acquisitive) of \$1000 sponsored by the Friends of the Gallery was awarded at the end of the exhibition with the winner Woodstock, NSW artist and farmer whose artwork highlighted the mental health struggles faced by the ongoing drought.



Winner of the 2019 Calleen Art Award People's Choice Award pictured with his work *Hopeless Despair*, Mr Peter Larsen

### **Public Programs**

An exhibition opening and preview took place on Saturday, May 4, 2019 preceded by the official launch of the Calleen Collection 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary book by Peter Haynes.







Guest Speaker and 2019 Calleen Art Award Judge Jane Watters, Director SH Ervin Gallery announced the winner.

The evening was highly successful with over 136 visitors including many of the finalists. Guests were entertained by an ensemble of young musicians from the Sydney Conservatorium of Music. The post-opening dinner was hosted by the Calleen Trustees.

- The winner of the 2019 Calleen Art Award Wendy Sharpe gave a floor talk to 30 people about her practice and art prizes on Saturday May 25.



### 2019 Calleen Art Award - Opening Night



### Outreach/Schools Program

The preparation and distribution of information to local schools including invitations and catalogue was sent to local schools with four schools including:

- Woodstock Public School
- St Raphael's Catholic School
- Canowindra Public School; and
- Cowra Public School

visiting the Gallery with guided floor talks conducted by the Gallery Administration Officer. Subsidised travel to the exhibition was available if requested.



Canowindra Public School visit to the 2019 Calleen Art Award



Woodstock Public School visit to the 2019 Calleen Art Award

23 June to 21 July 2019

## ***Balnhdhurr – A Lasting Impression***

In a remote corner of Arnhem Land sits Yirrkala Print Space, where, for over twenty years, the ancient craft of printmaking has not only survived, but prospered. *Balnhdhurr – A Lasting Impression* is a vibrant acknowledgement of the creative energies, talent and commitment of generations of Yolngu artists who have utilised and pushed the boundaries of such a medium to share significant cultural and historical stories.

*Balnhdhurr – A Lasting Impression* is presented by Artback NT in association with Buku-Larrnggay Mulka Centre.

### **Public Programs**

The exhibition launch was held on Saturday 22 June 2019. A Floor Talk by curator Dr Denise Silvestro on Saturday 6 July was well attended. Two Parents & Children 'drop-in' Printmaking Workshops were held 12 and 19 July to coincide with NAIDOC Week with 60 participants. A group of 20 participants from Weigelli Aboriginal Corporation participated in a Printmaking Workshop, shown below.



**Cowra Regional Art Gallery**  
@cowraregionalartgallery

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**Cowra Regional Art Gallery** added 10 new photos to the album: **Balhdhurr: Printmaking Workshops - 12 July 2019.**  
Published by Jacque Perry [?] · July 12 ·

This #NAIDOC2019 week the Gallery hosted Printmaking Workshops inspired by the Balhdhurr: A Lasting Impression exhibition. Visitors of all ages were hands-on with relief prints using a unique range of linocut blocks created by artists from the Yirrkala Print Space. If you missed out today, there's another workshop next Friday July 19, 11am - 1pm.

**Balhdhurr: Printmaking Workshops - 12 July 2019**  
10 Photos



Dr Denise Silvestro presented a Curator's floor talk for Balandhurr – A Lasting Impression



Highly successful Parent and Children 'drop-in' printmaking workshops held in the Nguluway Room during Balnhdhurr exhibition

### **Outreach/Schools Program**

The *Balnhdhurr – A Lasting Impression* Education Kit for the exhibition was distributed to primary and high schools as well as invitations to art teachers.

**3 to 18 August 2019**

### ***Cowra 75: From Guns to Gardens***

Curated by Roslyn Russell PHD – the exhibition aimed to bridge the gap between these tragic events of the Cowra Breakout and the reputation of Cowra today. *Cowra 75* included historic objects and items of decorative art and posters (on loan from the Japanese Garden and Cowra Information Centre) plus plans, photographs, textile works and other documents from local collectors and a textile piece by artist Michelle Belgiorno-Nettis subsequently gifted to the Gallery.





**3 to 18 August 2019**

### ***Works from the Italian POW Collection***

Gallery Director Brian Langer curated a small showcase of Cowra POW Camp memorabilia and artwork which included two restored altar panels from the Catholic Chapel at the camp site.



25 August to 22 September 2019

## *JamFactory Icon Catherine Truman: No Surface Holds*

An intriguing solo exhibition by renowned artist *Catherine Truman* spanning 20 years of her collaborative practice with artists and scientists. The exhibition focussed on her diverse art practice, not only, on her earlier objects, installations, images and film, but also, on several brand new works. A JamFactory Icon touring exhibition.

### **Public Program**

An exhibition opening took place Saturday, 24 September 2019 and was opened by arts, craft and design writer Anne Brennan, currently an Honorary Visiting Fellow at ANU School of Art & Design Centre for Art History and Art Theory, Canberra. An artist Floor Talk by Catherine Truman who travelled interstate from Adelaide was incisive.



L-R Anne Brennan and Catherine Truman presented with native flowers donated by Friend of the Gallery Jill Allen

### **Outreach/Schools Program**

The preparation and distribution of the exhibition education material was sent to high schools as well as invitations to all art teachers. It was pleasing to see students from small schools Mandurama and Lyndhurst Public Schools attend and for many of those children it was their first visit to an art gallery. The Gallery Administration Officer gave guided floor talks to both groups.





Small schools Mandurama Public School and Lyndhurst Public School both enjoyed their first ever visit to a gallery.



**14 and 15 September 2019**

***ACP Outreach Weekend Photography Workshop 'Re-imagine Your Landscape'***

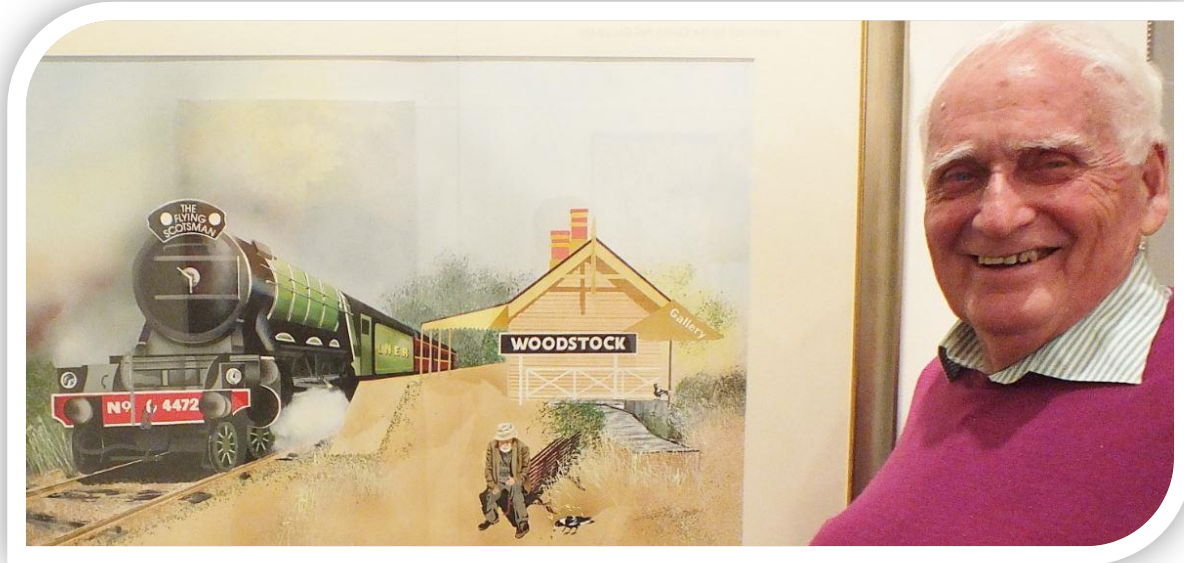


Set amongst the vast and diverse landscape of Cowra, this weekend photography workshop introduced participants to the technical and practical approaches required to capture magical landscapes such as composition and technical aspects including equipment such as filters and lens, angles of view and depth of field. Guest tutor was well known Australian photographer Bill Green. This workshop project was presented in association with the Australian Centre for Photography ('ACP') with participants from Forbes, Cowra, Orange and Sydney.

**28 September to 13 October 2019**

***Lachlan Valley Biennial Art Awards***

The 2019 Lachlan Valley Biennial Art Awards focuses on artists living within a radius of 100 kilometres from Cowra. The exhibition is a community partnership between the Gallery and Cowra Art Group, and is the ninth time the Gallery has hosted this regional art event. Over 120 entries are usually received for exhibition, with artists from Young, Boorowa, Grenfell, Parkes, Forbes, Bathurst, Orange and Canowindra. The exhibition includes painting, drawing, watercolour, and miniatures. A community project in collaboration with the Cowra Art Group.



Winner of the Barbara Bennett Memorial Award Mr Dermott Rodwell with his winning painting



Patron Cowra Art Group Mrs Christine Delaney presents People's Choice Winner Dallas Nyberg for his painting *Relic of the Past*.

9 and 10 October 2019

## *School Holiday Workshops for Children*

The Spring Art Workshops for children was 'Woven Art Workshops' with tutor Libby Murray and 'Concertina Books' with local artist Catherine Bennett. Age groups were 7 -9 years and 10-12 years with 33 participants over two days.





10 to 12 years Concertina Book workshop

**19 October to 17 November 2019**

### ***Helen Geier: Through Two Decades***

This exhibition examines the artist's work from 2000 to "2020". The core of the exhibition came from the artist's own collection and comprised between 36 works (paintings and works on paper), with a substantial selection from her most recent work including works made after her recent stay in New York. Helen Geier is a distinguished Australian artist with a substantial and important exhibition history both in Australia and overseas.

#### **Public Program**

An exhibition opening and artist talk took place Saturday, October 19, 2019 and was opened by guest speaker Peter Haynes, curator of *Helen Geier: Through Two Decades*. The artist Helen Geier also gave a Floor Talk.



Helen Geier from Braidwood pictured 'walking and talking' through her exhibition Artist's Talk held on Saturday October 19, 2019.

### **Outreach/Schools Program**

Preparation of exhibition education material was sent to high schools as well as invitations to all art teachers and community groups.



Community Group Regular visitors to the Gallery U3A members enjoying the Helen Geier: Through Two Decades exhibition

**24 November to 8 December 2019**

## **2019 upstART – Exhibition and Awards**

This was the 17th annual youth art exhibition and awards presented by the Cowra Regional Art Gallery. The exhibition consisted of works by young artists in years 10, 11 and 12 from high schools in the Central West. Categories included painting, drawing, mixed media, ceramics, photography and sculpture.

The 2019 *upstART* exhibition showed an impressive display of painting, drawing, photography, printmaking, mixed media and sculpture by over 80 students from nine high schools in the region. The participating schools were: Boorowa Central School, Canowindra High School, Cowra High School, Dubbo School of Distance Education, Hennessy Catholic College, Parkes High School, The Henry Lawson High School, St Raphael's Catholic School and Young High School.

*UpstART* is presented with the assistance of the art teachers from the participating schools.



The Friends of the Gallery generously donated \$150 towards the People's Choice Award prize won by Erica Sullivan from Cowra High School, pictured above.

### **Public Program**

The opening of *upstART 2019* Exhibition and Awards took place on Saturday 23 November at 2.30pm. Cr Bill West, Mayor of Cowra opened the exhibition and announced and presented the awards to the students. Over 60 students from eight high schools participated.

### **Schools Program**

Exhibition invitations and promotional information was distributed to local schools. It was pleasing to see small school Lyndhurst Public School visit the exhibition – their second time for the year.



Small school - Lyndhurst Public School viewing upstART – their second visit to the Gallery in 2019

**15 December to 9 February 2020**

### ***The Calleen Collection 1977 - 2019***

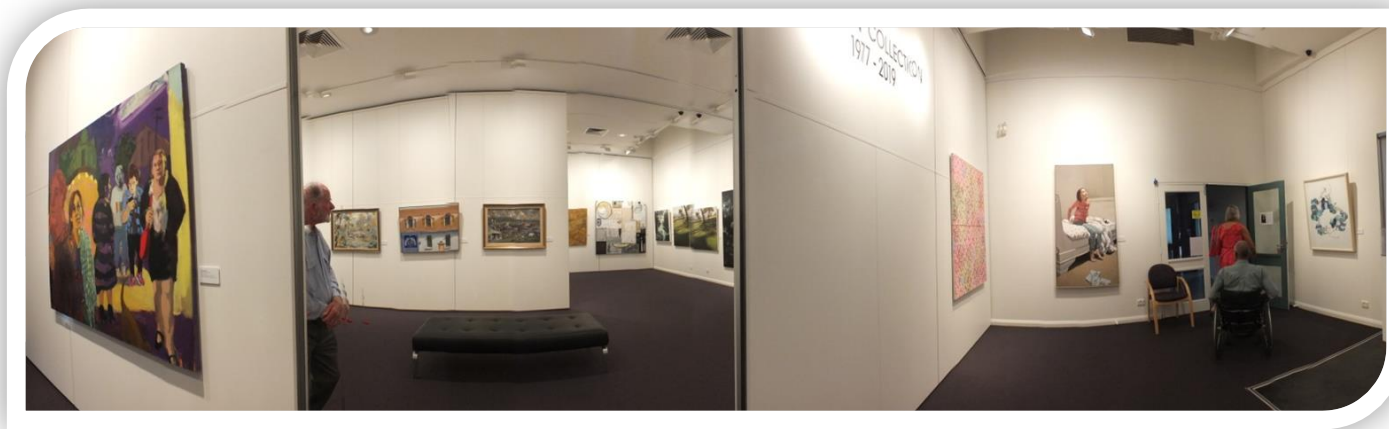
The Calleen Collection is the foundation collection at the Cowra Regional Art Gallery comprising the winning works from the acquisitive Calleen Art Award established in 1977 by Mrs Patricia Fagan OAM. The Calleen Art Award continues to build a collection of enduring significance and regional achievement. The collection comprises several mediums with a strong core group of paintings which is now its main focus.





## Public Program

Exhibition launch and end of year celebrations was held on Saturday 14 December 2019 at 6pm



## Cowra Library – Outreach Exhibitions

21 January to 18 February 2019

### *Operation Art*

Toured by the NSW Department of Education, Operation Art is a unique and stimulating exhibition of 50 artworks created by children in Kindergarten to Year 10 from across NSW schools. The exhibition is an important state wide visual arts initiative by the Children's Hospital Westmead that recognises the creative talents and the community spirit of young students. Following the tour to regional galleries the works are hung in the Children's Hospital at Westmead.



**1 to 4 July 2019**

### ***Operation Art Student and Teacher Professional Learning Workshops***

The Gallery hosted 72 students and 18 teachers for the Operation Art Student and Teachers' Professional Learning workshops held in the Nguluway Room.

# SPECIAL EVENTS

1 November 2019

## *Real-to-Reel | The Craft Film Festival*



16 November 2019

## Book Launch | *Olive Cotton: A Life in Photography* by Helen Ennis



The biography *Olive Cotton: A Life in Photography* by arts writer Helen Ennis was launched with guest speaker art curator and adviser Helen Maxwell (pictured above) on Saturday November 16, 2019. The launch was well attended by 74 people.



Author Helen Ennis signing *Olive Cotton* biographies at the book launch.

