

GALLERY NEWS

SEPTEMBER - NOVEMBER 2022



GALLERY NEWS

FROM THE GALLERY DIRECTOR

Hello and welcome to the final Edition of the Cowra Regional Art Gallery Newsletter for 2022. During August/September/October the Gallery presented two major touring exhibitions. Firstly, the stimulating and highly popular **Dobell Drawing Prize #22** (on tour from the National Art School, Sydney) showcasing the work of 44 leading and emerging artists and secondly the inspiring and exceptional survey exhibition **Living Treasures: Masters of Australian Craft - Prue Venables** (on tour from the Australian Design Centre, Sydney). The Gallery also presented **The Makers Film Festival** an "Art After Dark" event in late July at the Cowra Civic Centre. The program featured 24 short films exploring traditional and contemporary craft practices first presented at the 2021 Indian Ocean Craft Triennial, Perth WA.

During October/November the Gallery presented the **Calleen Art Award 2022** acquisitive prize for painting worth \$25,000 supported by the Calleen Trust. As at 13 November just under 700 visitors have been to the Gallery to see the exhibition (and Cowra) many for the first time which is always pleasing.

Coming up at the Gallery is the regional young artists exhibition **upstART22** showcasing works by 94 students in stages 5 and 6 (Years 9, 10, 11 and 12) from ten high schools in the region.

Commencing on 18 December is the exhibition **Connection: Artist/Master Printer** introducing the individual and collaborative practice of Basil Hall (Canberra), artist and founder Basil Hall Editions, Michael Kempson (Sydney), artist and founder Cicada Press and Ron McBurnie (Townsville) artist and publisher Monsoon Publishing. This exhibition is presented by Cowra Regional Art Gallery and curated by Akky van Ogtrop.

Stay up-to-date with the Gallery events and activities on Facebook, Instagram Twitter and/or the Gallery website.

Until next time, Brian Langer, Gallery Director.

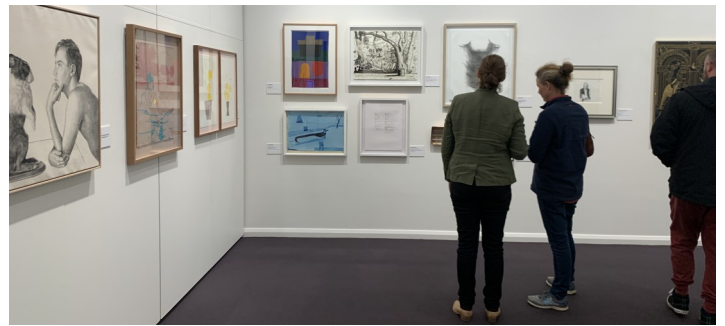
Follow the Gallery Online

Continue your Gallery experience online with exhibition commentary, films and interviews. Discover works from the *Calleen Collection* alongside historical research and engaging essays. The Cowra Regional Art Gallery website contains up to date information on our exhibition program, public events and workshops, Gallery collection, The Cowra Sculpture Park and more.

Like us and follow us for exhibition insights, extra resources and important updates to the Gallery program.



GALLERY HIGHLIGHTS



Top to bottom: 1: Visitors attend the exhibition opening for the *Dobell Drawing Prize #22*. **2.** Minister for the Arts Ben Franklin, local Member Steph Cooke and Cowra Shire Council Mayor, Bill West visit the Gallery during the Dobell Drawing Prize #22 exhibition prior to the announcement of a \$1.5 million grant towards the upgrade of the Cowra Civic Centre. **3.** Local visitors from CINC enjoy the exhibition *Living Treasures: Masters of Australian Craft \ Prue Venables*. **Front page:** installation view of works in the *Calleen Art Award 2022* exhibition.

OPENING NIGHT - CALLEEN ART AWARD 2022

Always a favourite exhibition with the Cowra community and visitors to the Cowra Regional Art Gallery, the Calleen Art Award was founded in 1977 by Cowra art patron and collector Mrs Patricia Fagan OAM. The Calleen Art Award is an acquisitive art prize which encourages originality, creativity and excellence in the in a myriad of painting styles and subjects.

The announcement of the Calleen Art Award 2022 winner took place at the Gallery on Saturday 8 October 2022 with over 80 visitors present including many of the 49 finalists in attendance. Guest speakers were Cr Bill West, Mayor, Cowra Shire Council who officially opened the exhibition and the Award Judge, Rhonda Davis, Senior Curator, Macquarie University Art Gallery who announced the winner and spoke about the exhibition and the winning painting. The award certificate and prize money worth \$25,000 were presented by Jenni and Peter Fagan from the Calleen Trust.

This year's winner is Canberra based artist Derek O'Connor for his painting *Weather Report* which will join the Calleen Collection (the Gallery's foundation collection). This intriguing and compelling collection celebrating previous "Calleen" winners (since 1977) is a collection of regional and national significance.

The Calleen Art Award 2022 exhibition continues at the Gallery until 20 November. It is a high-quality and exciting exhibition consisting of a diverse range of thoughtful and challenging paintings. Visitors can vote in the People's Choice Award announced at the end of the exhibition.

Judge's comments

I was immensely honoured to be this year's judge of the prestigious Calleen Art Award. The high calibre of the finalists works on display made the selection process and final decision of the winner very difficult.

I kept on coming back to Derek O'Connor's large abstract painting titled 'Weather Report'. The painting divested with an underlying force by the virtue of its activated surface, with the skilled and sensuous layering and subsequent erasure of paint in its overlapping colours and shapes brings about a three-dimensional effect that draws you into the painting space. The subtle shifts of colour and form lend a sense of discovery for the viewer to further contemplate their own experience and meaning they might assign to 'Weather Report'. As O'Connor says he wants to 'invite the viewer to experience, rather than read my work'. Rhonda Davis



Image : Visitors at the opening of the Calleen Art Award 2022



Image (L to R) Derek O'Connor (Winner Calleen Art Award 2022), Peter Fagan, Rhonda Davis (Calleen Judge), Jenni Fagan.

BECOME A FRIEND OF THE GALLERY

The Friends of the Gallery advocate public awareness of the Gallery and appreciation of the visual arts. Individual supporters and their generosity have played a vital role in helping us to ensure a vibrant future for the Cowra Regional Art Gallery.

As a Friend of the Cowra Regional Art Gallery you will join a social and vibrant community of art lovers while supporting the ongoing success of a leading public gallery in NSW. Joining the Friends is a great way to meet new people and keep in touch with the Gallery program of diverse exhibitions, special events and social activities.

To become a Friend of the Gallery, to renew your membership or to update your details please contact the Gallery on (02) 63402190.



Image: visitors at the Archibald Prize 2021 touring exhibition

WHAT'S ON November/December

27 NOVEMBER TO 11 DECEMBER 2022

UPSTART22

Back after missing a year due to COVID -19 upstART22 is a "must-see" exhibition of work by 94 young artists in stages 5 and 6 from ten high schools in the region . The exhibition includes a broad range of subjects and creative approaches to painting, ceramics, mixed media, photography and sculpture made during the past 12 months.



18 DECEMBER 2022 - 5 FEBRUARY 2023

CONNECTIONS: The Artist/Master Printer

Basil Hall, Ron McBurnie,
Michael Kempson
Exploring the individual and
collaborative practice of three
Masterprinters
Curated by Akky van Ogtrop



Image: Ron McBurnie Giant rock cape hills borrough, pen ink watercolour 93.5x123cm

SUMMER HOLIDAY WORKSHOPS 2023

During the summer school holidays the Cowra Regional Art Gallery is hosting creative workshops for children aged from **7 to 9 years and 10 to 12 years on Thursday 19 & Friday 20 January 2023 - two x 2 hour sessions each day.** These workshops are designed to inspire young artists, and under the guidance of local artists children will discover the fun of making art and crafts.

The location for these fun activities is the **Nguluway Room next to the Art Gallery, 77 Darling Street, Cowra.**

Contact the Gallery on 63402190 for further information.



77 Darling Street, Cowra NSW 2794 **ADMISSION FREE**
Hours: Tuesday to Saturday 10am - 4pm. Sunday 10am - 2pm
Tel: (02) 6340 2190 www.cowraartgallery.com.au
Please check the Gallery website before visiting.