



GALLERY NEWSLETTER

Sept - Nov 2023



FROM THE GALLERY DIRECTOR

Hello and welcome to the Cowra Regional Art Gallery Newsletter. Since our previous newsletter many activities have taken place including the launch and presentation of the exceptional **Nationalism in the Wake of COVID** (presented in collaboration with Macquarie University Art Gallery). This was followed by a highlight for 2023 **Robyn Stacey: as still as life**, a brilliant exploration of the genre of still life photography curated by Anouska Phizacklea, Director, the Museum of Australian Photography who also opened the exhibition.

In late September the Gallery presented **The Makers Film Festival 2023** (MFF) an "Art After Dark" event at the Cowra Civic Centre. The MFF 2023 program featured 17 short films from 7 countries including Mallorca, Morocco, Kazakhstan, Singapore and Australia exploring traditional and contemporary craft practices.

During October/November the Gallery presented the always stimulating and exciting **Calleen Art Award 2023** this year attended by over 900 visitors (many for the first time which is always pleasing). The Gallery hosted a special opening night event including guest speaker Cr Ruth Fagan who opened the exhibition and music provided by local musicians the **Walker Street Band**. Images some of the 57 works in the exhibition and the opening event are featured on the front cover. Congratulations to the Calleen Art Award 2023 winner renowned artist Marie Hagerty from Canberra. Kon Gouriotis this year's Calleen Judge commented "Judging any award is difficult especially when there is a strong field of finalists. This year's Calleen Art Award is no exception."

Another exciting exhibition project presented by the Gallery is **upstArt 23** showcasing works by over 100 students in stages 5 and 6 (Years 9, 10, 11 and 12) from ten central west high schools. Congratulations to all of the participants and teachers who supported the exhibition.

Finally, commencing on 17 December is the **National Photographic Portrait prize 2023** made up of 47 works by finalists selected from over 2,400 entries. Cowra Regional Art Gallery is the only Gallery in NSW to host the exhibition. **NOT TO BE MISSED!**

Until next time, Brian Langer, Gallery Director

FOLLOW THE GALLERY ONLINE

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

More information is also available on the Gallery website www.cowraartgallery.com.au



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Nationalism in the wake of COVID

Nationalism in the Wake of COVID was an exceptional and stimulating exhibition exploring the interconnection between localism and national identity, within the context of a global pandemic. The pandemic changed travel and tourism, shifting the way we consider how geological locations impact how events and places are localised, bringing the concept of national identity to the forefront of people's minds.

The exhibition was presented with the support of Macquarie University Gallery, the exhibition artists and leading curators Rhonda Davis, Kon Gouriotis, Leonard Janiszewski and Andrew Simpson..

The exhibition included painting, sculpture, installation, works on paper, video art and glass by acclaimed contemporary artists: Rebecca Agnew, David Griggs, NOT, Paul Ryan, Leanne Tobin and NC Qin together with works by the following artists courtesy of the Macquarie University art collection: : Mark Davis, Lawrence Daws, James Doolin, Louise Forthun, Rosalie Gascoigne, James Gleeson, Rew Hanks, Emily Kame Kngwarreye, Tracey Moffatt, Sidney Nolan, Naata Nunggurrayi,

The exhibition opening took place on Saturday 8 July with guest speakers Leonard Janiszewski historian and exhibition curator and exhibition artists NC Qin and NOT . The exhibition closed Sunday 20 August 2023.



Images: top - Guest speaker and co-curator Leonard Janiszewski at the exhibition opening; bottom left: artist NOT, discussing his installation of objects, right: (l-r) Leonard Janiszewski and artists, NC Qin and NOT.

Front Cover: Calleen Art Award 23 exhibition and opening night images - including Calleen Art Award Judge, Kon Gouriotis with Jenni and Peter Fagan, Calleen Trust and the winning painting by Marie Hagerty; opening of the Calleen Art Award exhibition by Cr Ruth Fagan, Mayor Cowra Shire Council; members of the Walker Street Band: and Cowra Calleen finalist Brenda Stace Chat and local potter Rebeca Bennett.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

ROBYN STACEY: as still as life public program

The opening of the *Robyn Stacey: as still as life* exhibition took place at the Cowra Regional Art Gallery on 26 August and continued to 1 October. A special launch and floor talk by the exhibition curator Anouska Phizacklea, Director Australian Museum of Australian Photography took place on Saturday 2 September 2023.

The exhibition included a brilliant series of ten large scale monumental and magnificent photographs by Robyn Stacey spectacular in their detailed beauty. The exhibition also included several Australian photographs from the Museum of Australian Photography collection, including works by Olive Cotton, John Cato, Katty Cavaliere, Joachim Froese, Max Dupain, Janina Green, Christine Godden, Fiona Hall, David Moore, Penelope Malone, George J Morris, Michael Riley and Anne Zahalka.



Above images: Visitors at the exhibition opening



Image: Anouska Phizacklea, exhibition curator and MAPH Director, discussing the Anne Zahalka works in the exhibition .

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

upstART 2023

This year's exhibition showcases over 100 entries from ten schools across nine award categories. The upstART 2023 Judge, Operation Art Officer, Heidi Windeisen selected 17 award recipients. Winners were announced and presented to students at the opening presentation held on Saturday November 25 by Deputy Mayor Cr Paul Smith and Gallery Director Brian Langer with a large crowd in attendance. The exhibition showcases the creative talents and diverse approaches to painting, ceramics, mixed media, sculpture, photography and drawing by Stages 5 and 6 secondary Visual Art students from Central West schools including Blayney High School, Boorowa Central School, Canowindra High School, Cowra High School, Forbes High School, Hennessy Catholic College Young, The Henry Lawson High School Grenfell, James Sheahan Catholic High School Orange, St Raphael's Catholic School Cowra and Young High School.



Images (l-r) Teachers and student award recipients and visitors to the exhibition opening.

NEXT IN THE GALLERY

NATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHIC PORTRAIT PRIZE 2023

17 December 2023 to 4 February 2024

The **National Photographic Portrait Prize 2023** on tour from The National Portrait Gallery will commence at the Gallery on Sunday 17 December. The exhibition is made up of 47 works by finalists selected from a national field of almost 2,400 entries. Celebrating its 16th year, the National Photographic Portrait Prize 2023 invites visitors to an amazing journey across Australia and beyond. This exciting and diverse exhibition of exceptional photographic works by some of Australia's outstanding aspiring and professional portrait photographers presents audiences with a distinctive vision and celebrates the power of photographic portraiture to communicate something beyond the appearance of subjects – their quirks, flaws, strengths or vulnerabilities.

The winner of the National Photographic Portrait Prize for 2023 worth \$30,000 is *Ruby (left view)*, 2022 by Shea Kirk (image right detail). In making their decision, the judging panel - distinguished Australian photographer Tamara Dean; Director of the Australian Centre for Contemporary Photography Daniel Boetker-Smith; and National Portrait Gallery Senior Curator Joanna Gilmour – said the winning work was a celebration of photography. "While Shea makes the portrait look effortless, this is a masterful and technically complex work where the sitter has no self-consciousness. It is as if the artist and sitter are participating equally in the transaction." The exhibition is supported by the National Collecting Institutions Touring and Outreach Program, an Australian Government program aiming to improve access to the national collections for all Australians. More information at www.portrait.gov.au/exhibitions/national-photographic-portrait-prize-2023.



CALLEEN ART AWARD 2023 - Prize Winner and People's Choice



Congratulations to Marie Hagerty (pictured) who won the Calleen Art Award 2023 for her painting *Ritual Habitual 2*, acrylic and oil on canvas. "Her works are constantly shifting between figuration and abstraction creating alluring and refined hybrid- images that seem to be arrested in movement, space and time. (excerpt exhibition catalogue - artist statement). Photo by Sara Vandermark.



Congratulations to Penelope Oates who won the People's Choice Award for her painting *Carbon Storers* acrylic on board (pictured)



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

The Cowra Regional Art Gallery is a cultural facility of the Cowra Shire Council

