

FRIENDS

NEWSLETTER

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CURRENTLY IN THE GALLERY

Whispers from the Mind



In 2008 Chile was the guest nation of the Cowra Festival of International Understanding and during the festival the idea of this survey exhibition, as a post festival project, was proposed to the Cowra Regional Art Gallery.

Since the festival, and with the assistance of the Embassy of Chile in Canberra, the exhibition ***Whispers from the Mind*** has developed as a collaborative project between the Gallery and the three Australian/Chilean artists in the exhibition - Marianella Braithwaite, Eduardo Lopez-Valdezpino and Monica Valenzuela Hoces.



Whispers from the Mind is a thought-provoking exhibition in which each artist through their artwork engages with recollections of their country of birth, their sense of place in their adopted homeland and personal experiences of loss, joy and love.



Pictured are some of the diverse art works on display.

Please see over page for list of works.



Notes from the Gallery Director

It's been a terrific time at the gallery since August with the presentation of five exciting and diverse exhibitions; several opening events with interesting guest speakers and associated floor talks; and three distinctive workshop/residency activities for all age groups. In early October the gallery also commenced a collaborative workshop/exhibition project with Cowra Special Needs Services through the financial assistance of Accessible Arts NSW.

Commencing mid October through to early November the gallery is presenting a special survey exhibition of works by three Australian/Chilean artists called *Whispers from the Mind*, including paintings, terracotta and steel sculptures and glass. The exhibition was first proposed during the 2008 Cowra Festival of International Understanding and has developed as a collaborative project between the gallery and the artists, with assistance from the Chilean Embassy in Canberra. It is a lively and stimulating showcase of outstanding creative focus and achievement by each of the artists.

In late November the gallery is presenting the **2008 Student Youth Art Exhibition and Awards** (new name) focusing on the work of young artists from central west high schools in years 10, 11 and 12. We are expecting a diverse range of entries in a variety of media including Ceramics, Digital Media, Drawing, Mixed Media, Painting, Photography, Printmaking, Textiles, Sculpture and Video/Film. The Judge for the Awards in 2008 is artist Ann Morton, a renowned portrait and still life painter, and finalist in the Archibald Prize, Moran Portrait Prize and Portia Geach Award. Local and regional business organisations and several individuals have generously donated cash prizes and vouchers to the value of \$1,600 for the awards section of the exhibition.

The final exhibition for the year is a blockbuster from the Australian War Memorial called **Focus: Photography & War 1945 – 2006**. The exhibition consists of over 100 significant photographs from the Museum's vast collection, by fifteen photographers who have made an important contribution to the field of Australian war photography.

Thank you to Gwen Clark for another great newsletter and the Friends of the Gallery committee for their catering support of the recent exhibition openings and the very successful **Wrap Unwrapped** public program morning tea; to the members of the Gallery Advisory Committee; and to the many volunteers who contribute their time to the gallery.

I look forward to seeing you at the Gallery.

Brian Langer
Gallery Director



PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION

In concert with the WRAP Exhibition - 12th September to 19th October - the Cowra Regional Art Gallery was pleased to present a Photographic Exhibition of works by Sally McInerney. Greg Daly officially opened the exhibition of Sally's photographs. Greg is seen below with some of Sally's beautiful prints, which were sometimes nostalgic, sometimes whimsical, always interesting.



The Lost Track of Time: Scenes from a Homeward Journey

Photographer Sally McInerney (at right) has been travelling between Sydney and her childhood home near Cowra for many years.

This exhibition of colour digital photographs included images taken over the last five years, mostly in the Central West, along the highways, back roads and detours.

Old familiar landmarks sometimes appear transformed when weather and light come together in certain ways.



At left:
Sally (centre)
with her family
on Opening
night.

Below right:
Sally chatting
with Gallery
visitors.



FRONT PAGE IMAGES:

Clockwise from top right: Eduardo Lopez-Valdezpino 1939 2008 acrylic on canvas
Marianella Braithwaite *When travelling, my daughter, go out to sea* (detail) 2008 raku, patina
Monica Valenzuela Hoces *Freedom - Sea* 2008 bullseye glass, plywood
Marianella Braithwaite *Metamorphosis* 2006 stainless steel, sand blasting (installation view)
Group of works
Foreground - Marianella Braithwaite (left) *Feelings* 1994 earthenware, patina;
(centre) *Dreaming* 1999 terracotta, patina (side view) ; (right) *Embrace* 2008 raku.
Background - Eduardo Lopez-Valdezpino
(left) 2008 2008 acrylic on canvas; (right) 2007 2008 acrylic on canvas.

Wrap unwrapped :

an exhibition of works inspired by the Wagga rug

On Friday 12 September this unique collection of work was opened by guest speakers Diana Thomas from the WRAP group, and Greg Daly who introduced Sally McInerney's *The Lost Track of Time* photographic exhibition which was also on display.

The exhibition by eight members of the textile group **Wagga, Research, Adapt, Produce (WRAP)** explored the "wagga" – the meaning of the term, its history, the stories associated with the people who made them and the possibilities that lay in a contemporary reinterpretation. The group spent two years creating the works in this exhibition, and the results were a fascinating meld of contemporary and traditional, with each of the participants taking varied paths to finally reconcile their ideas into the individual pieces now in the exhibition.



At left is Gina Sirabella with her amazing re-cycled umbrellas. "Like a 'wagga' an umbrella provides protection."

Above right Annette Glare explains her patchwork street grid of Cowra starting at the Mill.

Far right is Christene Boseley's *Jeans Again* created by unpicking op- shop jeans.

At right is a Wagga Wagga flour bag. Is this where it all began?



During this exhibition the gallery also displayed a 'wagga' inspired rug created by the craft and quilting ladies of the Cowra Art Group.

At left is the rug with left to right: Robin Kaltenbach, with Jenny Mason (President) and Pamela Heikkinen of the Cowra Art Group, Annette Glare and Gina Sirabella at the Opening of the Exhibition.

GALLERY TALK

Diana Thomas from the WRAP group presented a special illustrated talk about the background to the exhibition, the significance of the 'Wagga' rug and the works on display.

The group found their research fascinating, taking them out into the country as well as into places like the Power House Museum. The 'wagga' possibly begun as a shearer's blanket, added to with any cast off clothing by thrifty housewives to increase it's warmth.



Many contained a moving personal history, and Diana Thomas found a similar experience of special memories when she included a dearly loved jumper that she had made for her mother in the 'rug' that she created.

Diana spoke of the different techniques and fabrics used by the eight ladies taking part, their varied sources of inspiration, and how the life experience of each contributed to their work. She concluded her Talk in the Gallery with a Walk around the display, explaining the works and their background.

The good audience was highly appreciative of the 'talk' and 'walk'.



Photo at left shows Diana with the 'rug' that reminds her so strongly of her mother. In the photo at right, Diana explains how Robin Kaltenbach created the striking flowers on her 'rug'.

Three Exhibitions in one.



During August the Gallery presented an exhibition that focussed on the creative and experimental possibilities of printmaking.

Guest speaker at the opening was Peter Zanetti Director, Megalo Access Studio. Peter who is shown at left, spoke of the Megalo background and concepts.

THE FIRST EXHIBITION was 25 x 25 Celebrating 25 years of Megalo Access Arts 1980 -2005.

This was an exhibition of work by 25 prominent artist-printmakers who have made prints at the workshops of Studio One and Megalo Access Arts. It revealed not only the range of media that encompass the field of printmaking from screen-printing, through etching, lithography, woodblock and linocut printing but also the creative and experimental possibilities of the medium.

This exhibition was supported by Megalo Access Arts, Arts NSW, ACT Government, the Visual Arts and Crafts Strategy, the Australia Council, Gordon Darling Foundation and Museums & Galleries New South Wales.

The Second Exhibition was **Changing ClimateReinventing Lives**

Five printmaking studios across Australia contributed 83 works of various printmaking media. The exhibition highlighted environmental issues including sustainability, climate change and ways to minimize our impact on the environment.



Viewing these exhibitions proved to be an interesting experience, as closer examination to each of the works revealed unexpected details worthy of time spent enjoying them and in many cases, their underlying message.



The Third Exhibition was **Julie Ryder : In Repeat** – selected textiles from 1992 – 2007

A selection of textile prints and designs by renowned textile artist Julie Ryder.

At left: Julie Ryder

A Cowra Regional Art Gallery exhibition

When invited to exhibit at the Cowra, Julie was at a loss to find suitable works until she found some fabrics that she had created early on in her career that gave her the idea of presenting the “*markers of a passionate and consuming affair with textile design and screen printing*”.

Julie endeavoured to present a chronological story of her creative life over the past 15 years, hoping that she could show us her “*passion for colour, texture, hand-printing onto natural fibers, drawing, painting, experimentation.....*”.

This she surely did, with beautiful swatches of fabric adorning the Gallery walls.



Opening night
From left:
President of the Friends - Councillor Jack Mallon,
Peter Zanetti,
Julie Ryder,
Brian Petty and
Gallery Director Brian Langer.

GALLERY TALK : Julie Ryder Sat 2nd August.

With striking looks and bright auburn hair, Julie Ryder is as vibrant as the beautiful fabrics she produces.

She commenced her Gallery Walk/Talk by telling her attentive audience that she failed sewing at school. She later found that it was all very well to be an artist but she needed to make a living.

In 1992 she started designing her own fabrics, exercising her love of colour and actually hand painting lengths of fabric.

She taught at various institutions, and some students brought in fermenting fruit to try their effect on fabrics, which proved to have sometimes really beautiful results. Then began experimental projects, some of which were too toxic to carry out outside of a laboratory, but she did extensive work in this direction, and received international recognition for her fruit-fermented *nigredo* silks.

Julie went on to tell of her experiences and the 'life experiences' that influenced her work.

She moved to Canberra losing a lot of things she previously had access to, but gained a husband and found Megalo. Melbourne had had opportunities for producing commercial (saleable) quantities of her fabrics which she gradually used up, making her realise she had to replan her future.

Julie went to ANU for her Masters in textiles, focussing on researching - going from Art to Science growing bacteria then applying it to cloth. She also experimented with what breaks down cloth. In her 2nd year Masters she began using an electron microscope which meant she had to learn to use computers, much to her chagrin, to put colour into the black and white images from the microscope. Her work with chemical resist resulted in beautiful images, some of which we were privileged to see in the exhibition

A Public programme on Charles Darwin at the Botanic Gardens is one of her current interests. Julie's Gallery talk was both entertaining and informative.



ARTIST IN RESIDENCE PROJECTS

Museums and Galleries NSW assisted the gallery with grants to undertake two exciting Artists in Residence projects.

Julie Ryder

The first project was funded through the *Gallery Connect-ED* grants program and consisted of a series of textile printmaking classes at five small public schools in the region. Textile designer Julie Ryder was the artist in residence for these school workshops.

The workshops took place at Greenthorpe Public School, Koorawatha Public School, Gooloogong Public School and Woodstock Public School, over two days, and a workshop for the Wyangala Dam Public School was held on the final day at the gallery in the multi purpose studio/meeting room. Over 60 children attended the five workshops, with at least one teacher and parent at each school providing assistance.

The workshops involved using slices of different fruits and vegetables and fabric paint to form colourful compositions onto fabric. This really captured the children's imagination. Each child produced one or two individual pieces of fabric for them to keep, and a larger piece of fabric was worked on collaboratively by the students to form a banner or wall hanging for their school. Julie also talked about the origins of printmaking and the different types of printing used for textile printing.

The workshops were a very successful outreach project for the gallery and a unique opportunity for the children at these small regional public schools to learn something new from a visiting artist.

Brian Langer Director
Cowra Regional Art Gallery

The Second of the **ARTIST IN RESIDENCE PROJECTS** involved Canberra based printmaker and teacher Bernie Slater. A report can be seen on Page 6.



Julie on right, at Gooloogong with a school student



Wyangala Public School



Gooloogong Public School



Woodstock Public School

WORKSHOP

**With Bernie Slater
- Printmaker and Teacher**

As part of the Cowra Regional Art Gallery special residency workshop projects in August, Canberra based printmaker and teacher Bernie Slater presented a 2 day Printmaking and Book Binding workshop to a very appreciative group.



Prints from lino cut designs



Bernie (shown at left and below), first demonstrated various possibilities and encouraged participants to experiment, beginning with lino cuts. At the end of the day, the room was full of many beautiful, colourful lino prints.

On the second day, Bernie introduced the group to a simple bookbinding technique. Participants set about using some of their lino prints to create the covers for their new sketchbook by collaging their images together.

It was a very productive and enjoyable weekend which produced a great array of prints for the participants, as well as a series of beautiful personalised sketchbooks.

Top right, Lyndall Jelbart is shown concentrating on placing the cover of her book in exactly the right position.

At right, Heather Vallance works on her lino cut.



The project was assisted by Museums and Galleries NSW.

WORKSHOP

**Making Studio Based Art Materials
with Artist Tim Moorehead**

Saturday 20 September 2008



This workshop covered a short introductory session explaining both wet and dry art media, binders, vehicles, pigments and supports used in making a variety of art materials within the studio,

followed by instruction demonstrations and hands on making.

Those fortunate enough to attend the workshop organised by the Cowra Regional Art Gallery, found themselves in the company of a well prepared versatile artist and teacher, who was enthusiastic about his subject.

Tim presented all his students with a remarkable 'how to' booklet *Material Studies with Tim Moorehead*, which provided details of how to find and source materials (with alternatives), and how to use them to produce our own artist's mediums. No 'el cheapo' results here – if we are prepared to spend the time and effort, we will be rewarded with first class materials at a fraction of the cost of 'store bought' art materials.

After a very interesting introductory session, Tim set us loose on our first experiment which was making pastels.

During the day participants also prepared a tin full of willow 'sticks' ready to take home to 'cook'. The result is hopefully .. our own charcoal medium.

It was really a interesting and worthwhile day.



ABOUT
Tim Moorehead.

Tim Moorehead works in a variety of media.

He has had over 30 solo exhibitions, participated in over 300 group exhibitions and has represented Australia in invitational touring exhibitions in the U.S.A., Europe and Asia. His works are held in premier National, State and Regional collections as well as major private and corporate collections both in Australia and overseas. In 2007 he was inducted into the H. C. Coombs Roll of Honour at the ANU. He presently lives and works on the NSW Far South Coast at Tathra.

Shown below are workshop participants with Tim Moorehead (centre).



He began by emphasising how important it is to make meticulous notes of everything you do, so that when you get it right, you can do it again.



Heather Vallance hand - rolling her 'pastels'



Friends News

A Message from President Jack Mallon.



Greetings to all "Friends" as we approach the final quarter of 2008.

The Friends were distressed to hear that fellow committee member Colleen Johnston has passed away, and extend to Craig our deepest sympathies.

We have recently welcomed Lois to our committee and her expertise and enthusiasm have been well and truly manifest in the various travails associated with catering for opening nights of exhibitions et al.

Congratulations to the Friends publicity officer Christine Lanham who currently has an exhibition in the Japanese Gardens which features her versatility as an artist. It will remain in situ for

all of October.

On the subject of exhibitions, the Friends are pleased to announce that they have resolved to sponsor the award for People's Choice in the 2009 Calleen Art Award, presented by Cowra Regional Art Gallery.

Also, in consultation with Director Brian Langer, the Friends are negotiating suitable and relevant acquisitions with which to enhance the Gallery's repertoire.

If any of our readers have memorabilia of earlier years of art exhibitions in Cowra, such as catalogues, awards, including the knowledge of the whereabouts of any acquisitions, purchases or gifts, etc. we would really appreciate the opportunity to borrow same to record and document. We will guarantee prompt and safe return of any documents.

Newsletter Editor Gwen has been endeavouring to chronicle the origins and evolution of our Regional Gallery so that any materials loaned will serve a real purpose.

With all best wishes, *Jack*

VALE Colleen Johnston

(nee Ryan)

It is with deep regret that we have to announce the passing on October 19th of Friends Committee member Colleen Johnston.

Colleen contributed to the Friends in many ways, but will be best remembered for her beautiful 'special occasion' arrangements.

Our sincere sympathy is extended to her husband Craig and her family.



Friends Christmas Party



Sunday

30th November in the Gallery at 5.30pm .

If you haven't visited the Gallery to look at the Students Exhibition, this is your opportunity. You will be surprised, delighted and sometimes confronted.

Come and join us for a Christmas drink and nibbles and see what the next generation of artists has produced for 2008.

To help Santa fill his sack with presents bring a little gift - perhaps something recycled to add to the fun.

Friends Catering.

Cowra sign writer Brian Petty invited the Friends to cater for morning and afternoon teas for the 15th Annual Letterheads meet held in Cowra over 3 days from 17th October. Brian is a member of the Friends and also does the signage for each new Gallery Exhibition.

This catering task became really a pleasure, as we were able to see the work done by some of the top sign-writers from NSW, Tasmania, SA, Queensland and New Zealand who were there at work.

At Brian's instigation, their combined major project for the weekend was the painting of the roof for the iconic Dunlop Hayshed which was a landmark for many years on the Sydney road near Lyndhurst. All worked for periods on the sign as well as on their individual creations.

Brian is hoping for further sponsorship towards the replacement of the Dunlop Hayshed, which project was suggested to him some time ago.

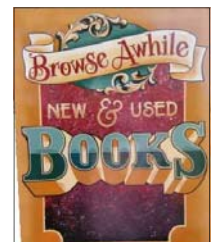
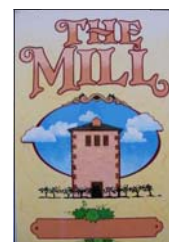
Below is the winner of the Black board art. This was a truly spectacular work painted in Neopastel by Cheryl McLean of Sydney.

Below right are three of the A-frames painted by the visitors that Brian hopes will assist him to raise further funds towards the restoration of the Dunlop hayshed.

The Royces sign painted by Guy Richards of Hobart was adjudged the Best A-frame for Local Business, and the runner-up was the Browse Awhile sign.



Local pyrographer and artist Dallas Nyberg's white tiger was judged the Best Air-brush work, and has earned him an invitation to Hobart for next year's Letterheads meet.



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GALLERY CALENDAR

October 2008 to January 2009

Catering Officer
Wendy Quilter
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DATE	EXHIBITION SCHEDULE
<p>25th Oct to 16th Nov</p> <p>OPENING: 6 pm Fri 31st October</p>	<p><i>Whispers from the Mind</i> A thought-provoking collaborative exhibition by three Australian/Chilean artists Marianella Braithwaite, Monica Valenzuela Hoces and Eduardo Lopez-Valdezpino. Through their artwork each artist engages with recollections of their country of birth, their sense of place in their adopted homeland and personal experiences of loss, joy and love.</p> <p>The exhibition provides a lively and stimulating showcase of outstanding creative focus and achievement by each of the artists. And although they have interwoven personal experiences and memories into their individual works, together their work is complementary, colourful and visually distinctive.</p> <p>The idea of this survey exhibition was first proposed during the <i>2008 Cowra Festival of International Understanding</i> and has developed as a collaborative project between the gallery and the artists. The exhibition has been made possible with the assistance of the Embassy of Chile, Canberra.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Opening at 6pm Friday 31 October by Mr José Luis Balmaceda Ambassador Embassy of Chile, Canberra. Welcome by Cr Bill West, Mayor Cowra Shire Council Admission free (refreshments include Chilean wine and food)</p>
<p>22nd Nov to 7th Dec</p> <p>OPENING: 3 pm Sat 22nd November</p>	<p><i>2008 Student Youth Art Exhibition and Awards</i> The Awards are an annual exhibition focusing on the work of young artists from central west high schools in years 10,11 and 12. The exhibition showcases their creative skills and imagination in a variety of media including Ceramics, Digital Media, Drawing, Mixed Media, Painting, Photography, Printmaking, Textiles, Sculpture and Video/Film.</p> <p>The Judge for the awards in 2008 is Cowra based artist Ann Morton who is a renowned portrait and still life painter. Her career highlights include being a finalist of the Archibald Prize, Moran Portrait Prize and Portia Geach Award. She is also very experienced judging the work of young artists.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Note: Special Opening time. 3pm Saturday 22 November Admission Gold Coin Donation refreshments provided</p>
<p>13th Dec 2008 to 1st Feb 2009</p> <p>OPENING: 6.30 pm Fri 12th December</p>	<p><i>Focus: Photography & War 1945-2006</i> An exhibition of over 100 photographic works by 15 photographers covering a range of activities and areas where Australian Forces have been in operation since 1945 to 2006.</p> <p>The exhibition offers an overview of the historical and aesthetic richness of the Australian War Memorial's extensive collection of photographs. The selected works in the exhibition go beyond the mere recording of evidence and demonstrates a unique capacity to encapsulate both subtlety and the complexity of an event in a single image.</p> <p>During the exhibition the gallery shop will be selling the book Contact – Photographs from the Australian War Memorial Collection. This is the first authoritative survey of the Memorial's collection and of the history of Australian war photography. Features include 200 beautifully reproduced photographs, including some previously hidden treasures. This is an Australia War Memorial Travelling Exhibition.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Opening at 6.30pm Friday 12 December Admission is \$10 Guests/\$5 Friends/Concession/Student</p>

Please call the Cowra Regional Art Gallery on 6340 2190 for more information about the listed events.



Cowra

"The Friends" is a volunteer organisation formed to support
the Cowra Regional Art Gallery

"The Friends" is a committee of Cowra Shire Council

