

# NEWSLETTER

Produced by the Friends of the Cowra Regional Art Gallery

IN THE GALLERY to 25th October

## 2009 Archibald Prize

### New South Wales Regional Tour

On Friday evening 18<sup>th</sup> September, Cowra Regional Art Gallery Director Brian Langer welcomed the large crowd of 130 or so, and introduced special guest and winning artist Guy Maestri who performed the Official Opening of the 2009 Archibald Prize: *New South Wales Regional Tour*.

An Art Gallery of NSW exhibition toured by Museums and Galleries NSW.

A personable young man, Guy entertained those attending the Opening Reception with humorous anecdotes and quotes regarding the 'Archibald.'

The winner of the Lucky Door prize donated by Windowrie and drawn by David O'Dea (below), was David Hutchinson.



Above:  
Winner of the 2009 Archibald Prize, Guy Maestri with his wonderful portrait of Geoffrey Gurumul Yanupingu Oil on Linen.



Below: Mayor of Cowra, Councilor Bill West speaking at the Opening.



### ARTISTS TALK



The following morning, over 40 people attended the gallery to listen to Guy's Artist's Talk. He was again entertaining, answering questions about his work, and his 'artists practice' in general.

In choosing a subject, Guy said that you need to have someone well known but also familiar to the public, and as he was familiar with Geoffrey Gurumul Yanupingu's music, he felt he was the perfect person to paint.

Guy only had one opportunity to meet Geoffrey in person - at the airport in a dark little lounge, where he had about 45 minutes to do sketches and take photos.

When it came to creating the painting, he played Geoffrey's music as he worked as it gave the best background feeling to his painting sessions. Guy reacted in an emotional way, so it helped him to create the work as he wanted. One difficulty for him was the fact that Geoffrey was blind, as usually the eyes are the focus of a portrait.

The painting took about a month to complete, and he used a different approach to his previous work. He wanted a calm and strong image so used lots of glazes. He had not worked in that way before beginning with a 'washy' form ... no white added, and found that to work in this way needs lots of patience. Working in such a considered way for this painting has led to him making changes in his general approach.

Drawing has been his focus to this point in his life. His paintings are always large - he finds it difficult to paint 'small', and spends some time in his studio every day even if only to stretch canvases or read.

He listens to music while he paints ... choosing it to suit his mood ... generally using it to enervate him.



At left: The audience in the Gallery for Guy's Artist's Talk.

## The Beanie Festival Collection

From the 11th July to the 16th of August, Cowra was treated to an exhibition of Beanies in the Cowra Regional Art Gallery.

The beanies on display had been collected over a period of ten years from the Alice Springs Beanie Festival, and included important works produced by Indigenous artists from the Central desert region.

The beanies were both colourful and interesting, and visitors were intrigued by the imagination displayed in their creation, and often surprised that an exhibition of 'beanies' could be so much fun to view.

Photo at right: A tiny sample of the beanies on display.



## From the Region – Variations in Clay

Sharing the Gallery with the beanie exhibition was a highly satisfying exhibition of distinctive works by local ceramists Ros Auld, Catherine Bennett, Caroline Briggs, Anna Chicos, Greg Daly, Rebecca Dowling and Graham Watt. Curated by Brian Langer Director, Cowra Regional Art Gallery with curatorial advice from Greg Daly, the exhibition showcased a diversity of finished objects as well as presenting a unique survey of art practices by some of the leading ceramists working in the region. The Gallery also produced a special colour catalogue with the exhibition.



## Artists Talk

At the conclusion of the exhibition, acclaimed ceramist Greg Daly gave a very interesting talk about the diversity of approach and interpretations used by the exhibiting artists. Greg, and some of his work from the exhibition, is shown at right.

Points he made during the talk explained the complexity involved in selecting materials to work with. You need to select the clay that will perform in the way you want, and different glazes and materials give different results on various clays. The results are further influenced by varying firings and additives.

For example, when working with colours/glazing, you are not applying what the resultant colour will be, so consequently a knowledge and understanding of materials is very necessary.

Greg also spoke of what inspired the artists to work as they do. For example Catherine's work is very influenced by nature. She is a 'Wires' carer and is concerned about the fragility of the landscape. Her love of native animals and the landscape is exemplified in some of her exhibition works pictured at left.

Greg's talk was well received by an attentive audience.



### PACKING UP.

Gallery volunteers who work behind the scenes, beginning the task of packing up one Exhibition to prepare for the next.

## Sacred Footsteps from the Roof of the World

For six days from the 25th August the Cowra Regional Art Gallery hosted the visit to Cowra of 5 Tibetan monks. During this time the monks created a sand *mandala* in the Multi-purpose room which was suitably transformed by wall hangings, screens and rugs for the occasion. The 'sand' in beautiful colours was delicately applied using traditional patterns.

Visitors found this an extraordinary experience, and as word spread, the crowds grew - many coming back again and again to view the progress of the intricate design which glowed with colour, and to purchase some of the interesting artifacts and jewellery.

Photographs below show the work in progress, and the enthralled crowd watching as two monks worked together as the *mandala* neared completion.



## Operation Art

From 29th of August to the 4th of October, an exhibition of art by children for children in hospital, was on display in the Cowra Library. The Exhibition created a lot of interest and was enjoyed by adults and children alike. Several works from the Operation Art Collection were also donated to the Cowra District Hospital at the launch of the exhibition.

At right: Fiona Steel Executive Officer Operation Art, presenting one of the donated children's art works to Mayor of Cowra Councillor Bill West and Cowra Regional Art Gallery Director Brian Langer. Photo by courtesy of the Cowra Guardian.



## Portrait Painting Workshop

Artist Cherry Hood (finalist 2009 Archibald prize and Winner 2002 Archibald Prize) conducted a "A Portrait in experimental watercolour" workshop on September 26th for an enthusiastic group, some of whom are seen at right. Participant Rosslyn Finn reported:

"The watercolour workshop was amazing! Cherry Hood is a most pleasant, happy person, and treated us all like long-lost friends. She turned my very ordinary portrait of my late Bill into something really special, which I have had framed and now hang proudly in my dining room, at the head of the table of course!"

Photo courtesy Brian Langer.



## October School Holidays

During the October school holidays the Gallery presented a special three day portrait drawing and painting workshop for children from 7 -14 years. Tutor for the workshop was Cowra based artist and Archibald finalist Ann Morton. The workshop was run in conjunction with the presentation of the 2009 Archibald Prize touring exhibition at the Gallery from 19th September to 25th October. During the workshop the children had the opportunity to compare their styles and techniques with the 39 works in the Archibald exhibition.

At right: Ann Morton with her pupils and their wonderful self-portraits.

Photo courtesy Brian Langer.



## Cowra Art Group Exhibition and Awards

The 5th Cowra Art Group Biennial Exhibition and Awards to be held in the Cowra Regional Art Gallery again proved successful with over eighty people attending the opening night on Friday 21st August. This evening recognised and applauded the strengths of our regional artists, with 90 works on display from 56 artists from within 100 km radius of Cowra.

Awards judge artist Mandy Martin opened the Exhibition and announced the winners of the six awards. The Cowra Art Group is very grateful to Mandy for officiating and to the Award Sponsors - our Patron Christine Delaney, Kalari Wines, Cowra Services Club, Logan Court, Anne and David Stanley, Waugoola Motors and the Musical and Dramatic Society for their support.

Their support is important and appreciated, as is also the co-operation received from Cowra Regional Art Gallery Director Brian Langer, Gallery Advisory Committee Chairman David Henley who adjusted the lights, and members of the Friends who assisted on the night.

At the conclusion of the Exhibition, Woodstock artist Dermot Rodwell's painting *Elizabeth Street* was announced the winner of the Patron's People's Choice Award. Dermot is shown at right with Art Group President Jenny Mason and Dermot's painting. Peter Wright was drawn the winner of the beautiful box of local products.



PHOTOS. Left: Pamela Heikkinen of Kalari, and Mandy Martin (centre) congratulate Helen Cameron winner of the Traditional section. Centre is Ariel Piccles with *Silent Sentinels*, winner of the Peter Slattery Award for Mixed Media.



Below far left: Mandy with a delighted Jane Patterson of Bathurst - Winner of the Logan Court Watercolour section presented by Catherine Bennett representing Logan Court. Catherine herself won the M&D Society Award for Ceramics.



Below: Nyree Reynolds of Blayney with her pet Sian and her painting *Boundaries* which won the Cowra Services Club Contemporary Award.

Right: Waugoola Motors Works On Paper Award winner David Henley (centre) with Highly Commended Jill Norton and sponsor Brad Savage.



## COMING UP

## GALLERY CALENDAR

October/November/December 2009



## EXHIBITIONS

**The Calleen Collection 1977 - 2009**

Exhibition Opening - Friday 30th October at 6.30pm

In the Gallery from 31 October 22nd November 2009

The Calleen Collection is the legacy of Cowra resident and art patron Mrs. Patricia Fagan OAM and is based on the establishment of *The Calleen Art Award*, an acquisitive art award that has grown to a substantial annual art prize open to artists across Australia. Highlights of the collection are works that reflect predominant painting styles during the past 30 years in Australia together with a strong regional flavour.

MULYAN

**2009 Regional Student (Youth) Art Exhibition and Awards**

Exhibition Opening - Saturday 28th November at 2pm.

In the Gallery from 28th November to 13th December 2009

The sixth annual youth art exhibition and awards presented by the Cowra Regional Art Gallery focusing on the work by young artists from Central West high schools in years 10, 11 and 12 including painting, drawing, mixed media, photography and 3D art. The exhibition is a showcase of their creative skills and imagination.

NOTE: Day time Opening.

**Transitions**

Exhibition Opening - Friday 18 December at 6.30pm

In the Gallery from 19th December to 31st January 2009/2010

*Transitions* captures the experiences and perceptions of a number of artists concerned with European island and regional cultures since the 1950s and with the experiences of migrants from these locations to Australia.

The exhibition offers glimpses of the landscapes, culture and social transitions of island locations such as the Azores, Kythera, Lofoten and Sicily along with continental locations such as Brittany, Normandy and southern Spain. It also presents images of Australia as experienced by migrants from European regions.

The artists are Effy Alexakis, Angela Cavalieri, Nathalie Hartog-Gautier, Axel Poignant, Fernando Gil Pereira Resendes, Claudia Terstappen, Jeremy Welsh, and Salvatore Zofrea



Salvatore Zofrea (b.1946)  
Borgia, Italy, Australia from 1956  
From the **Capricornia Suite** series  
**Men Playing Cards** 1991

**Special event in association with the exhibition *Transitions*****Artist Talk – Jeremy Welsh Saturday 19th December at 11am**

Jeremy Welsh is an artist and University professor who lives and works in Bergen Norway. He works with a combination of video, sound, performance and photography, often combining several media within an installation setting. During the 80's he was actively involved with video art and the electronic media workshop sector in the UK .

**Cowra Regional Art Gallery**  
Gallery Director: Brian Langer  
77 Darling Street, Cowra NSW 2794

Hours: Tuesday to Saturday 10am – 4pm, Sunday 2pm – 4pm (Closed on Mondays)  
Gallery Administration Officer: Simone Sly  
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“The Friends” is a volunteer organisation formed to support the Cowra Regional Art Gallery, and operates as a committee of Cowra Shire Council. Meetings are held on the first Friday of each month at 5.30 pm in the Multipurpose room adjacent to the Gallery except when the date clashes with a Gallery Opening night. All welcome.

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| President<br>Jack Mallon Ph 63450363 | Secretary<br>Lois Foster Ph 63411408 | Subscription Secretary<br>Jenny Thompson Ph 63429331 | Newsletter Editor<br>Gwen Clark Ph 63423995 | Catering Officer<br>Wendy Quilter Ph 63421652 |
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Admit your mistakes before someone exaggerates them for you! Unknown