

# NEWSLETTER

produced by the Friends of the Cowra Regional Art Gallery

## CALLEEN ART AWARD 2017

Opening Night - Saturday 6 May 2017.



The winner of the 2017 Calleen Art Award is Zai Kuang from Melbourne for his work *Audery*, oil on canvas, 102 x 84cm.

Artist statement:

*"My paintings are about children and daily life. I want to explore the relationships between children and their surroundings and the objects in the domestic environment"*



Above: Award Judge Angus Trumble, with Jenni Fagan and CRAG Director Brian Langer viewing the Calleen Award winning work, *Audery* by Zai Kuang.

The Calleen Art Award is always an exciting and popular exhibition and definitely a favourite cultural event in the region. It's an acclaimed acquisitive art prize for painting in any style or subject with entries received from across Australia.

The announcement of the 2017 Calleen Art Award winner took place at a special opening at the Cowra Regional Art Gallery on Saturday 6 May 2017. Guest speakers were Cr Judi Smith, Deputy Mayor, Cowra Shire Council and the Awards Judge Mr Angus Trumble, Director, National Portrait Gallery.

The Calleen Art Award was established in 1977 as an acquisitive art prize by Mrs Patricia Fagan OAM to encourage originality, creativity and excellence.

During the past 40 years the Calleen Art Award has developed significantly and through the generous support of the Calleen Trust is worth \$20,000 in 2017. This year's winning painting joins the Calleen Collection, the cornerstone collection of the Cowra Regional Art Gallery.

The Gallery received 275 entries from across Australia and 49 artists whose work addressed a wide range of styles and diverse issues, were selected as finalists by a panel of four experts including the awards judge.

The winner of the 2017 Calleen Art Award was Zai Kuang from Melbourne for his work *Audery*, oil on canvas, 102 x 84cm.



Above: Award Judge Angus Trumble, Director, National Portrait Gallery who announced the winning artist.



The Exhibition was opened by Deputy Mayor Cr. Judi Smith shown above during her address, and below with Angus Trumble and Cr. Ray Walsh.



Below: Jenni Fagan, Anne Apthorpe, Judy Houghton, Graham Apthorpe and Peter Fagan.



**CALLEEN Opening Highlights.**

**2017 Calleen Finalists photographed with their art work at the Opening.**

A number of the 49 Finalists were able to attend the Opening of the exhibition on 6 May to hear the Award Judge Angus Trumble, Director, National Portrait Gallery, announce his decision.



Genevieve Carroll  
*The Wattle Room – Shelf Knowledge 2017*  
Oil on canvas.



Val Johnson.  
*Billy Tea and Damper 2016*  
Oil on canvas.



Zoe Young and her family.  
*Tokyo Gin Club – Friday Afternoon in the Studio 2017*  
Acrylic on Birchwood.



Rhonda Campbell  
*Bush Walk 2017*  
Mix. media on canvas



Hal Pratt  
*Towards Mt. Sonder NT 2016*  
Watercolour



Chris Kunko  
*Immigrant Grandparents with dogs. 2016*



Rachel Ellis  
*Bentinck Psalm 2017*  
Oil on linen on board.



Stephen Copland  
*Tropic of Capricorn 2017*  
Oil on canvas.



Lucy Urquhart  
*Discovery of Unidentifiable Bones After a Storm 2017*  
Oil on canvas.



Madeleine Winch  
*Facing the Canvas 2016.*  
Oil on canvas.



Kay Greenhill  
*Fish Pond 2017*  
Acrylic on canvas.



Lynne Flemons  
*Rivershadow 2017*



Gregory Carosi  
*Axis 2017*  
Oil and crayon on hardboard.

**Friends PEOPLE'S CHOICE Award**



Paul McKnight from Grenfell, NSW.  
*Albany Trio on Turkish Pastry. 2016*  
Oil on Canvas  
Decided by votes from Gallery visitors over the period of the Exhibition.

**More images from Opening Night.**

A large crowd enjoyed the occasion and the social aspect of the night following the opening.



Above: Pip Fagan, Rhonda Campbell, Di Payten, Bob Campbell and Helen Armstrong enjoyed the occasion.



Above: Young musicians from the Sydney Conservatorium presented a repertoire of music for flute, cello and guitar.



Above: Belinda Mort and Karen Fowler of Canberra, with Ian McColl at the Opening.



Above Right: Socialising after the Opening.

Centre Right: Lily Wright with Raeleen Beecher and Gerard McGill who won the Lucky door prize.



Left: Artist Tim Winters and Finalist Rhonda Campbell catch up.

Right: 2002 Calleen Award winning artist Mandy Martin chats with 2017 Award Judge Angus



Right: Colleen Mead, John Davidson and David Henley enjoy the occasion.

**GALLERY HIGHLIGHTS**

**25 March to 30 April 2017**

**Colours of the Country III – Alice Springs Beanie Festival**

**Colours of Country III** guest speaker was **Merran Hughes, Artistic Director, Alice Springs Beanie Festival.**

This was the third fabulous touring showcase of over 90 colourful works from the Alice Springs Beanie Festival was seen in the Cowra Regional Art Gallery from 25 March 2017. *Colours of Country III* encapsulates the whimsical essence of the Beanie Festival and also highlights the works produced by Indigenous artists from the Central Desert region who are regular collaborators in this cross-cultural event.

Merran is shown at right presenting her informative address and gallery walk during the opening. Her audience was left with an appreciative view of the artists and the history of the Festival.



Above: Rowena Casey and her granddaughter Tobi Casey, enjoyed viewing the amazing beanies in the exhibition.

Right: Some of those present at the Opening viewing the Beanies with Merran Hughes.



A touring exhibition from Art Back NT.



Above: Merran Hughes, Artistic Director, Alice Springs Beanie Festival, with Victorian Lisa Waller's "...in a beautiful pea green boat" Wool needle felted,

Right: The original "A Bunch of Budgies", created by Nancy Wall of Alice Springs, was People's Choice in 2012 and sold for a record \$2,000. This beanie is a replica made for the Festival Collection by the artist. Each budgie took over five hours to complete ... fifty hours for the whole beanie.



**Adult Workshop: An introduction to needle felting**  
**Sunday 2 April 2017**

Needle felting suits artists with an interest in colour and surface design, and is a preferred technique for many of the beanie festival artists in the *Colours of the Country III* exhibition. Needle felting is a simple felting technique that dates back to the ancient Egyptians. Using a simple burred needle, workshop participants worked on surface designs to create a simple brooch or textile decoration.

Workshop tutor was Merran Hughes, Artistic Director of the Alice Springs Beanie Festival.

At left the enthusiastic group who took part—some entirely new to any kind of felting techniques.—all left with a pretty decoration.



Above: Merran Hughes assisting workshop participants Josie Reynolds and Rowena Casey. Left: Merran's daughter Lena with her needle felted beret.



**Collection In Focus: New Acquisitions**



Above is Cowra Regional Art Gallery Director Brian Langer and visitors during his opening address.

to 2016. These works include recent winners of the Calleen Art Award, new works acquired through a private bequest, the Commonwealth Government's Cultural Gifts Program, artist donations and works purchased through the fundraising efforts of the Friends of the Gallery.

Artists in the exhibition included Susan Baird, Jo Bertini, Yvonne Boag, Greg Daly, Keith Fyfe, Joanna Logue, Tania Mason, Sally McInerney, Idris Murphy, Peter O'Doherty, Susan O'Doherty and Jenny Sages.

At right: Some of the newly acquired works from the collection displayed for the exhibition.

This exhibition was opened on 1 April, 2017 by Cowra Art Gallery Director Brian Langer who spoke about the background of the collection and the latest acquisitions. The Gallery Collection was launched with the opening of the Cowra Regional Art Gallery in 2000. The cornerstone of the collection is the *Calleen Collection* established through the acquisitive *Calleen Art Award* established in 1977 by Mrs Patricia Fagan OAM.

Another important component of the Gallery Collection is the *Olive Cotton Collection* consisting of key works donated to Council by the artist and recent purchases of her photographs made possible through the fundraising efforts of the Friends of the Gallery and supported by her family.

Heritage works in the collection include paintings by Italian prisoners from the Cowra POW Camp. The collection also consists of works acquired by donations, gifts and purchases including works by leading Australian artists from the 1960s to the present. This selection of artworks brings together an exciting range of newly acquired artworks from 2013



**GALLERY HIGHLIGHTS**

**Stephen Bird: Bastard Son of Royal Doulton.**



Saturday 24 June, 2017 saw the opening of **Stephen Bird: Bastard Son of Royal Doulton** - a showcase of Bird's remarkable skill in conceiving quirky - sometimes ironic - pieces that are "highly individualistic ceramics and that toy with convention".



Above: Guest speaker Grace Cochrane.

The Guest Speaker was Grace Cochrane, Independent Curator and Writer, who spoke about Stephen Bird's artistic practice and history. The deliberate use of industrial techniques and materials of his hometown, Stoke-on-Trent, the town in which Royal Doulton, Spode and Wedgwood were founded, form a practice he has dubbed "Industrial Sabotage".

Throughout this highly enjoyable exhibition, Bird's mastery of glazing techniques and applied decoration on ceramics was matched by dazzlingly bright watercolours and intense graphic detail of works on paper, including responses to the strange and dramatic Australian landscape explored in more recent works.

A Wollongong Art Gallery touring exhibition.



Left: Grace Cochrane chats with local ceramicist Tony Dagg.



Below: Crowd socialising following the opening.



Left: Director Brian Langer welcomes those present for the Opening.



Above: Norma and Ian McLean viewing the exhibition.



Above Right:

David Henley has fun with *The Boxers* ceramic.

**Behind the Wire: Cowra Breakout/Cowra POW Camp**

**Dream of Ghosts: an Installation by Stephen Copland**

An appreciative crowd attended the opening night of the two associated exhibitions on 4 August, 2017.

"**Behind the Wire**" includes photographs of the Cowra POW camp and artifacts made by the POW's from recycled materials such as wood, metal and leather. Other items include paintings and two alter panels realized by Italian POW's for the camp chapel.



Above: Mayor Cr Bill West who spoke at the opening of **Behind the Wire: Cowra Breakout/Cowra POW Camp** exhibition with the Italian Panels from the camp chapel.

"**Dream of Ghosts**" is an installation by artist Stephen Copland comprising video, sculpture, painting, drawing and artist books that imagines a poetic translation into the 'Cowra Breakout'. An exhibition project commissioned by the Cowra Regional Art Gallery for the 2017 anniversary of the Cowra Breakout 5 August 1944, and funded through Create NSW.



Above: Graham Apthorpe and artist Stephen Copland



Above: James and Gillian Wall with Dr. Roslyn Russell checking out the model tank carved by Italian Carro Armato M13-40 donated by the couple.



Above: Dr. Roslyn Russell Historian, Writer, Museum Curator and Chair of the UNESCO Australian Memory of the World Committee, presented a most interesting address for the opening of Stephen Copland's *Dream of Ghosts* exhibition.



Above: Stephen Copland and his wife Meredith Brice with Director Brian Langer, in front of Stephen's work *Flesh and Blood*



Above: Part of the crowd listening to the speakers at the opening.



Left: Marion Mitchell Reed, Beth Mitchell and Rebecca Bennett viewing *Momento Mori 2017*- Found object, timber and porcelain, gold paint and ink.

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

Hours: Tuesday to Saturday 10am – 4pm, Sunday 2pm – 4pm

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



"**The Friends**" is a volunteer organisation formed to support the Cowra Regional Art Gallery, and operates as a 355 committee of Cowra Shire Council. Meetings are now held at 5.30 pm on the 2nd Thursday of the month in the Multi - Purpose room adjacent to the Gallery. All welcome.

Chair Person  
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Secretary  
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"There is no one on earth as dangerous as a really clever fool". From Wilbur Smith's latest "War Cry".