OLIVE COTTON: PHOTOGRAPHS

The Cowra Regional Art Gallery is pleased to announce that additional Olive Cotton prints are to be added to the Gallery’s Collection of photographs taken by this iconic artist who lived and worked in the Cowra district for more than 50 years.

The interest shown in the recent exhibition of Olive Cotton photographs from the Cowra Regional Art Gallery Collection and works on loan from the Josef Lebovic Gallery Sydney, emphasised the importance of this collection to the Cowra community.

The exhibition included significant photographs that highlighted Olive Cotton’s love of nature, her astute powers of observation, as well as her enduring interest in the play of light.

Exhibition 4 February to 11 March 2012

2011 CCP Documentary Photography Award
Also Olive Cotton: Photographs

This Exhibition was Opened on 3 February 2012 by special guest speaker Helen Ennis, Associate Professor, ANU School of Art, Canberra, who is researching a book on Olive Cotton, gave a very interesting address about the beautiful work done by Olive Cotton, but also spoke about contemporary documentary photography.

The CCP Documentary Photography Award is a biennial showcase of contemporary Australian documentary photography, and the exhibition, with a blend of un-retouched colour and black and white photography, delivers snapshots of the modern day world as seen by the photographer.

The Gallery was privileged to have Olive Cotton’s daughter and son Sally and Peter McInerney present on the night. Sally McInerney has taken great interest in the Cowra Regional Art Gallery Collection.

The Olive Cotton prints pictured are part of the Gallery collection. Fashion Shot, Cronulla Sandhills is one of the new acquisitions.
**Next in the Gallery**

**2012 Calleen Art Award and Central West Regional Artists Award**

The Calleen Art Award and Central West Regional Artists Award foster and encourage originality, creativity and excellence in the visual arts. The Calleen Art Award was established in Cowra in 1977 as an acquisitive art award through a gift by Mrs Patricia Fagan OAM. During the past 35 years the award has developed into a significant acquisitive art prize for painting, now worth $16,000, through the generous support of the Calleen Trust and Trustees Jenni and Peter Fagan. The Central West Regional Artists Award is a non acquisitive award for painting and drawing, established in 2009 by the Cowra Regional Art Gallery with prize money of $2,000 made possible by the generous support of patron David Henley.

The award is open to artists and working in the Central West Region of NSW as defined by the local government areas of Bathurst, Blayney, Cabonne, Cowra, Forbes, Lachlan, Lithgow, Mudgee/Gulgong, Oberon, Orange, Parkes, Weddin and Wellington. There is also a People's Choice Award of $500 made possible by the support of the Friends of the Gallery.

This year the Gallery received 228 entries by artists from across Australia and 60 works have been selected for exhibition, including 20 works by finalists eligible for the Central West Regional Artists Award.

The awards judge for 2012 is Jason Smith, Director/CEO Heide Museum of Modern Art (Victoria). Prior to his current position Jason Smith was Director of Monash Gallery of Art (Victoria) and between 1997 and 2007 he was Curator of Contemporary Art at the National Gallery of Victoria where he worked closely with many leading Australian and international contemporary artists.

The exhibition of 60 finalists works will open at the Gallery on Saturday 21 April commencing at 6.30 pm to 8pm. Cr Bill West, Mayor, Cowra Shire Council will officially open the exhibition followed by the announcement of the winners by the awards judge Jason Smith.

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**Special Exhibition**

**SHELL-SHOCKED: Australia after Armistice**

"Grieving and remembrance"

World War I left behind a vast legacy of sorrow that was felt for generations. The loss of 60,000 Australians meant that scarcely a family in Australia was left untouched. Yet for many, the sadness was deferred or unresolved.

The lack of details about the fate of more than 23,000 missing soldiers delayed the grief for their families. Even into the 1920s, many clung to the slim hope that perhaps a mistake had been made and their son, brother or husband might still be alive and unable to find his way home.

Communities in nearly every Australian city and town erected memorials to honour their war dead. Rolls of honour listing those who served and died were erected in schools and halls. Some communities built memorial drives or avenues of honour."

This excerpt demonstrates the value of this touring exhibition developed in 2009 by the National Archives of Australia with the support of the department of Veteran's Affairs and Visions of Australia, and an Australian Government program supporting touring exhibitions by providing funding assistance for the development and touring of Australian cultural material across Australia.

The above was drawn from the National Archives of Australia webpage.

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**Cowra Regional Art Gallery Summer Workshops**

During the summer holidays the Gallery conducted a number of workshops for children in the Multi Purpose room adjacent to the gallery. Tutors Inel Date and Catherine Hale presented interesting art projects, while Ken Hutchinson had his charges creating recycled art works. The children in two different age groups, had fun while being creative.
Gallery Highlights

Exhibition

Jacaranda Acquisitive Drawing Award. 17 December 2011 to 29 January 2012.

This wonderful exhibition of contemporary drawing was organised by Grafton Regional Gallery in 2010. It comprised 46 drawings from 426 entries from all over Australia, featuring new and emerging artists. We were privileged to have this exhibition on display in the Cowra Regional Art Gallery over the Christmas period until 29th January 2012.

Friday 16th December 2011, the special Christmas Opening was performed by Cowra Regional Art Gallery Director Brian Langer, and Tracey Callinan Executive Officer from Arts Out West entertained during the evening with beautiful baroque keyboard music.

NB. Tracey went on to spend her holidays teaching music at primary schools in Kenya in some of the worst slum areas. Her report can be read in the April issue of Artspeak - a far different environment to that above.

Exhibition and Floor Talk

Tim Winters: ISLAND to ISLAND 17 March to 15 April 2012

Also From the Collection: New Acquisitions

On Saturday 17 March from 12.30 pm over 60 people attended a special floor talk by Stuart Town based Tim Winters followed by the opening of his exhibition ISLAND to ISLAND: Australia / Sark /Orkney, as well as a showcase exhibition of new acquisitions to the Gallery collection from the past 3 years.

Tim Winters’ exhibition includes large collagraph prints inspired by the neolithic landscape of Orkney islands, a group of small islands located near Scotland in the North Sea; a series of mixed media works on paper exploring the tiny island of Sark landscape located in the Channel Islands near France and a series of large paintings on canvas inspired by the outback of northern Australia.

The collection exhibition - From the Collection: New Acquisitions - includes paintings by Lucy Buttenshaw, Judy Cassab, Peter Gardiner, Joanna Logue, Claire Martin and HJ Wedge.

The Opening of this interesting exhibition was performed by renowned Australian artist Professor Mandy Martin, ANU Canberra. In her address, Mandy said she was pleased to be asked to open the exhibition, and commented that she related in particular to Tim’s paintings of the Australian channel country as she has visited them herself. Mandy also congratulated the Gallery on their recent acquisitions - in particular the Olive Cotton prints and the Harry Wedge painting, as these artists have ‘put Cowra on the map’.

In his Floor Talk, Tim explained the background to his series; his time in the Orkney Islands and the tiny island of Sark and the difficulties of completing some of the large works.

Tim Winters: Experimental Drawing Workshop. 31 March 2012

Ten enthusiastic artists gathered in the Multi-Purpose room adjacent to the Gallery to experiment with charcoal alone to start, and graduated to mixed media later in the day. Tim gave the participants some challenging tasks with interesting results.

All in all it was a very successful and enjoyable day.

At left: The group with ‘wall hangings’ and some of their ‘creations’ at right.
Next in the Gallery

22 APRIL to 2 June 2012

2012 CALLEEN ART AWARD AND CENTRAL WEST REGIONAL ARTISTS AWARD

Always exciting and entertaining the awards aim to foster and encourage originality, creativity and excellence. The Calleen Art Award is acquisitive and worth $16,000 in 2012. The Central West Regional Artists Award is non-acquisitive and worth $2,000.

The Gallery is providing travel assistance by bus for schools in the region to attend this exhibition.

Exhibition opening – Saturday 21 April, 2012 6.30 pm

Interesting side-note: The Calleen Art Award Judge in 2004 was the 2012 winner of the Archibald prize, Tim Storrier.

10 June to 22 July 2012

SHELL-SHOCKED: Australia after Armistice

An exhibition based on personal stories of immense power. It depicts the grief of mothers whose sons died but had no known burial place – lost forever in foreign fields.

Experience the individuality of local town memorials – built by communities in an effort to come to terms with their loss and to honour those lives. Reflect on the impact of ‘the war to end all wars’ on Australia.

The Gallery is providing travel assistance by bus for schools in the region to attend this exhibition.

Developed by the National Archives of Australia with the support from the department of Veteran’s Affairs and supported by Visions of Australia, an Australian Government program supporting touring exhibitions by providing funding assistance for the development and touring of Australian cultural material across Australia.

For more information contact the Gallery on (02) 63402190