



A bi-monthly publication containing news, views, and reviews of activities at the Robert McDougall Art Gallery.

Number 24

November/December 1982

ISSN 0111-1426

The Olive Stirrat Bequest

The Christchurch City Council was recently advised that the Late Mrs T.O.G. Stirrat, a Life Member of the Friends Organisation and a keen supporter of the Gallery, had made a provision in her will for a bequest, the purpose of which is to be the acquisition of works of art for the Robert McDougall Art Gallery. The bequest which will be known as the *Olive Stirrat Bequest* is likely to be of the order of 90 to 100 thousand dollars, the largest single bequest to the Gallery since the gift of the Gallery itself by the Late Robert McDougall fifty years ago.

The Council and the Robert McDougall Art Gallery wish to acknowledge the assistance and generosity of Miss M.C.K. Richards of Christchurch, sister of the Late Mrs Stirrat and also a Life Member of the Friends Organisation, who indirectly contributed significantly to the bequest.

It is thought that by funding the capital sum, income of some 13 thousand to 15 thousand dollars per annum will be produced which will be a most welcome addition to the Council's normal level of funding for acquisitions and will greatly aid the development and growth of the Gallery's collection. Items purchased from the fund will bear acknowledgement to the Olive Stirrat Bequest Fund.

The most generous bequest is seen by the Gallery as an indication of Mrs Stirrat's great love of the visual arts and deep interest in the work of the Gallery. The gift is greatly appreciated by the Council, The Friends of the Robert McDougall Art Gallery and the staff of the Gallery.

Gallery Conservator Ms Lyndsay Knowles

The Gallery's new Conservator, Ms Lyndsay Knowles, recently returned from studies in Great Britain to take up her duties at the Gallery on September 27. Ms Knowles recently completed Post Graduate studies in paper conservation at the Gateshead Technical College. Graduating with a

Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Otago in 1968, Ms Knowles worked as a technical assistant with a patent attorneys' office and as a research assistant at the University of New South Wales School of Medicine before becoming interested in conservation work in Sydney in 1976.

Returning to New Zealand she commenced studies at the Dunedin Public Art Gallery conservation course. She undertook a six month internship in the Anthropology Department of the University of Auckland, working with Karel Peters the conservation officer in 1979/80, going on to work with Kate Woodgate-Jones at the Auckland Art Gallery. For the last two years she has been studying conservation of prints, drawings and watercolours at the Gateshead Technical College in Northern England. Ms Knowles immediate task is to survey the Gallery's works on paper collection and draw up a list of priorities for works needing urgent attention.

As the conservation laboratory is a regional facility, Ms Knowles' expertise is available to historical societies, libraries, museums and other institutions in the South Island for consultation on the treatment of works of art, documents, books, maps and other archival material.

Volunteers for the Stall at the A & P Show:

Remembering the successful promotional effort the Gallery staff and volunteers from the Friends mounted at last year's A & P Show we are planning to set up a similar stall this year. We will therefore be asking for volunteers who could help staff the stall on Friday 12 November.

We would be very grateful if you could spare a few hours on Show Day. Could you telephone in with your name and suitable times?

The Robert McDougall Art Gallery
P.O. Box 237 Christchurch.
Botanic Gardens, Rolleston Avenue,
Christchurch 1.
791-660 Extension 484



Ms Lyndsay Knowles

Seven Painters/The Eighties: December 21 — January 17

This exhibition features the work of Stephen Bambury, Gretchen Albrecht, Max Gimblett, James Ross, Richard Killeen, Ian Scott and Mervyn Williams. The unifying factor in this exhibition is that all of the works come under the broad banner of "Abstraction". However, within this definition there is considerable variety, ranging from Gretchen Albrecht's saturated colours and symmetrical shaped canvases to Killeen's painted metal cutouts which have escaped the confinement of the traditional frame.

There is no doubt that the 21 works will make a very stimulating exhibition.



Island Mentality No 2 1981,
Richard Killeen



And yet . . . maybe; Jeffrey Harris

**Robin Morrison — From The Road:
December 10 — January 16**

An exhibition of fifty South Island photographs.

The photographer spent six months travelling through the South Island with his family, recording and interpreting man-made landscape and avoiding the purely scenic aspect of the countryside. The resultant works have produced a striking exhibition which is sure to broaden the viewer's perception of his or her own environment.



*Pink Caravan, Otago Peninsula,
Robin Morrison*

**Face to Face: November 2 —
December 14**

This is the second in our series of mini photographic exhibitions and will show some excellent examples of Contemporary New Zealand portraiture. As with "The Nude Exposed" this exhibition is curated by Peter Ireland.

Moko: November 5–January 30

Over the past two centuries many European artists have been intrigued by the art of tattooing by the New Zealand Maori. Much interest in the subject increased after it ceased to be carried out on the Maori male during the 1860's. The soldier/artist Horatio Robley was so taken by it that he wrote and copiously illustrated a unique volume on this art form.

This small exhibition is in a sense the reflection of one art form in the imagery of another. It aims to explore how a number of artists including

Robley, Lindauer, Goldie and Way depicted the Moko in either drawing, painting or print making. We are indebted to the Canterbury Museum and the University of Canterbury Library who have made available on loan, items for display to assist the exhibition.

**Bea Maddock Prints 1960–1982:
December 16 — February 13:**

Bea Maddock is one of Australia's leading printmakers and the exhibition has been curated by the National Gallery with assistance from the artist herself.

Janine Burke (Melbourne) says about this artist, "Bea Maddock fragments, exposes and observes a world rife with disaster and disquieting incident. At the same time, she creates memorable images of common objects — a chair, her own coat, shoes and gloves — and throughout her oeuvre self portraits appear, which are either direct records of the artist's appearance . . . or more oblique records that above all form the strongest and most consistent theme in her art."

The exhibition is also of interest in that it shows the artist's versatility with various methods of print production, namely woodcuts, silkscreen printing and photo etching. A number of progressive proofs and colour trial proofs have been included in the exhibition to document image changes.



Seven 1974, Bea Maddock

Gallery Publications:

The Gallery has in preparation a full descriptive history and complete catalogue of the collection. This will compliment the recently published illustrated booklet which we would like to remind you is now on sale at the Gallery desk.

**20/20 Vision: December 16–
February 6**

Christchurch has had a reputation for fostering lively artist groups dating back to the days of the Palette Club in the 1890's. The 1960's were no exception; in that decade 20/20 Vision was born. Under the inspiration of John Coley and Tom Taylor, it offered to young contemporary artists an avenue for promoting experimental directions in their work.

The group carried out many successful exhibitions annually between 1964 and 1968 when twenty artists were invited each year to exhibit. It became of some concern though to many members of the group that few original works of art were accessible to all members of the public. The idea of the multiple print seemed to provide the right answer to the problem as it filled the gap when original paintings were beyond the means of many.

During February 1968 20/20 Vision invited several artists to make drawings for serigraphs to be produced in editions of one hundred by a commercial printer. These prints were subsequently exhibited in Dominion Motors showroom in March of 1968 and were offered for sale at \$2.00 per print. The emphasis on accessibility of these works was made by deliberately not exhibiting in an art gallery situation.

The exhibition we have prepared incorporates most of the multiple prints offered for sale in 1968. Today the multiple print is quite a common feature of many contemporary New Zealand artists work, a tribute to the initiation of this idea made by 20/20 Vision a decade and a half ago.

Acquisitions:

The following works have been recently purchased.

Julia Morison
Rhombus B4

Jeffrey Harris
Homage to Van Gogh XV
Acrylic on Canvas

Jacques Callot
Title Page 'Les Grandes Miseres De La Guerre' 1633
Etching

Gordon Walters
Untitled 1981
Acrylic on Canvas

Antony Kuepfer
Bowl
Glass
Vase
Glass

Peter Masters
Pod Flower
Ceramic Form

Roy Lichtenstein
Flower
Screenprint

Memo

In this, the last News Letter for Jubilee Year, 1982, we make our last appeal to each of our current Friends to enrol one new member in the Friends of the 'McDougall' for 1983.

Do you know that if every Friend brought in as many new members as our President has this year we would have a Society of twenty-five thousand members! Heaven forbid! We could not cope with that many but an average of one each will provide an encouraging base membership of a thousand Friends on which your Society can consolidate and from which it can grow in the future.

We know that many members have enjoyed this year: the A.G.M. evening, the coffee mornings, the Jubilee Ball and the opening of the Dutch Still Life Exhibition to mention some of the highlights. And to come in December a Christmas 'Party' but more about that later.

With this Bulletin and News Letter we have published the first full list of members. In a few days time you will also receive your 1983 subscription account and with this the Society's brochure outlining the aims and advantages of membership.

The cunning thought here is that the list will enable you to discover which of your art-interested friends aren't yet Friends of the McDougall! The brochure provides the argument for joining **and** an enrolment form.

We wish you all then a Pleasant Festive Season and a Happy Friends Gathering for 1983.

Coffee Mornings:

At the August Coffee Morning a large and thoroughly attentive audience heard our President, Robert Erwin, give an illustrated address on Dutch Still Life Painting This was timed to coincide with the travelling Exhibition and proved to be most illuminating making the exhibition itself that much more meaningful and enjoyable.

At the Coffee Morning held on 15 September John Coley, the Gallery's Director, spoke of his recent visit to Hawaii, Los Angeles and Seattle. His account of the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, the Paul Getty Museum and the Henry E. Huntington Museum was fascinating as was his description of Seattle, whose Gallery, both in its design, setting and location is not unlike that of the McDougall. The fact that Seattle's building regulations require a proportion of the estimates for the construction costs of public and civic buildings to be set aside for art works demonstrated the keen appreciation of the visual arts in our newest sister city. Perhaps the Friends of the McDougall might also follow the lead of the Friends of the Los Angeles County Museum of Art; for an annual subscription of \$1000 you can become a member of the exclusive "Presidents' Club" and **really** support the visual arts!

Wednesday, November 17 at 10.30 am sees the final Coffee Morning for the year. The well known Christchurch weaver, Vivienne Mountford, will talk on her own work and on the work of other New Zealand weavers which she will illustrate with slides.

Please Note: There will not be Coffee Mornings in either December or January.

Greeting Cards:

A number of Friends, as well as visitors to the Gallery, have expressed the wish to have some more cards showing works in the collection. The committee is exploring the possibility of arranging for the publication of a series of greetings cards. We would be very pleased to hear from anyone with suggestions to make about what art works he or she would like to see reproduced on the cards. If you have any special preferences do write to us at the Gallery or telephone Robert Erwin or Pat Unger.

International Music Day Recital:

Friday 1 October was International Music Day and, to mark the occasion the Friends, in association with the School of Music at the University of Canterbury, presented an evening recital in the Gallery's centre court. The artists were Maurice Till and Carl Pini, who played works by Mozart and Schubert. Those who attended were rewarded by an evening which was absolutely appropriate for works such as Mozart's Sonata for violin and piano in B Flat, K 454 and Schubert's "Wanderer" fantasy for solo piano. Afterwards, over wine and cheese, Friends could talk to the artists and walk through the galleries. Your Executive hopes next year to present other similar recitals and we look forward to your support on such occasions.

A Christmas Celebration:

Friends of the Robert McDougall Art Gallery will have the opportunity for a final get-together in 1982 at the Opening of the Seven Painters/The Eighties Exhibition on 21 December.

Some Christmas Cheer will be served and it is hoped that the first gift to the Gallery from the Friends Picture Acquisition Fund will be presented on that occasion. Further details will come with your subscription notice a little later this month.



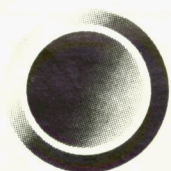
Coming Events

The Robert McDougall Art Gallery

November — December

-
- November 1** **New Zealand craft and ceramics** from the permanent collection 19th and 20th century works from the gallery collection. Jubilee Installations.
- 2** **Face to Face** New Zealand Photographs until 14 December.
- 5** **Moko** until 30 January.
- 14** **Gallery Concert Sevall Musicians** programme of Italian Baroque Music 3.00pm.
- 17** **Friends Coffee Morning**, Vivienne Mountford will speak on 'N.Z. Weaving' 10.30am.
- 28** **Gallery Concert** Cantabile Singers 3.00pm.
- December 1** **Margaret Finnerty Weaving** until 1 February.
- 1** **New Zealand Drawing** until 12 December.
- 1** **Moko** until 30 January.
- 1** **Face to Face** until 14 December.
- 10** **Robin Morrison** until 16 January.
- 16** **Bea Maddock** until 13 February.
- 16** **20/20 Vision prints** until 6 February.
- 21** **Opening for Seven Painters/the Eighties** and **Friends Christmas Celebration**. 8pm.

Exhibition dates could vary slightly.



**Friends of the Robert McDougall Art
Gallery Inc.**