



Christchurch City Council



# The Robert McDougall Art Gallery

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Robert McDougall Art Gallery  
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Art  
Annex  
Project



*Val Griffith Jones, Stuffing On*

## Art Annex Project

The project to extend the McDougall's exhibition areas by establishing an annex gallery at the Arts Centre, in what is now the Arts Centre Gallery, received the support of the Lottery Board when approval of a \$30,000 subsidy towards the \$97,500 costs of refurbishing the space was given.

Sponsorship is being sought for the remaining sum.

The proposal to assume management of the present Arts Centre Gallery, was put to the Council by the Gallery early this year. The Arts Centre space was available and underutilised as an exhibition venue because of the lack of supervising staff. Upgraded, equipped and staffed to present some touring but mainly advanced exhibitions of younger Canterbury artists, the proposed annex would relieve pressure on the McDougall's limited space and allow longer term presentation of the permanent collection in the McDougall itself while providing an exciting venue for a variety of temporary exhibitions and events at the Arts Centre.

On budget night, the Council approved estimates for staffing and administering

the annex provided that the gallery raise the \$97,500 required to refurbish the space to professional standards.

The Lottery Board's promise of \$30,000 is a welcome boost to the progress of fundraising, presently a difficult task when so many other worthwhile community projects are competing for commercial sponsorship.

To help the project along, the gallery will be asking visitors from November 23 to January 13 to contribute a modest donation towards the refurbishing costs; \$2 for adults and \$1 for children.

Two exhibitions of wide general appeal have been arranged for this period.

## Stuffing On

**Fabric Art  
by Val Griffith Jones  
November 23-January 13**

Val Griffith Jones, a Plimmerton fabric artist, was a member of the group of women artists who created the enormously successful satirical "Stuffed Stuff" exhibition which attracted 71,000 visits to the Gallery in 1986.

This time alone, Val has created a number of wall and free standing works



in fabric which with gentle wit and irony address the values of conventional family life, relationships and boisterous suburban activity.

The themes that underly her colourful and entertaining creations are serious — the image of the woman who has knitted herself into a cruciform doormat is firstly amusing, then troubling. The artist wryly observes hilarious detail in the miniskirted motorcyclist with a jellimeat boxful of french breadsticks riding home with her, pillion. Her work is solidly grounded in her experience as a woman serving her family in the isolation of suburbia where the issues and theories of high art are irrelevant and where life can become an oppressive round of chores and duty. Val Griffith Jones' discovery of kindred souls longing to assert their individuality and ideas through a shared interest in fabric art was a revelation and a liberating force in her life. The experience of mutual respect, support and openness is expressed in a work which has a group of friends seated together in a large spa pool unglamorously sharing good humoured companionship. Stuffing On recognises that the domestic skills normally utilised in mending jeans, making clothes and cushion covers can also be used to create the imaginative personal statements of art.

### The Family

November 23-January 13

The leading fabric artist Malcolm Harrison, has created 'The Family' an extraordinary group of doll-like figures, each exquisitely crafted and impeccably fitted out in clothes appropriate to their individual characters. The Family belongs to southern American black culture and embraces gamblers, musicians, fancy women, children wild and sweet, pillars of respectability and backsliders, each with a biography and relationship to another. The detail of this exhibition is as fascinating as the convincing reality of this remarkable, intriguing collection of characters.



Malcolm Harrison, Thomas



Philip Clairmont, Overcoat over the chair

A special opening for Stuffing On and The Family is planned for Monday November 23, 7.30 p.m.

### Philip Clairmont

December 10-January 13

It is tragic that this exhibition is a memorial one. Three years ago Philip Clairmont ended his life tragically in his 34th year.

Many Christchurch people will bring strong personal memories to this very carefully selected exhibition of paintings, prints and drawings by Clairmont during the period 1969-83. This was the time when his fractured and transformed domestic scenes, faces and

figures were becoming recognized as his highly individual style. It was also the period when many were declaring him the enfant terrible of New Zealand expressionism.

In his works people saw the influence of the popular music of Hendrix and Dylan. They also said it was a drug induced vision although Clairmont himself said, "You cannot actually work when you're taking the stuff. The thing is that drugs work both for and against creation. Anyway, they only reinforce things that already exist in the artist."

Often they overlooked Clairmont's careful control of the formal elements. He was very aware of the work of Max Beckmann and Ludwig Kirchner and of



techniques which increased the ambiguity of surfaces and colour. He was interested too in referring to self-portraits, frames and mirrors in his images, playing with the dichotomy of self and depiction, me and you, her and him, inner and outer.

We can therefore approach this major exhibition of Philip Clairmont's work, which is organised and toured by the Sargeant Gallery with the assistance of the Queen Elizabeth II Arts Council and the NZAGDC, in two ways. As tortured, magical, demonic images or as formal manipulations and visual ambiguities, the images in this exciting exhibition curated by J. and M. Barr challenge the coherence and unity of our world vision.

A special opening will be held on December 10 at 7.30 p.m.

### New Gallery Secretary and Gallery Registrar

We are pleased to welcome to the staff and to introduce the new Gallery Secretary, Julia Mackenzie, who joins us from a secretarial position at the Canterbury University where she also studied art history.

Julia replaces Anne Crighton who has been appointed to the newly established post of Gallery Registrar.

Our congratulations also to Anne who has now served the gallery in three capacities; as Treasurer of the Friends, Gallery Secretary and now as Registrar.



Julia Mackenzie

### Acquisitions

The following works have been recently purchased.

**Gordon Walters**  
*Untitled 1987*  
Acrylic on canvas



*William Holmes, Lyttelton from the water*

**William Howard Holmes**  
*Lyttelton From The Water — April 1852*  
Pen and Wash  
Purchased with assistance from the Olive Stirrat Bequest

*Akaroa From The Cemetery Looking N.E. January 16 1852*  
Pen and Wash  
Purchased with assistance from the Olive Stirrat Bequest

### Coming Events

- November 1 Works from the Gallery's collection**  
Dutch and French works, Kelly, Nicoll, McIntyre and Stoddart — Until January 6  
**John Weeks** — until November 15  
**Matt Pine** — until November 15
- 1 Lecture 3.00 p.m. — Pat Hanly**, a major New Zealand painter, will give a slide lecture on "Prophecy or Protest. Hanly's works from the early sixties to the present time."
- 7 Saturday Club 10.30 a.m.** Art appreciation club.
- 8 Concert — Musique Galante & Rococo Art.** Recital of harpsichord music and art from 18th century presented by Peter Low. 3 p.m.
- 14 Continuing Club 10.30 a.m.** — Art appreciation club. All welcome.
- 18 Friends Speaker of the Month and Coffee Morning 10.30 a.m.** Mark Stocker, Lecturer School of Fine Arts University of Canterbury will speak on Victorian sculpture.
- 19 Kilmarnock Club 10.30 a.m.**
- 23 Stuffing On, Fabric Art** by Val Griffith Jones and **The Family** by Malcolm Harrison exhibitions — opening function 7.30 p.m.
- 25 Wednesday Club 1.30 p.m.** Art appreciation club — all welcome.
- 25 Bulletin Mail out Group 9.30 a.m.**
- 27 Volunteers Morning** — Social morning and guided tour for Gallery volunteer assistants 10.30 a.m.-12 noon.



- December 1 Stuffing On and The Family** — until January 13  
**Works from the Gallery's collection** — until January 6
- 5 Saturday Club 10.30 a.m.** Art appreciation club — all welcome
- 6 Slide Lecture.** Regina Haggio, Lecturer School of Fine Arts University of Canterbury will speak on Modern attitudes to Women where they came from. A slide lecture using examples from the archeology of the past.
- 10 Philip Clairmont exhibition opening 7.30 p.m.**
- 12 Continuing Club 10.30 a.m.** Art appreciation club — all welcome
- 13 Friends of the Robert McDougall Art Gallery Christmas Function 5.30 p.m.**

Exhibition dates and programmes could vary slightly.

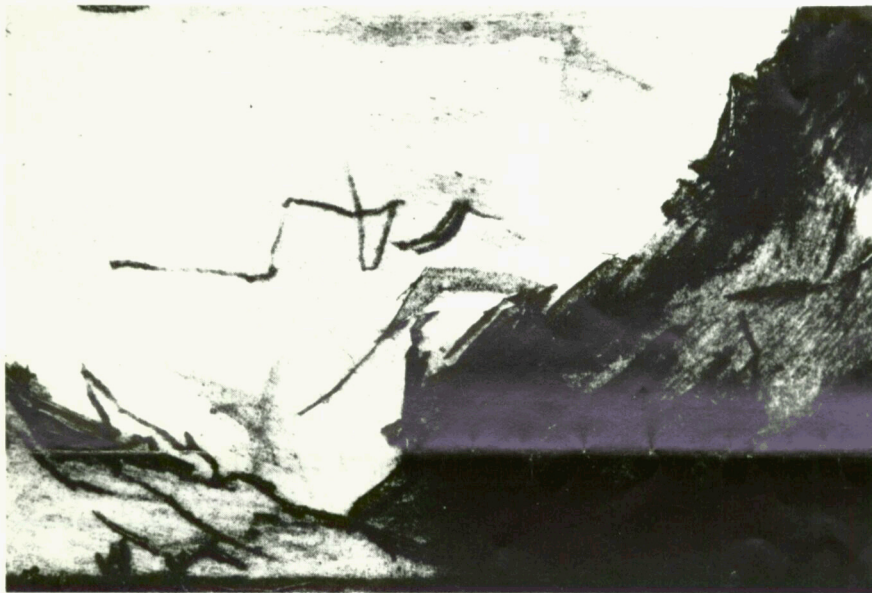
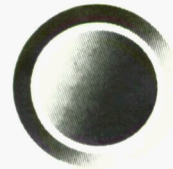


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## Friends of the Robert McDougall Art Gallery Inc.

President — Peter Simpson 842-506  
Secretary — Judith Hamilton 515-288  
Treasurer — Chris Brocket 557-133

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Sue Cooke, *Ohau I*, edition of 30, 310x470mm

### Print Club's First Print

The Friends of the Robert McDougall Art Gallery are pleased and proud to present for sale to their members their first original print by an invited artist.

"Ohau I" is a Cardboard Engraving in an edition of 30 by Christchurch artist Sue Cooke:

"The print selected for the Print Club has been chosen from a series of six prints. The series is based on Lake Ohau and further explores ideas from the 'Panorama' and related working drawings."

Sue has made her print available to Friends of the McDougall through the Print Club at a very special price of \$125.00.

Each print is accompanied by documentation relating relevant information about the print and edition.

These can be ordered by filling out and returning the order form enclosed with this bulletin. Prints ordered by Friends in the Christchurch area may be collected from the Gallery after November 1st. Please allow one week after ordering to allow for processing and packaging. Prints can be packaged and sent to purchasers. A charge of \$10.00 covers this, as indicated on the order form.

The Print Club has purchased one print from this edition, an artist's proof, as a gift for the Gallery's Print Collection.

This will be on view in the Gallery foyer from November 1. Early ordering will improve the chances of securing a print. Unsuccessful subscribers will have their money refunded in full.

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### W.A. Sutton A Personal Choice Friends Evening

A large gathering of Friends was present when the Robert McDougall Gallery held a special opening for the exhibition, Bill Sutton's "personal choice". He had been invited to make a selection of art works from the gallery's permanent collection.

As well as having a major reputation as a landscape painter who has managed to capture the essence of this region in his art, Mr Sutton is a former teacher at the University of Canterbury's School of Fine Arts.

Those present were also given the opportunity to hear Mr Sutton's explanation for his choice of works. He said this was based on the consideration of how paintings were made — their structure or composition — and how each work related in this manner to each other. A video of this artist discussing his choices also added insight to the exhibition.

The concept of exhibitions based on local personality's preferences offers some interesting possibilities and we look forward to other such "personal choices".

### Speaker of the Month September

At the September "Speaker of the Month" meeting Philip Trusttun spoke to the Friends about the stained glass windows he has designed for the new Aurora Group building on the Terrace in Wellington. He conveyed the excitement and joy of creating the work most vividly and by encouraging questions and comments the audience became thoroughly involved in the whole process of cutting, glass etching and assembly of the work. Repeated circular, multicoloured patterns inspired by an Indian bead necklace form the basis of the design which spreads over three enormous windows totalling some 45m in width and 5m in height. The execution of the design by Ben Hanly and Sue Johnson sounded a formidable task, but by the time it is erected and unveiled in mid October it should be a remarkable sight both from the Terrace and from inside the building. Philip Trusttun was applauded by the Friends for his exciting and original concept.

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### New Members

M.R. Armstrong & G.M. Parry  
J.M. Chaffey  
Mr G.J.C. Clark  
J.A.G. & M. Espie  
Mrs J.M. Foley  
Mr & Mrs H.A. Forster  
Mrs M.E. Graham  
Mrs M.E. Grantham  
Mr & Mrs R.D. Grant  
Rena Jarosewitsch  
K. Leek & D. Cameron  
Mr & Mrs R.N. Lord  
Adrienne D. Marshall  
R.J. McKenzie  
S.L.M. Martin  
Mrs J. Moon  
Mrs J.M. Pettit  
Janice Quigley  
M.E. Rennie  
Mrs C.E. Sell & Mrs C.M. Crawford  
Devon Sinclair  
R. & S. Smith  
Mr & Mrs R.L. Tapley  
I.R. & M.C. Telfer  
Gary Thompson  
S.S. & L.B. Turner  
Mr P. Trusttun  
B. & J. Ward  
Faith Wright