



Christchurch City Council



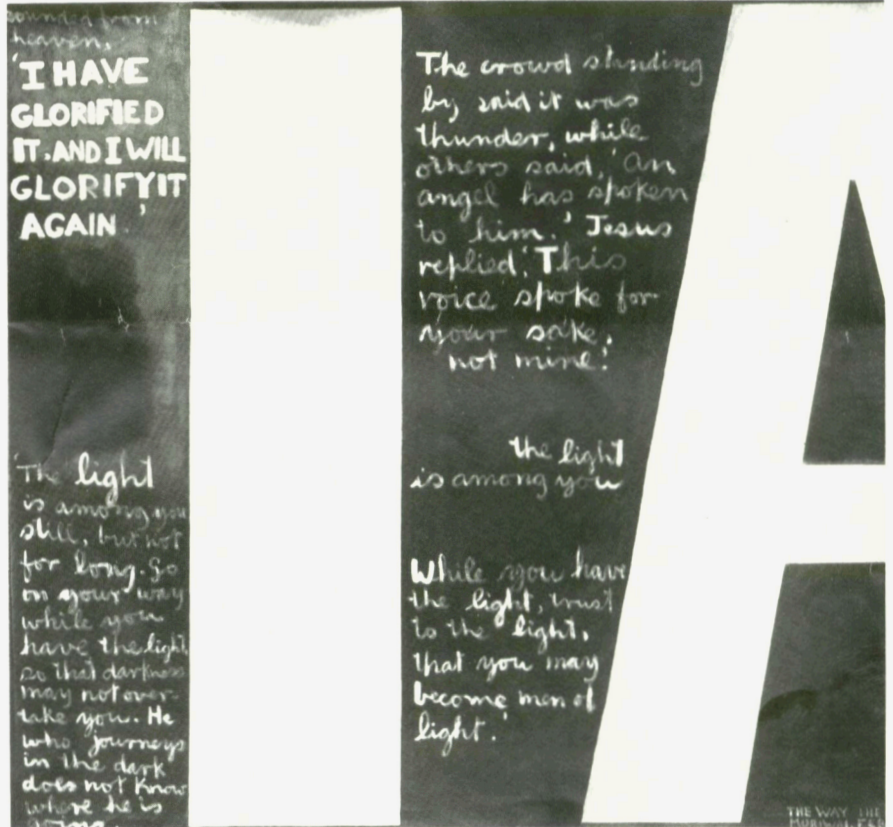
The Robert McDougall Art Gallery

ISSN 0111-1426

Number 65 September/October 1989

Robert McDougall Art Gallery
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Colin McCahon



Colin McCahon, *Victory over Death 2* 1970 (detail).

Colin McCahon Gates and Journeys October 2-December 10

Our major touring show for 1989, this large exhibition of over 50 works by Colin McCahon is truly a major event of the year. It is a memorial, or tribute to Colin McCahon, New Zealand's great visionary artist of the twentieth century and internationally widely recognised, who died in Auckland in 1987.

Although it is a retrospective exhibition 'Colin McCahon: Gates and Journeys' wisely resists the obvious chronological format. Instead it presents his works in seven separate categories: the early religious works of the 1945-59 period, Landscapes from the South, Titirangi/Kauri, Journeys, Gates, Numbers - Texts and Victory over Death.

McCahon's works have tended to either delight or to outrage. They have always challenged and confronted. His huge black canvases filled with thunderous Biblical declarations, personal statements and urgent scrawling calligraphy are among his most widely known and most frequently contentious images. You will recall the

levels of public outcry and vilification which greeted the 1961 award of the Hay's Prize to McCahon or the more recent acquisitions to the Gallery's collection of *Tomorrow will be the same but not as this is in 1962* or *As there is a constant flow of Light* in 1982.

McCahon was an obsessively committed artist. He saw an urgent need to depict the New Zealand landscape as he found it and to put us in touch with the spiritual and bicultural elements of our land. He was also a major catalyst in exposing us to the new techniques of American modernism and he was a brilliant teacher. He was a cultured man with an astonishing knowledge of art and, as Ian Widde the art critic writes, "He was immensely ambitious. He was plagued with doubt yet he is to be the greatest discovery of the international art scene since the late Joseph Beuys".

'Colin McCahon: Gates and Journeys' is therefore a big show in many ways. It will occupy all the exhibition space in our Gallery. Its impact on the local art scene will be tremendous. Within its contents we will have scope to re-examine McCahon's works and personally reassess what we believe it is he's saying.

This is a challenging exercise. Some will undoubtedly depart still confused and disturbed, persisting in a degree of mystification and incomprehension. Others will find 'Colin McCahon: Gates and Journeys' a unique path towards an understanding of these fine works by an amazing artist.

This exhibition is the touring segment of the Auckland City Art Gallery's centenary exhibition and was organised with the assistance of the Queen Elizabeth II Arts Council and indemnified by the New Zealand Government. The tour to

Wellington, Christchurch and Dunedin is supported by N.Z. Express Removals.

It also comes with an extensive catalogue with four major essays and a well edited biography with selected quotations from McCahon's own writings. We will also be showing a 10 minute biographical slide tape programme and a 52 minute video by Meridian Films entitled 'Victory over Death'. Gallery Guides will be on duty throughout the exhibition and will be pleased to discuss the works on view with our visitors.

Sadly, because of the considerable costs of bringing such an exhibition to the city we are in a situation where we will need to ask visitors for a very modest admission charge. Adults \$3, Friends, Students and Beneficiaries \$2. Considering the quality of the experience offered by 'Colin McCahon: Gates and Journeys', we know our patrons will agree with its value.

The exhibition will be officially opened by Hamish Keith on Sunday evening October 1 at 5.30 p.m.

McDOUGALL ART ANNEX

Arts Centre, Worcester Street
P.O. Box 2626 Christchurch
Telephone 650-915

Hours 10 a.m.-1.00 p.m. 1.30 p.m.-4.30 p.m. daily

Nicola Jackson October 24-November 20

Dunedin based artist Nicola Jackson is best known for her small highly detailed and vividly coloured papier-mâché three dimensional paintings. In the past these works have concentrated on the autobiographical - that is, self portraits which allude to particular aspects of Jackson's life. Linked to the imagery found in these self portraits are almost scientific references to human anatomy, an interest which dates back to the late nineteen-seventies when Jackson was enrolled at the Canterbury School of Fine Arts. Jackson comments that she "was concerned not so much with how anatomy works, but with ways of showing it I also liked associated meanings such as 'the heart is courage'."

Jackson's work was exhibited at the Robert McDougall in 1985 as part of the 'Fresh Art' group show. The exhibition at the Annex will feature a large free standing work as well as the more familiar papier-mâché paintings. Preview on Monday, October 23 at 5 p.m.



Nicola Jackson, *Self Portrait with other Fish.*

Sex and Sign September 21-October 19

Sex and Sign was curated by Auckland University teacher and art critic Dr Wytan Curnow. It includes work by five artists who, as Dr Curnow comments in his catalogue essay, "are also readers in fact skilled readers undaunted by the most difficult of texts".

The artists have addressed the 'problem' of gender, and the nature of sexuality in a period described by the curator as one of decadence. "Society, we might say, has broken down, we are in that period of decadence, and have been for quite some time. This exhibition is as much a function of it as Rogernomics."

It is a thought-provoking and intellectually

important exhibition, bringing together works by five of New Zealand's most challenging artists, (Terrence Handscomb, Julia Morison, Ralph Paine, Merylyn Tweedie, and Christine Webster). It deals with issues of direct relevance to our culture. Preview on Wednesday September 20, at 5 p.m.

Acquisitions

The following works have been purchased:

William D. Hammond

Talk Talk

Ink and Pencil

Specified Departures

Lithograph 25/25

Barry Cleavin

Small bull being tormented by a lady

Etching 9/30

Betrothal

Etching 10/50

Frederick V. Ellis

Nightfall on the Sabine Hills, Rome

Oil on Board

Judy Darragh

Evolution, 1989

Wood and Plastic Assemblage

Alfred H. Cook

Untitled, 1932

Pencil Drawing

Sam Mahon

Drought, No. 1

Oil on Board

William Strang

Untitled, 1882

Etching

Mervyn Taylor

Serenity

Lino Print

William A. Sutton

Hills and Plains, 1956

Oil on Canvasboard

J. Fraser Scott

The Jesuati, Venice

Woodcut

Edgar B. Vaughan

Sketching Recollections No. 1

Ink Drawing

An Affecting Moment

Ink Drawing

Jule Einhorn

Interior with Vase

Lithograph 2/15

Boyd Webb

Untitled, 1988

Unique Cibachrome photograph

Jason Greig

Batwing, 1987

2 colour relief etching A/P

Baseheart, 1988

Hardground etching A/P

Self, 1987

Relief Etching A/P

Berenice, 1988

Transfer Lithograph 8/20

Gail Wright

Month of May, 1989

Blackboard Paint, Iridescent acrylic on customboard

The following painting was presented to the gallery by Mrs M. Bradshaw, Christchurch:

Sydney L. Thompson

A Corner of Lake Wanaka in Autumn

Oil on Canvas

For over a decade visitors to the Gallery have had great pleasure from the thoughtful, creative, floral arrangements provided by Margaret Best. Margaret has given over one and a half million visitors a glimpse of her garden and considerable talents. Unfortunately Margaret is unable to continue this mammoth task and the suggestion is that the job could be shared amongst several people. Anyone interested in providing floral arrangements for maybe a month at a time please contact Merilynne Evans at the Gallery.



Margaret Best.

Coming Events:

- September**
- 1 Constructed Intimacies** toured by The Moët and Chandon N.Z. Art Foundation – until September 24
 - Recent Acquisitions** to the Gallery's collection – until September 17
 - French Prints** – until September 17
 - Susan Wilson** – until September 24
 - 1-11 School Holiday Programme – 'A MAZE ment'** A fun holiday activity for 'juniors' aged 8-18
 - 2 Saturday Club** 10.30 a.m. Art Appreciation Club for adults. All welcome.
 - 3 'Creative Photography'** seminar conducted by Van Deren Coke, the distinguished Professor of the History of Photography and Art History at the University of Arizona and 1989 Fulbright Scholar, 5-7 p.m. Admission \$10. Registrations for this seminar will be taken at the Gallery Information Desk.
 - 6 Wednesday Club** 10.30 a.m. Art appreciation club for adults. All welcome.
 - 8 Volunteers Morning** 10.30 a.m. A social morning and guided tour of 'Constructed Intimacies' and 'Recent Gallery Acquisitions' for Gallery volunteers.
 - 9 Continuing Club** 10.30 a.m. Art Appreciation club for adults.
 - 17 Concert** Jonathon Harper presents his 'Guitar and Art Movements' programme, 3 p.m.
 - 19 Susan Wilson** A viewing of the exhibition and meet the artist 5 p.m.
 - 20 Friends Speaker of the Month** 10.30 a.m. Peter Lees-Jefferies will speak on 'Theatre Design'. Coffee served \$1.50.
 - 21 Kilmarnock Club** 10.30 a.m. Gallery club for disabled visitors. All welcome.
- October**
- 1 Official opening for 'Colin McCahon Gates and Journeys'** 5.30 p.m.
 - 2 Colin McCahon Gates and Journeys** – Admission Adults \$3, Friends, Beneficiaries and Students \$2. Exhibition continues until December 10.
 - 4 Wednesday Club** 10.30 a.m. Art appreciation club for adults. Admission \$2. All welcome.
 - 7 Saturday Club** 10.30 a.m. Art appreciation club for adults. Admission \$2. All welcome.
 - 8 Lecture** 3 p.m. John Summers well-known Canterbury Poet and art writer will speak on his recollections of McCahon in Canterbury 1948-53. Admission \$2.
 - 13 Volunteers morning** 10.30 a.m. A social morning and guided tour of the McCahon exhibition for Gallery volunteers.
 - 14 Continuing Club** 10.30 a.m. Art appreciation club for adults. Admission \$2.
 - 13-15 Annual Conference** in Christchurch of the N.Z. Art Gallery Supporter organisations. Delegates from Gallery organisations throughout the country will be meeting in Christchurch this weekend. If you wish to enrol as a local Friend of the Conference please contact Barbara Stevens 798-757 before September 15.
 - 15 Public Lecture** 3 p.m. T. L. Rodney Wilson will speak on Colin McCahon. Admission \$2.
 - 18 Friends Speaker of the Month** 10.30 a.m. A visit to the Logie Collection of Greek vases at the University of Canterbury Classics Department Logie Room. Coffee will be served in the Logie Room 10-10.30 a.m. A map of the campus, or transport from the McDougall can be arranged at the Gallery Information desk. Phone 650-915.
 - 19 Kilmarnock Club** 10.30 a.m. Gallery club for disabled visitors.

Exhibition dates and programmes could vary slightly.

Friends of the Robert McDougall Art Gallery Inc.

President – Ian Miles 519-955

Vice-President – Hilary Langer 483-982

Treasurer – Chris Brocket 557-133

Secretary – Gwen Wilton 663-675



Pre Raphaelite Evening

The opening of the Pre-Raphaelite exhibition by William Main on July 20 also served as an opportunity for Friends and their guests to don colourful hats and participate in a festive evening. Friends were entertained by members of the Hagley Theatre Company from Hagley High School who brought panache and style to the serving of food and drinks, and who created an atmosphere of exuberance and vitality that spread throughout the evening.

Speaker of the Month – June John Coley

It would be difficult to think of anyone better qualified to discuss Canterbury artists of the 50's and 60's than John Coley, who spoke to the June meeting of the Friends of the Robert McDougall Art Gallery. It was a personal view, based on his own involvement and experiences, entertainingly presented and profusely illustrated.

Speaker of the Month – July Pamela Gerrish Nunn

An excellent talk by Pamela Gerrish Nunn, lecturer in art history at the University of Canterbury, on 'The Pre-Raphaelite Movement', helped to set the scene for the forthcoming exhibition of photographs from the same era. Ridiculed by such people as Dickens but greatly championed by John Ruskin, a group of English painters in the middle of last century decided to revert to the style of masters before Raphael who did not strive for beauty at the expense of reality. They painted in a highly precise manner, using vivid colours and showing meticulous detail. Landscape painting, no longer in the studio but in nature, became extremely realistic, with the artist acting as the eye of the spectator and painting what he saw with moral fervour and almost religious zeal.

New Members

Glyn Strange
Dr and Mrs P. F. Sheppard
Pamela Gerrish Nunn
Carmel Berg
Julie Kidd
Charlotte S.J. Johnstone
G.W. & A.M. Crozier
R.J. & M.J. Armstrong
Rosemary Page
Audrey M. Parker (*Life*)
J.M. White-Johnson



The young team from Hagley High School who entertained so well.



Members of the Friends Executive Geoff Clark, Sam Beveridge and our President Ian Miles at the Pre-Raphaelite Evening.

G.E.W. Sutton
Barbara Smith
P.N. Lilly
Sonia Lilly
M.C. & A.J. Mathias
Michael & Annette Caswell
Dr and Mrs G.N. Ferner
F.L. Treleaven
Ruth Helms
J.R. Brown
Mr and Mrs D.S. Thomas
J. & S. Milligan

The Friends of the McDougall express their thanks for the support shown by the Christchurch business community through their recent subscriptions in the new category of 'Corporate' membership.

Corporate Members

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