



Christchurch City Council



# The Robert McDougall Art Gallery

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Robert McDougall Art Gallery  
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ARTS  
MAGAZINE



*Members of Kotahitanga Culture Group at the opening of 'A Canterbury Perspective'.*



*From left to right: Mayor Vicki Buck, the Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Geoffrey Palmer, Mr W. Stirling, John Coley, at the opening of 'A Canterbury Perspective'.*

## A CANTERBURY PERSPECTIVE

'A Canterbury Perspective' opened on February 23, 1990. It was a beautiful evening and apart from the competition of 'Classical Sparks' and the Horticultural Festival the evening went without a hitch. Prime Minister, the Right Honourable, Geoffrey Palmer, opened 'A Canterbury Perspective' and without further ado the 346 works were on view to the guests. Some 500 people attended the official opening which included a Maori welcome by the Kotahitanga people, refreshments in a huge blue and white striped marquee,

and a recital from the Hagley High School Choir which was specifically written for the opening by Professor John Ritchie. The exhibition so far has been highly successful and in the first three weeks there had been no less than 16,000 visitors through. Many people have commented on both the quality and variety of works as well as the manner in which the works have been displayed. Our thanks must go to Trust Bank Canterbury for their generosity throughout this exhibition.



## Art Annex



### Farewell to Laurence Hall

Laurence, Assistant Curator of the Art Annex, joined the staff of the McDougall in September 1988, just two weeks prior to the first exhibition opening there. That exhibition was entitled 'Here and Now' and was a show of 12 young Canterbury artists.

Laurence came to us from the Dowse Art Museum, Lower Hutt, where she was the Museum Researcher for two years.

She has enjoyed working first hand with the installations, talking and working with artists, and the environment of the Arts Centre.

Laurence is going overseas and will be based in France where she hopes to enjoy plenty of art and opera. She might also pursue Museum Studies in Britain but eventually Laurence will probably return to New Zealand.

We wish her well in her travels and for the future.

### Contemporary Maori Artists: John Bevan Ford, Ngapine Allen, Emare Karaka, Darcy Nicholas. June 14-July 17

An exhibition by four contemporary Maori artists is to be shown at the Art Annex in the Arts Centre from June 14-July 17.

Although from differing backgrounds and working in a range of media, the artists share a common commitment to the concerns of Maoritanga, and place importance on the spiritual concerns of the land and its people.

#### Crone Case 1989

By Lauren Lethal

"I found this 'old lady' mask in the horror section of a toy shop!! I am reclaiming her - this is my tribute to the Crone."



### The Art Annex Welcomes Lara Strongman

Laurence's departure has seen the timely arrival of Lara Strongman. Lara has a B.A. Honours degree in Art History from the University of Canterbury and is presently completing her M.A. thesis on Tony Fomison. Lara has also worked for the University Bookshop.

Contemporary New Zealand Art is Lara's interest area and she has written book reviews for the Christchurch Press on occasions, so we are sure she is well-suited to the Art Annex.

Lara's interests include contemporary theatre, reading, gardening, home renovation, and swimming.

We all hope that Lara enjoys her time with us at the McDougall.

## Containments

Lauren Lethal - Jane Zusters  
McDougall Art Annex until June 5

Opening at the McDougall Art Annex, Christchurch, on May 2, 1990 is 'Containments' - an exhibition by Lauren Lethal and Jane Zusters.

Although Lethal and Zusters' work is dissimilar in this show, both artists are working with containers.

Zusters' containers are cardboard boxes which have been flattened out, then painted in such a way as to preserve fragments of the labels. Lethal's containers are brief cases which have taken in unexpected cargo.

Of her work in this exhibition, Zusters says:

"For me the use of the cardboard box underlines the connection between art and daily life. I earn my daily bread by making art and my daily life is the stuff of my art. As a response to living it seems appropriate to recycle the cardboard containers which package our days; hence this work - from the 'Garbage of Our Days'."

Lethal comments:

"My brief cases are open and shut cases, extreme cases, bad cases, and sometimes not necessarily the case. The capsules are a panacea? A reminder? A Farewell?"

### Volunteer Security Staff Needed at the Annex

If you could spare up to 2 hours during a weekday or at the weekend and are willing to assist at the Annex with minding the desk, answering the phone and seeing to general public enquiries, please contact the Gallery and leave your name and telephone number with Martin, Lara or Penny.





## Acquisitions:

The following works were generously gifted to the gallery.

### John Gibb

*Lyttelton, 1886*  
Oil on canvas

### Sydney Lough Thompson

*Lyttelton Harbour from the Bridle Path, 1937*

Oil on canvas

### Douglas Badcock

*Lyttelton Harbour Port*

Oil on Board

Presented by the Lyttelton Harbour Board.

### Alan Pearson

*Marie Staples*

Pencil Drawing

Presented by the artist.

The following works have been acquired for the collection:

### Philip Clairmont

*Black Crucifixion (Sic)*

Screenprint

### John S. Parker

*Plain Song Quartet*

Oil on board

### Linda James

*The Awakening*

Oil and Pastel on Loose Canvas

### Joanna Braithwaite

*Horse III*

Charcoal Drawing

### Terry Stringer

*Bathing Venue*

Bronze

### W. A. Sutton

*Port Hills I*

Watercolour

## Staff Appointments



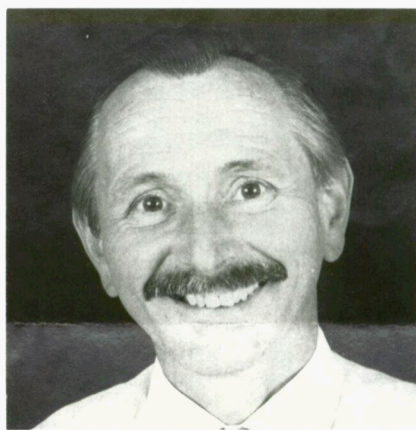
### Dianne Appleby

Dianne has recently joined our staff as an Administrative Assistant. On leaving school Dianne worked at the Christchurch National Marae for three years before taking a Radio Broadcasting course at Christchurch Polytechnic. Dianne has been involved with the 'Summertimes' project as a Technical Assistant. Her interests include dancing and playing the drums.

## Coming Events

- May**
- 2 **Wednesday Club**, 10.30 a.m.
  - 2 Opening of **Jane Zusters and Lauren Lethal** at the Art Annex, 5.00 p.m.
  - 3 **Jane Zusters and Lauren Lethal** at Art Annex opens to public.
  - 5 **Saturday Club**, 10.30 a.m. Art appreciation club for adults.
  - 11 **Volunteers Group**, 10.30 a.m.
  - 12 **Continuing Club** 10.30 a.m. Art appreciation club for adults.
  - 15 **Friedrich Hundertwasser**, distinguished Austrian artist.  
**Reception** at 5.30 p.m. at Gallery, for Friends and Canterbury artists. Master Hundertwasser is visiting New Zealand under the "Living Treasures" Programme of the 1990 Commission.
  - 16 **Friends Coffee Morning**, Neil Roberts, Curator, will speak on 'Art Controversies in Canterbury', at 10.30 a.m. Art Annex.
  - 20 **'The Group'**, a public lecture by Julie Catchpole, Director of the Manawatu Art Gallery, Palmerston North. 3.00 p.m. at the Art Annex. Free admission.
- June**
- 2 **Saturday Club** 10.30 a.m. Art appreciation club for adults.
  - 5 Close of **Jane Zusters and Lauren Lethal** at Annex.
  - 6 **Wednesday Club**, 10.30 a.m. Art appreciation club for adults.
  - 8 **Volunteers Club**, 10.30 a.m.
  - 9 **Continuing Club**, 10.30 a.m. Art appreciation club for adults.
  - 10 **'The First Generation of Canterbury Painters'**, a public lecture by Julie King, lecturer in Art History, University of Canterbury. 3.00 p.m. at Art Annex. Free admission.
  - 13 Opening at Art Annex of **'Contemporary Maori Artists: Darcy Nicholas, Ngapine Allen, Emare Karaka, John Bevan Ford'**, 5.00 p.m. Everyone welcome.
  - 14 Opening of **Contemporary Maori Artists** at Annex to the public.
  - 14 **Kilmarnock Club**, 10.30 a.m. Gallery club for disabled visitors.
  - 17 Close of **'A Canterbury Perspective'**.
  - 20 **Friends Coffee Morning**, Marie Ritchie **'Christchurch Dealer Gallery Market'**, 10.30 a.m. Art Annex.

Exhibition dates and programmes could vary slightly.



### Harry Ipenburg

Harry joined the staff as Custodian at the end of February coming to us from the Christchurch City Council, where he was Assistant Custodian. Harry and his family came to New Zealand in 1977 from Holland where he had worked as an Industrial Chemist Food Technologist for some 20 years. Coming to New Zealand meant they could give their children a better lifestyle and escape the pollution and overcrowding of Holland. Presently Harry and his wife live in Lyttelton where they are restoring an old cottage which doesn't leave much time for Harry's interest in Judo and Karate.

## New Members

Miss J.D. Alexander  
John G. Boanas  
Dorothea Brown  
Carmel Brown  
R.R. & G.M. Baigent  
Beverley Beaton  
Tania Chaffey  
Jan Chaffey  
M.S. Corcoran &  
W. Robertson  
Mrs R. Driver  
W.K. Doonan  
Mrs O. Forbes  
Jill Goddard

Mrs Edith M. Hose  
Tom Kreisler  
Kristin Leek  
Mr and Mrs M. Loffhagen  
Neroli & David Mortimer  
Mrs A. McKay  
William G. McAloon  
Cmdr A. Mackay  
C. Nixon  
Arie Pronk  
Mathew J. Pomeroy  
Dale Quigley  
Claire Regnault  
Rebecca Robertson  
Joanna Randall  
Joan Rendall

Phil Skilton  
Edna M. Sinclair  
Michael D. Stevenson  
Miss P.A. Schrader  
Colleen J. Taylor  
Helen J. Taylor  
Jenny Turner  
John Van Der Zanden  
Kate Woodall  
Andrew C. Macalister  
Bryce and Doreen Hawkins  
Andrea Greenslade  
Sandra Bird  
Kate Rivers  
**Corporate Member:**  
Tait Electronics Ltd



# 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 – Marie Lockey 885-075



## Speaker of the Month

Our apologies for the change in the Coffee Morning Programme. Unfortunately, the Russell Clark talk was cancelled for reasons beyond our control.

## February

Free from commercial constraints and his teaching duties at New Plymouth, Tom Kreisler was able to use his period as Trust Bank Canterbury Artist in Residence 1989 to 'look at himself from another angle and to do what he felt like doing'. The result was his remarkable exhibition in the Art Annex which formed the focus for his recent talk to the Friends of the Robert McDougall Art Gallery. Inspired by Matisse he has succeeded in giving visual expression to the idea of flow and of movement in several directions. Quite simple objects such as hanging coats, dancing dogs or weather maps serve as the objects for this approach, often showing transformation in several stages of development. This kind of Kreisleriana is intended to be fun, and indeed fun it was seeing the pictures and listening to the artist.

## March

June Goldstein welcomed some 40 friends to the Art Annex to hear Dorothea Brown, Library Manager of the Canterbury Public Library speak on 'Literature and Art'. By including music in the arts and referring to historical and current issues, Dorothea gave a broad view of the topic. She emphasised the close relationship between these two ways of communicating ideas and sharing knowledge. Personal effort is needed to appreciate what each discipline is saying, and these days, she believed, our writers and artists are presenting us with stimulating ideas. After decades of merely surviving, literature and the arts are now flourishing in New Zealand.

It was vital that this should continue because in societies like ours where economic principles so often prevail, a necessary ethical balance is offered by art and literature. Our galleries and libraries are guardians of our culture and Dorothea reminded us that in 1990 we are coming to see how diverse that culture is. But galleries and libraries also have provocative and even subversive functions. Because of these educational roles, both the Canterbury Public Library and the Robert McDougall Art Gallery need to be protected from the claims of market forces and the principles of user pays. Friends' organisations of both institutions were

important bulwarks against these principles.

## May Controversy in Canterbury Art or Subject of Controversy

Very few communities where art is created escape controversy and in this regard Canterbury is no exception.

During both the nineteenth and twentieth centuries certain artists or their works have become the subject of controversy or even scandal. Included have been Edmund Norman, Samuel Butler, David Blair, Richard Wallwork, Robert Herdman-Smith, Petrus van der Velden, Leonard Booth, Colin McCahon, Evelyn Page, Frances Hodgkins and Andrew Drummond.

## June

Ritchies have opened a new fine arts gallery in Christchurch. At the same time the former Ritchies Fine Art Gallery continues to operate. The Christchurch art market is operating in fine health. Marie Ritchie will speak on June 3, 10.30 a.m., on this topic.



## Obituary – Mollie Atkins – Artist

Mollie Atkins, artist and long standing member of the Friends of the McDougall Art Gallery, passed away last year.

Mollie Atkins loved drawing people and would sit, as inconspicuously as possible, maybe with her husband in a Pub or some other advantageous spot in the Square, with notebook and pencil, sketching those around her.

She was a quiet source of encouragement to others with a sincere desire to draw, and firmly believed that the necessary co-ordination between eye and hand, if not naturally present, could be achieved eventually with constant practice.

For those who are not familiar with the delightful whimsicality of many of her

drawings, portraying as they do the touch of a keen observer, do take the trouble to make their acquaintance. They make good companions, and give much amusement and enduring pleasure.

## End Of Year Message From The President

After a busy 1989, we enter the 90s continuing to help the Gallery and provide benefits for our Friends.

The Friends' finances are in excellent shape: we are more than half way to the goal of \$100,000 accumulated funds which will safeguard our ongoing contribution to the McDougall. This past year we provided \$5,000 to help buy computer equipment at the Gallery.

We helped arrange sponsorships, including Trust Bank Canterbury's excellent support for *A Canterbury Perspective*, the 1990 show now open.

The Friends' Coffee Mornings are as popular as ever; and we are encouraged by the success of our upbeat exhibition openings to stage several more this year.

Membership in the Friends continues to grow, reflecting the benefits members gain and also bearing witness to the contribution we make to the community. The time is now right for a concentrated push for new members.

In the past year our drive for business houses to become Corporate Members has been a significant success.

Remember you can give the gift of membership to make a friend a Friend.

See you at the Gallery.

Ian Miles *President*

## Executive Committee Members for 1990 are as follows:

<i>President:</i>	Ian Miles
<i>Vice President:</i>	Hilary Langer
<i>Secretary:</i>	Marie Lockey
<i>Treasurer:</i>	Chris Brocket
<i>Committee:</i>	Geoffrey Clark
	George Hewson
	Margaret Ann Tan
	Lex Matheson
	Sherril Cooper
	June Goldstein
	Sam Beveridge
	Gwen Wilton
	Alison Ryde
	John Coley (ex officio)
	Penelope Jackson