

Bulletin



THE ROBERT McDOUGALL ART GALLERY

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Eileen Mayo *Victorian Jug* 1984 screenprint 9/50 collection Robert McDougall Art Gallery

Director: John Coley, Senior Curator: Neil Roberts, Administration: Zena Cooper, Jenny Barber, Assistant Curator: Lara Strongman, Conservator: Lynn Campbell, Education: Penelope Jackson, Judith Hoult, Exhibitions: Hubert Klaassens, Art Annex Supervisor: Simon Mulligan, Information & Shop: Merilynne Evans, Alexandra Ott, Photographer: Robin Neate, Registrar: Anna Crighton, Custodian: Harry Ipenburg, Maintenance: Denise Paulger, Technician: Martin Young, Weekend Custodians: Gordon Ducker, Merilynne Evans, Susan Leckie, John Mottram, Justine McLisky, Tony Webster and Valya Pavluk Newfield

Christchurch City Council



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Eileen Mayo: painter/ designer

23 September - 7 November

Eileen Mayo: painter/designer is a retrospective exhibition which assesses the career of painter and designer Eileen Mayo. The exhibition, which has been curated and toured by the National Library of New Zealand, illustrates Mayo's extraordinary talent across a wide range of media and shows the directions in which her work has developed throughout a long working life.

Mayo, who came to New Zealand in 1962, is an artist of considerable international standing. Her career spans some 60 years, from the 1920s to the 1980s, and three countries: England, Australia and New Zealand. Her initial training was at the Slade School in London in the

early 1920s, and her tenacity and desire for new skills made her expand this training into a number of fields including lithography, calligraphy, modelling and engraving. Her work encompasses designs for murals, posters, coins, postage stamps, tapestries and books - many of which she wrote and illustrated - as well as paintings, prints of various kinds and drawings.

The work of Eileen Mayo breaks down the barriers that divide the fine and applied arts, for it belongs in both categories. Her work is represented in many collections, public and private, including a number of New Zealand art galleries, the Tate Gallery, and the Victorian and Albert Museum in London. Eileen Mayo was a lecturer at the School of Fine Arts at the University of Canterbury between 1967 and 1972.

Robin White Prints

23 September-7 November

From July to September 1992 Robin White was the first artist in residence at Christchurch Polytechnic. During that time she explored many new printmaking mediums and techniques. This exhibition will include some prints completed during the residency, as well as other work made earlier in 1992 at her home on Tarawa Island, Kiribati.

Robin White began to work as a printmaker in the late 1960s. She initially worked with monoprints before moving on to screenprinting, and during the past decade woodblock prints. Over the years the subjects of her printmaking as with her painting have closely reflected personal life experiences and her reaction to the immediate environment in which she has lived. Her recent work is no exception. Whilst in Christchurch her interest was drawn to the Port Hills.

She has also been greatly concerned about nuclear testing on Pacific peoples. Robin White has lived in the Central Pacific since May 1982. Prior to that she was in Otago for ten years and before that lived for three years at Paremata near Wellington following her training at Elam School of Fine Arts and Auckland Teachers Training College.

Robin White's work has been shown in numerous group and solo exhibitions and has been the subject of two books the most recent being *Twenty Eight Days in Kiribati* published in 1987.

Primary Printmakers

23 September - 7 November

Following the success of **Kidsart** in 1991, the Gallery presents **Primary Printmakers**, the second bi-annual exhibition of children's art. This year twenty schools from the Canterbury region will submit four prints each for exhibition on the theme of 'Our Animals'. The children's prints will demonstrate the full range of printmaking techniques available to them: lino cuts, potato prints, relief prints, and screen-prints. **Primary Printmakers** is an exhibition by children for children.

Recent Acquisitions

John Reynolds

Arawhata, 1992

Eclipse, 1992

Veronica's Veil, 1992

Lithographs 17/18

Michael Eaton

Continuum Series, 1975

Acrylic on canvas

Gifted by the artist.

Winter II, 1964

Acrylic on Board

Image I, 1966

Acrylic on Board



Michael Eaton *Image I* 1966 acrylic on board collection of The Robert McDougall Art Gallery

Barry Cleavin

From Moeraki - A place to rest by day, 1992

Etching/Aquatint A/P

Moeraki Banner, 1993

Etching T/P

Peter McIntyre

The Grand Canal, Venice

Watercolour

Gifted by Lady Isaac

Staff Changes

Lara Strongman

Lara Strongman, Assistant Curator at the Art Annex, has been appointed to the position of Curator of Art Collections at the Waikato Museum of Art and History, Hamilton. Lara began her career at the Art Annex in 1990 and since then has curated many popular and successful contemporary exhibitions. In the short time she was with the McDougall her integrity, scholarship and management ability earned her the respect of the community of artists, scholars and her colleagues. Our congratulations and good wishes go with Lara to her new senior position.

Hubert Klaassens

Hubert Klaassens, the Gallery's Exhibitions Officer, who has been responsible for the splendid design quality of the McDougall's exhibitions has been appointed Exhibitions Programme Coordinator at the Museum of New Zealand. An ever obliging, popular figure, with a virtuosi command of computer graphics, Hubert will supervise a number of installers, technicians and designers in his new post. Again while regretting his departure, we wish him the best.

Robin Neate

Robin Neate, who leaves to live in the North Island has been an important member of the exhibitions team for the last three years. Robin has carried out the major part of the Gallery's photography work and more recently has contributed to the graphic design of the Gallery's exhibitions, in particular **Love, Sweet Love** and **White Camellias**. His principle activity is that of a painter and it is in this sphere that he will develop his work from now on.

Cranleigh Barton Drawing Award

19 August - 5 September

In late August, the Art Annex will present a selection of drawings from the entries received in the inaugural Cranleigh Barton Drawing Award.

The award, which has been made possible through the legacy of the late Cranleigh Barton, and is presented in association with the Canterbury Museum and the Guardian Trust, has been established to recognise excellence in drawing and to raise the status of drawing as a skill within visual arts education and practice.



Cranleigh Barton, the artist
Photograph courtesy of the Canterbury Museum

Coming Events

August

- 2 LocArt 11:50 a.m. See separate notice.
- 4 Artwatch 12 noon at the Annex
- 4 Wednesday Club 10:30 a.m.
- 6 Gallery trip to **Rembrandt to Renoir**, Auckland
- 7 Saturday Club 10:30 a.m.
- 14 Continuing Club 10:30 a.m.
- 15 **Women's Lives** closes
- 18 Speaker of the Month 10:30 a.m. - Main Gallery
- 19 Kilmarnock Club 10:30 a.m.
- 19 **Cranleigh Barton Drawing Award** opens to the public

September

- 1 LocArt 1:50 p.m. See separate notice.
- 1 Artwatch 12 noon at the Main Gallery
- 1 Wednesday Club 10:30 a.m.
- 4 Saturday Club 10:30 a.m.
- 5 **Cranleigh Barton Drawing Award** closes
- 11 Continuing Club 10:30 a.m.
- 15 Speaker of the Month 10:30 a.m. - Main Gallery
- 16 Kilmarnock Club 10:30 a.m.
- 19 **White Camellias** closes
- 23 **Primary Printmakers, Women's Suffrage Wall Hanging, Robin White Prints, and Eileen Mayo: painter/ designer** open to the public.

October

- 2 Saturday Club
- 6 Artwatch 12 noon at the Main Gallery
- 6 Wednesday Club 10:30 a.m.
- 9 Continuing Club 10:30 a.m.
- 20 Speaker of the Month 10:30 a.m. - Main Gallery
- 21 **Festivals, Rituals, and Ceremonies** opens at the Annex
- 21 Kilmarnock Club 10:30 a.m.

Peter McIntyre Presentation

In late May, Gallery patron Lady Isaac, held a presentation luncheon at her home to mark the gifting of the Peter McIntyre painting *The Grand Canal, Venice* to the Gallery's permanent collection. For this special occasion, the artist and his family were present. The Gallery did not previously have any work by Peter McIntyre in its collection

White Camellias Opening



(1) Cathy Hemsworth, Trust Bank Canterbury, Lara Strongman, Penelope Jackson, and The Mayor, Vicki Buck



(2) Sophie Neill presents the Mayor with a bouquet of white camellias



(3) Christine Low, John Coley, Cr David Close



(4) The five contributing writers of the *White Camellias Catalogue*, Julie King, Jillian Cassidy, Dr Pamela Gerrish Nunn, Penelope Jackson and Lara Strongman



John Coley supports the Peter McIntyre painting *The Grand Canal, Venice*. Lady Diana Isaac presented to the Gallery in late May. To the right of the painting stand Mr Allan and Lady Isaac, while the artist Peter McIntyre sits at the far right.

Friends of the Robert McDougall Art Gallery

President—Hilary Langer 348 3982
Vice President—John Small 379 2185
Treasurer—Chris Brocket 355 7133
Secretary—Ann Watt Answerphone—379 4055



Speaker of the Month

Speakers for August/ September/October coffee mornings have yet to be confirmed. Please all enquiries to the answerphone 379 4055

May

Ngapine Allen, a visiting lecturer at the School of Fine Arts, with qualifications both as a practising artist and as an art historian, addressed the Friends on 19 May. She pointed out the links between contemporary Maori art and traditional Maori art, and commented, in a challenging and at times provocative way, on the limitations of holdings of Maori art in various collection. She dealt with two main categories of modern Maori art - painting and fibre art. Using artifacts borrowed from the Canterbury Museum, she showed some of the essentials of traditional Maori fibre art and compared them with some examples of contemporary productions. Taken with one of the Artwatch videos shown two weeks earlier, Ngapine's talk gave further recognition to the art of the tangata whenua, and because fibre art is almost exclusively the domain of women her comments were also appropriate reminders of Women's Suffrage Year.

June

On 16 June our former secretary, Gwen Wilton, gave a vivid report of her impressions of life in modern Egypt and her fascination with the icons and symbols of its long and important history. The stained glass in the early Coptic cathedral she rated the best she had ever seen, but then how to come to terms the magnificent productions that dated from millennia earlier than that - the precious jewellery of the National Museum, and the religious significance of the works at Aswan, saved from modern hydro works on the Nile? Gwen touched on a great variety of topics - symbols of early western culture, such as the library at Alexandria, of the rise of Islam, such as minarets and the Citadel, and of modern times, such as the Opera House and surprising collections of French Impressionist works.

LocArt

At the end of April a large group of Friends visited the spacious New Studio Art School in Hazeldean Road. The school's approach, as the director Margaret Egan explained, is a loose, problem-solving one. The students are of widely varying ages and have varied needs and problems which the school then attempts to help them solve during the three years of the diploma course. Practising artists are employed on a part-time basis to proffer comment and advice to the students as required.

Locart at the Studio Art School



Next LocArt

A second visit to the Christchurch Hospital to view some of its extensive art collection will be held on Monday 2 August at 11:50 a.m., starting at the riverside entrance. Please book and cancel by using the answerphone.

On Wednesday 1 September the potter/architect David Brokenshire will show up to 24 Friends his collection of mainly New Zealand ceramics. After a brief talk about the various types of pottery he will give a short demonstration of his method of working with porcelain, followed by a visit to his studio-kiln and gallery. Please meet at 1:50 p.m. at 16 Tuawera Terrace, Sumner. Book and cancel by answerphone.

Artwatch

4 August at 12 noon in the Main Gallery:
Philippa Blair.

1 September at 12 noon in the Main Gallery:
Current NZ Women Artists.

6 October at 12 noon in the Main Gallery:
Gordon Crook, Self-Expressionist.

As indicated in the insert in the last Bulletin, we have reluctantly had to cancel the 5 p.m. screenings of Artwatch, as the expense of the keeping the Gallery open was not justified by the small numbers attending. We are wondering whether a different time altogether might suit more people. One suggestion has been the first Sunday of the month at 11 a.m. or noon.

Let us know your preference by dropping a line, or telling a committee member, or leaving a message on the answerphone.

Stained Glass Windows

Graham Stewart has been formally commissioned to begin work on the single panel, 'The Ascension Window', the next stage in the project undertaken by the Friends to restore the windows salvaged from the chapel that stood in Barbadoes Street cemetery. Graham expects to complete it by the end of September and he has invited the committee to see him at work on it within the next few weeks.

Membership

The committee has been working to increase the membership recently. Why not pick one of the new brochures and encourage one of your friends to become a Friend as well?