

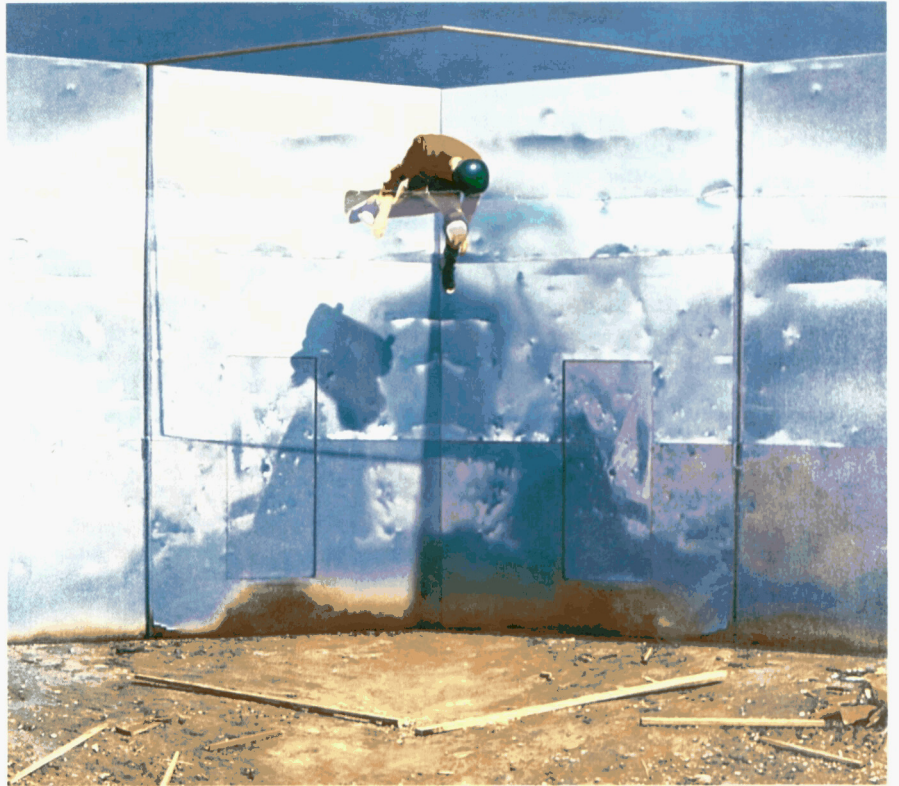
Bulletin



THE ROBERT McDOUGALL ART GALLERY

ISSN 0111-1426

Number 87 November/December 1993/January 1994



Kees Bruin *Door to Door* 1992 oil on canvas Collection of Robert McDougall Art Gallery

Real Vision

25 November 1993 - 13 February 1994

Exacting representation has had a long history in western art, reaching a zenith with the Flemish and Dutch Masters of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. There have been several revivals of what is broadly termed 'realism', particularly in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

Since the nineteenth century the influence of photography has played a significant part in reshaping imagery which has long been associated with perceived reality. Today internationally, there are still many artists active who have strong leanings towards traditional objectivity and motif concern.

Real Vision explores representational painting in both an historical and contemporary sense and will be thematically integrated within two distinct sections of the exhibition. It presents both European and New Zealand artists approaches to the perception of the real world.

In traditional academic art training the still life, or common object was considered to embody many of the essentials that

an artist required to test powers of observation and interpretation. Mastery of still-life opened the way to dealing with a whole range of subjects that included the figure, the portrait, animals and the landscape.

The historical section of **Real Vision** is based around this premise. Visitors will experience ten different sequential themes beginning with still-life and ending in the landscape and the fantastic beyond, where all themes merge in a reality of the mind.

Many of the works exhibited are from the Gallery's own collections but forty five paintings have been borrowed from other public and private sources.

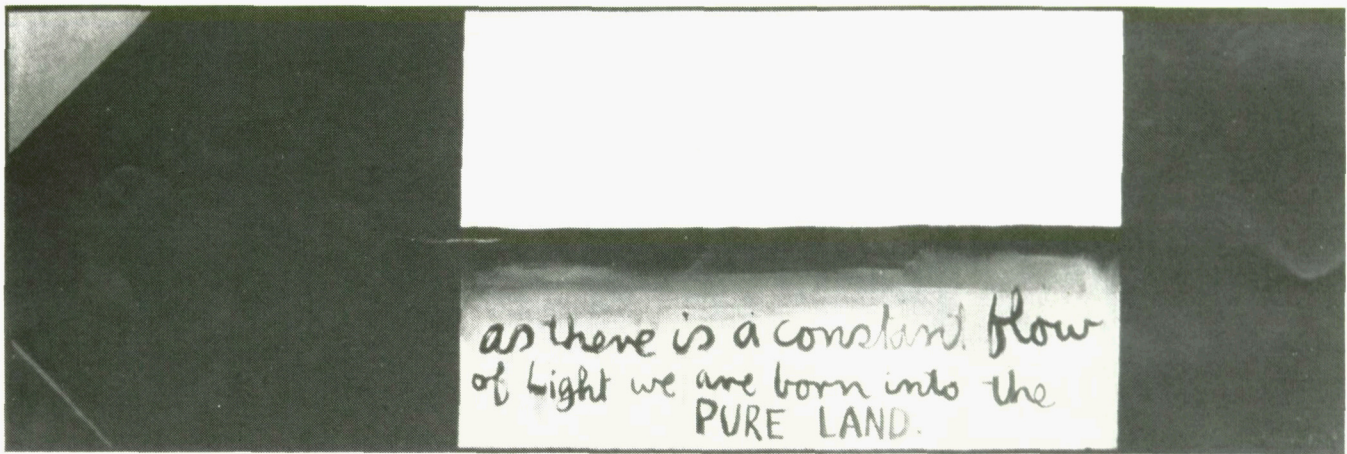
The contemporary section of **Real Vision** comprises the work of twenty one New Zealand artists who have been invited to participate. Included are; Alvin Pankhurst, Martin Ball, Glenda Randerson, Heather Busch, John Buckley, Peter Siddell, Sally Hope, George Baloghy, Justin Boroughs, Paul Martinson, Mark Cross, Michael Eaton, Sam Mahon, Ross Ritchie, Paul Jackson, Steve Harris, Colin Wheeler, Grahame Sydney, Kees Bruin, and Brent Wong.

Director: John Coley, Senior Curator: Neil Roberts, Administration: Zena Cooper, Jenny Barber, Art Annex Curator: Elizabeth Caldwell, Art Annex Supervisor: Simon Mulligan, Conservator: Lynn Campbell, Custodian: Harry Ipenberg, Education: Penelope Jackson, Judith Hoult, Exhibitions: Spencer Pullon, Information and Shop: Merylyne Evans, Alexandra Ott, Maintenance: Denise Paulger, Registrar: Anna Crighton, Technician: Martin Young, Weekend Custodians: Gordon Ducker, Merylyne Evans, Susan Leckie, Justine McLisky, John Mottram and Tony Webster

Christchurch City Council



The Robert McDougall Art Gallery
P.O. Box 2626 Christchurch
Fax (03)365-3942
Telephone (03)365-0915
Botanic Gardens Christchurch



Colin McCahon *As there is a constant flow of light we are born into a pure land* 1975 oil on hardboard Collection of Robert McDougall Art Gallery

Festivals, Rituals and Ceremonies

Glenn Jowitt

21 October - 21 November

Images from many countries are brought together for this photojournalistic exhibition. Glenn Jowitt hopes that **Festivals, Rituals and Ceremonies** will share and celebrate religious, cultural and family activities practised in the countries represented in his photographs. These countries include: Egypt, China, Greece, India, the Netherlands, Thailand, Turkey and the United Kingdom.

In documenting the customs focussed on in this exhibition, Jowitt endeavours to communicate not only information but also an understanding of the various cultures described in his work.

Jowitt trained at the School of Fine Arts, University of Canterbury, completing a Diploma of Graphic Design with Honours in Photography in 1975. The following year he worked as a photographer at the Robert McDougall art Gallery. He has been travelling extensively, exhibiting and publishing his work since 1978. Positions occupied by Jowitt include Lecturer in Photography at the School of Fine Arts at the University of Auckland, Photographer/Designer at the Pacific Islanders Educational Resource Centre, Auckland, Head of Department for Photography at the Auckland Society of Arts Art School and tutor at the Auckland Technical Institute.

Lineage

25 November 1993 - 27 January 1994

Works such as *Tomorrow will be the same but not as this is* and *As there is a constant flow...* saw Colin McCahon demonstrating new ways to respond to the New Zealand landscape. Lineage uses contemporary works from the collection to examine some of the directions artists, inspired by McCahon's innovations, developed when examining this theme.

The exhibition features paintings employing a predominantly expressionist or abstract expressionist style. It explores the emotive layers of reference embodied by this technique and its sensuous use of materials.

t'ARTing up town

The windows of vacant buildings around town will be used to display art over a four month period beginning 20 October. There will be six sites with each exhibition period being a month (unless the building is leased!)

The work featured in the windows will be that of local artists and will encompass a diversity of styles and mediums ranging from site specific installations to easel paintings. A publication documenting this project will be produced at its conclusion.

Look for details about exhibition dates, sites and artists in the papers soon. This project has been initiated by the Christchurch Community Arts Council with the support of the Southern Regional Arts Council and the Robert McDougall Art Gallery.

Women's Suffrage Commemorative Wall Hanging

An appropriate way to celebrate one hundred years of Women's Suffrage in New Zealand was to have a project which involved as many women as possible. The Christchurch City Council achieved this aim when they commissioned a wall hanging to be made by the Canterbury Embroiderers Guild. One hundred members of the guild stitched approximately 24000m of cotton and wool onto a piece of fabric measuring 9m x 2m. Working in three hour shifts, the guild members took eight months to complete a project which would normally, at a more leisurely pace, take two years!

Di Ffrench, a Dunedin based artist who enjoys an international reputation as a photographer, sculptor and performance artist was chosen for this commission. Her concept with its unique creativity and dainty and simplicity of design would be easily translated into stitch.

Each motif is rich in meaning and incorporated into the design are the commemorative dates, 1893-1993. The triangular structure throughout the work represents the fault line running through New Zealand and the shapes found in Taniko weaving. Included also are the four natural

elements: earth, air, fire, and water. The bridge symbolises the opening up of new horizons and opportunities in women's lives over the last one hundred years. The five female figures stand for cultural diversity in New Zealand. Specifically designed for Canterbury is the right hand panel where the nor'west wind is indicated by the waving lines in the background, around the head of the woman who holds the 1893-1993 emblem.

Gallery Statistics 1992-1993

The Gallery's statistics for the budget year 1 July 1992 to 30 June 1993 show another successful year with bumper attendances. Some figures: 32 exhibitions, 17 cultural events (openings, performances) took place, 8 corporate evenings were arranged, 91 works were acquired, 142 works on paper and 17 oils were conserved, the Gallery received sponsorship from 4 sources, 20 newspaper articles were written, 393 curatorial enquiries, 4983 general enquiries, 112 conservation enquiries, 289 volumes were added to the library, 2 major catalogues and 6 monographs were published, 10 boxes of artists papers were added to the archives, 26 gallery guides were active; the McDougall Annex attracted 45,544 visits, and the Robert McDougall Art Gallery had 176,899 visits, making a grand total of 222,443 attendances for the year. This was achieved within budget by 14 full-time, 4 part-time and 6 weekend attendants.

Review

Rembrandt to Renoir Trip - a day trip -

On Friday 6 August a group of sixteen art lovers left Christchurch for Auckland to see the Rembrandt to Renoir exhibition. An early start paid off and we were inside the Auckland City Art Gallery and on a guided tour by 9.00am - an hour before the public crowds were allowed in.

The audio-visual and acoustic tours were excellent and proved popular with the group. Those who went on the trip were excited by the exhibition and pleased they had made the effort to go.

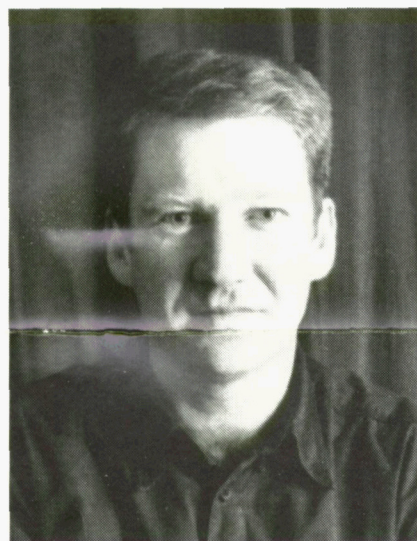
New Appointments



Elizabeth Caldwell

Elizabeth Caldwell joins the staff as the new **Art Annex Curator**. She comes to us from the Aigantighe Art Gallery, Timaru, where she has been the Exhibitions Officer for four years. Recently Elizabeth co-curated the very successful *Off Centre* exhibition which is presently touring the South Island and will be on display at the Robert McDougall next April and May.

Elizabeth is well qualified with a Master of Arts (Honours), Diploma of Teaching and a Diploma in Curatorial Studies (Melbourne) and is looking forward to working with local artists.



Spencer Pullon

Spencer Pullon has been appointed as **Exhibitions Officer** joining the staff after several years at the Canterbury Society of Arts. Spencer, who originally came from Hamilton, holds a Diploma of Advertising and Design from the Waikato Technical Institute and a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the University of Canterbury. During the last year Spencer has helped with some of the larger McDougall exhibitions including *Prospect Canterbury '92* and *White Camellias*.

Vincent van Gogh His Sources, Genius and Influence

2-5 December 1993

In early December Penelope Jackson will lead a tour to see *Vincent van Gogh - His Sources, Genius and Influence* at the National Gallery of Victoria in Melbourne.

The exhibition has been curated from collections in Holland, France, United States of America, Japan, Britain and Australia. As well as looking at Van Gogh's work the exhibition focuses on those artists who influenced him, and in turn, those artists who were influenced by Van Gogh.

The trip is four days long (with the option to extend) and includes a special luncheon at the Gallery and a cloth bound souvenir catalogue of the exhibition. For further details telephone Penelope Jackson on 365 0915.

Three Sculptors

an Outdoor Sculpture Project in the Christchurch Botanic Gardens November 1993 - April 1994

As part of the Gallery's programme of events for the summer period, sculptors Neil Dawson, Philip Price and Jeff Thomson have been commissioned by the Gallery to create a site specific works for the Botanic Gardens.

The sculptures will be installed in early November and are to remain on display until April 1994. The objective of the project is to increase public understand-

ing and appreciation of innovative contemporary sculpture in New Zealand.

The Gallery, which has not previously undertaken an outdoor sculptural project of this size, will produce a promotional publication to accompany the sculptures. Each site will be fully documented with a map leading visitors to the other two sculptures.

Be sure to take note of the 'fine art' both inside and outside the Gallery this summer!

Extended Opening Hours for the Gallery

This summer the Gallery is extending its hours of opening. The new hours, which begin on Thursday 25 November, mean the Gallery will be open from 9am to 6pm each day. Opening hours will revert back to normal 10.00am to 4.30pm following the close of the summer exhibition on 13 February 1994.

Recent Acquisitions

Denise Copland
The Implantation series, 1991-2
etchings

Paul Johns
Portrait of Doris Lusk
screenprint and acrylic on canvas

Ann Robinson
Ampborae Nikau
cast glass

M.T. Woollaston
Portrait Sketch of Ursula Betbell
gifted by Robert Erwin and the late
Lawrence Baigent.

Coming Events

November

- 3 10.30 Wednesday Club
12.00 Art Watch
- 17 10.30 **Speaker of the Month** - Albert McCarthy Trust Bank
Artist in Residence. Venue - the Annex
- 18 10.30 Kilmarnock Club
- 21 **Festivals, Rituals and Ceremonies** closes at the Annex
- 23 **Locart** - Christchurch Hospital Visit (see Friends Page)
- 25 **Real Vision** opens to the public at the main gallery
Lineage opens to the public at the Annex
Extended hours for the summer period begin
- 28 **CSO trio** concert in Centre Court at 2pm

December

- 2-5 Van Gogh Trip to Melbourne
- 5 **Hagley Community Choir** Concert in Centre Court at 2pm
Friends Christmas Party
- 12 **Musica Viva** Concert in Centre Court at 2pm

January

- 30 **Lineage** closes at the Annex

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



Christmas Party

Yes, the Friends Christmas Party is on. Your invitation is enclosed, so do come along and enjoy yourselves. Please make sure to let us know numbers in good time. You can pay for tickets, \$5 each, at the door on the night.

Special Offer

Through the generosity of Barry Cleavin, Gavin Bishop and Denise Copland, the special offer of \$40 each of the two prints has now been extended to all members and will remain open until Christmas. This is a real bargain: see both prints illustrated in the April/May Bulletin, and enquire further at 379-4055. Friends are also reminded that they qualify for a discount of 10 percent on all items purchased at the shop. There is a wide selection of cards, books and other items.

New Members

Welcome to:

Anne Archer, Mrs PA Armstrong, Bronwyn Baiteary, HD and JM Baker, Dr RJ and Mrs AJ Blackmore, Joanna Browne, Mary Burke, Vivienne and Colin Burrows, Pauline Carey and Alison Mary, Helen Cooper, Wendy Day, Megan Drury, Leslie and Valerie Gilchrist, Robin Hogg, Lisa Langer, Mrs M Long, Bob and Margie Manthei, Mrs Phyl McClelland, Mrs Gabrielle Morris, MJ McLroy, Anne McMurtrie, Colleen O'Connor, Max and Natalie Percy, SL and KD Radford, Mrs PM Reed, Ms Zoe Reeves, Joan E Schoeller, Sara Souter, Ralph and Adrienne Woodward.

Women's Lives Function

There was a good response to the efforts made by the Friends to attract a wide variety of women's organisations to this exhibition. Two representatives were invited from over a hundred organisations, and about 120 accepted. On 29 July Hilary Langer welcomed the guests on behalf of the Friends, and then the Gallery Director, John Coley and Diana Lady Isaac, one of our patrons, spoke to the Guests.

Artwatch

The last showing for the year will be on 3 November at 12 noon in the Main Gallery: **Twentieth Century Australian Art.**

Speaker of the Month

The last of these functions for the year will be on 17 November when Albert McCarthy, 1993 Trust Bank Canterbury Artist in Residence will discuss his work and his year's residency in the Arts Centre. Venue: Art Annex at 10.30am. Coffee and tea will be served. Members \$1.50, non-members \$2.50.



A Notable Painting

The Friends have purchased for the Gallery the historic work by Olivia Spencer Bower, *Ngaio Marsh Painting Out of*

Doors, pictured above. Hilary Langer will formally hand it over to the Gallery Director, John Coley, at the Christmas Party.



Jill Stanton and Ruth Todd, co-ordinators of Women's Suffrage Year Committee, at Women's Lives Function, 29 July

Sculpture and Embroidery

Suffrage Year has prompted Christchurch to produce two outstanding works of art. On 21 July Anna Crighton, the Gallery Registrar and a member of the Suffrage Year Committee, began by asking the audience how many names they knew of the other suffragist women in the sculpture with Kate Sheppard. The completion and siting of Margriet Windhausen's work should help us all to answer such questions. After explaining, with slides, the progress of the sculpture, Anna described and illustrated the enormous embroidery panel commissioned by the City Council to hang in the Town Hall. The scope and details of the planning, design and execution of this magnificent art work are an amazing testimony to the individual and cooperative talents of a large number of women. Di Ffrench as designer and Marianne Hargreaves as project coordinator were the two principals, but the skills of dozens of women from the Canterbury Embroiderers Guild were essential. Fortunately a detailed, multi-media record of this project will be preserved in the National Archives.

Bronwyn Taylor

A passion for history, the culture of women and signs and symbols of women - these are the driving forces of Bronwyn's work as a sculptor, she explained in a talk on 18 August. She does a great deal of preliminary drawing as a means of exploring her ideas and gaining information, and she finds the casting of her figures in bronze much easier with new technology. The double-headed axe, the warrior, the witch and the goddess are favourite themes, and the arrangement of several pieces in relation to each other is also significant to her.



Marcy Craigie, Arts Administrator, explains a mural at Christchurch Hospital to a LocArt group.

LocArt

At 11.50am on Tuesday 23 November there will be the third opportunity to view the art collection at the Christchurch Hospital. Book (and cancel if necessary) by answerphone 379-4055. Meet at the riverside entrance. Maximum number: 10. This LocArt activity has proved interesting and popular and will be described in more detail in a later Bulletin.