



Christchurch City Council



The Robert McDougall Art Gallery

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Robert McDougall Art Gallery
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The Gallery Technician, Les Fibbens, and his assistant, Wayne Austin, working on an arch for the 1990 exhibition.

A Canterbury Perspective

When the idea for a survey type exhibition of Canterbury art for 1990 was first mooted we were aware that in 1949 there had been a similar enthusiasm and in 1950 two exhibitions had been mounted. However, we were also aware that it was necessary to give this kind of exhibition a new distinctive identity by way of its presentation.

Over the past forty years attitudes towards exhibition design and presentation have changed as have the demands of the gallery visitor, who now seeks more real experience. No longer are historical displays of art works on stark gallery walls adequate.

The exhibition '**A Canterbury Perspective**' provided the opportunity to experiment. We sought something special in design treatment, akin to the theatre. It was realised that the approach of theatrical set design had, in fact, much to offer and provided many of the answers. The idea of adopting this approach, setting art in context with its time was encouraged by success elsewhere in the world. In the last few years it has been applied with great effort to several exhibitions, particularly in London.

The 1987 exhibition '**Age of Chivalry**' '**Franz Haver Winterhalter and the Courts of Europe**' and the '**Henry Moore**'

retrospective of 1988 were all enlivened by an exciting and challenging 'theatrical' type design treatment.

There is no doubt that when an appropriate ambience reflecting the spirit of a time is created, art works gain a new dimension and something of the life frequently lost when shown in the almost sterile curio type setting we often give them.

During much of 1988 the preparation of '**A Canterbury Perspective**' was not too dissimilar to that of a theatrical production. Now that period settings have been created within gallery spaces we hope that over the next five months visitors will get some of the same excitement from them that has gone into their making.

Pivotal to the success of this presentation has been the work of several gallery staff but more especially the Gallery Technician Les Fibbens, his assistant Wayne Austin and Exhibitions Officer/Designer Hubert Klaassens. Les in particular has brought to bear on this project the full weight of his skill as a meticulous craftsman, and through the fabrication of some remarkable feature props has transformed ideas into realities. These alone will identify '**A Canterbury Perspective**' as a memorable experience.

A first for Canterbury and perhaps the beginning of more varied exhibition

ARTS

presentation in the future, 'A Canterbury Perspective' has not only special significance in its presentation but also in the scope of work shown. This will be the first opportunity since the awakening of Maori Taonga with the **Te Maori** exhibition that 'Maori Art' has been exhibited in the gallery. It will also be the first occasion in which Maori Taonga has been displayed by us, together with historical and contemporary work by Canterbury artists, on equal terms in a comprehensive exhibition. To accomplish the design and fabrication of the exhibition's setting, substantial financial

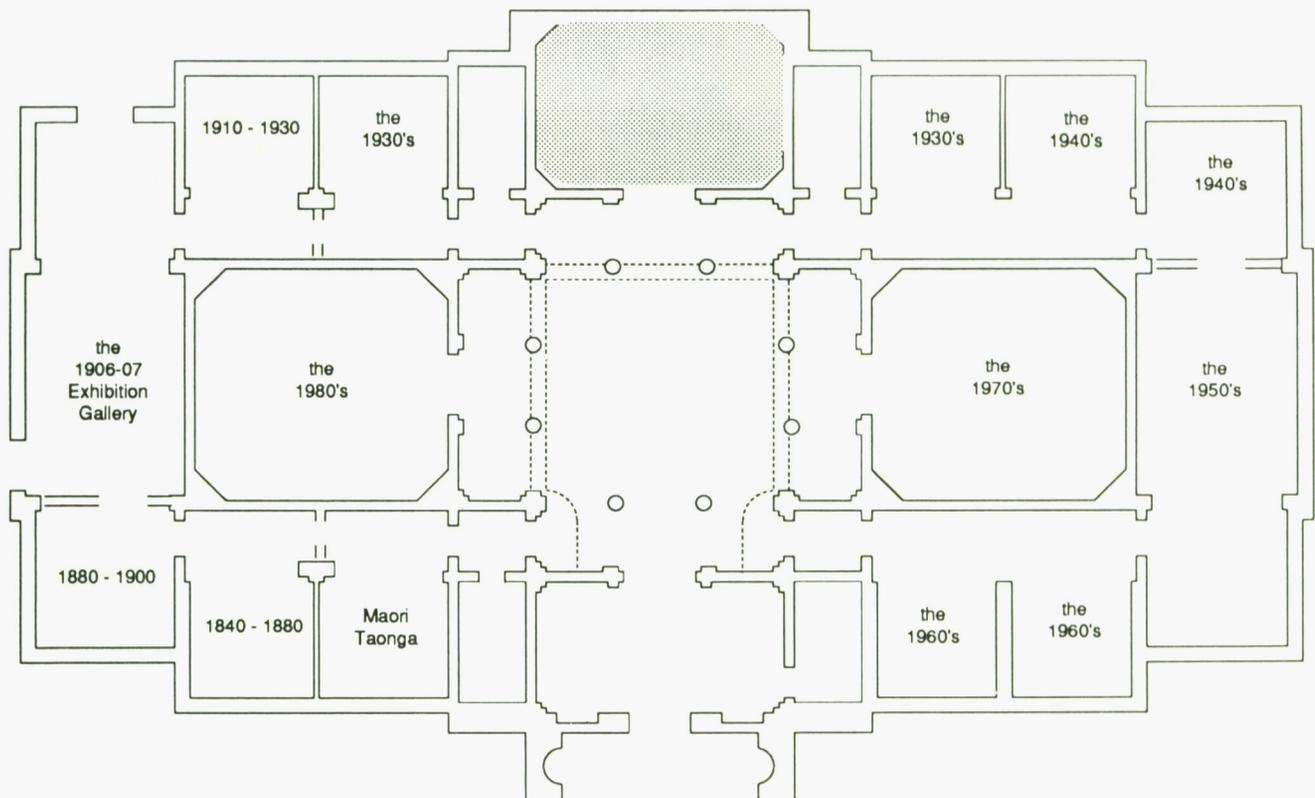
support was required. Trust Bank Canterbury, the major sponsor, has been extremely generous with its assistance. The exhibition also enjoys the support of the 1990 Commission. The staff of Canterbury Museum's pre-history section have been generous in their support and have assisted not only in the selection of Maori exhibits but have also contributed copy for *The Art of Tovypoennamu*' one of the publications which will accompany 'A Canterbury Perspective'.

The goodwill of other galleries and private collectors has also been in evidence and we

are most appreciative of the willingness to lend works. Most loans, have come from New Zealand collections. However there is one notable exception, an original pencil drawing of Akaroa in 1845 by Charles Meryon which has been loaned by the Minneapolis Institute of Arts.

The coming together of cultures is implicit in the spirit of the events of 1990 and we are confident that 'A Canterbury Perspective' will play its part in uniting art of the Canterbury region.

Neil Roberts, *Curator.*

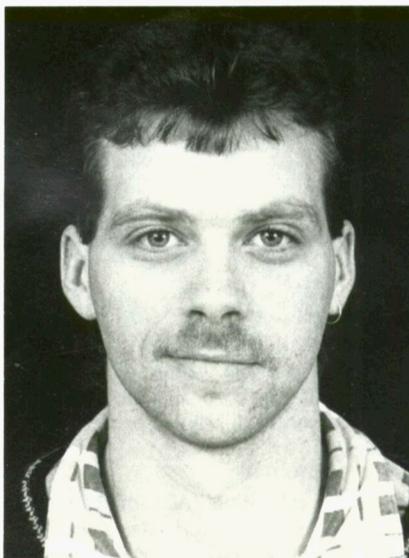


'A Canterbury Perspective' - Exhibition Plan. Hubert Klaassens, Exhibition Officer.

Staff Trainees

The Gallery is co-operating with the Labour Department's Restart Programme, providing retraining opportunities for two personnel. Ms Janice Dunlop is spending a year with us training as an archivist. Janice has already carried out excellent work systematically organising material relating to Russell Clark.

Mr Wayne Austin is learning wood-working and workshop practice under the expert eye of Gallery Technician, Les Fibbens. Wayne and Les are currently creating a series of arches and architectural features for the "A Canterbury Perspective" installation.





Penelope Jackson B.A., Dip Tchg.

The new Education Officer is Penelope Jackson, who joins the staff from Hamilton Girls' High School where she taught History of Art and Classical Studies.

A graduate of Canterbury University majoring in art history, Penelope trained at the Christchurch Teachers College. Her enthusiasm for art galleries led her to seek a teaching section at the McDougall and for a short time she was a student attached to our staff. She maintained her interest in museum education by volunteering curate for the Taranaki Museum an exhibition entitled "All 'E Same T'e Pakeha" – the Maori viewed through European art.

Penelope is pleased to be back in Christchurch and would like to thank everyone for making her feel so welcome.

New Guide Intake for 1990

If you are interested in joining the team of Gallery Guides, please contact the Education Officer, Penelope Jackson on 650-915 ext 813 who will be pleased to discuss the guide programme with you.



Gallery Shop

Extensive range of both N.Z. and overseas art cards, Fine Art reproductions, Art books, catalogues and gifts.

Gallery Guides

A free service for the public daily from 10 a.m.-4.30 p.m.

Art Annex

Tom Kreisler Themes and Recent Variations Preview February 7 1990, 5 p.m. until March 13

Christchurch's first Trustbank Canterbury Artist in Residence, Tom Kreisler, has been based in the Arts Centre since June 1989. Although a resident of New Plymouth, Tom Kreisler is no stranger to Christchurch having attended the University of Canterbury School of Fine Arts in the late 1960's. Kreisler has exhibited widely throughout New Zealand including a survey exhibition of his work since 1970 held at the Wellington City Art Gallery in 1987. In an interview with Fiona Clark at the time of an exhibition at the Govett Brewster Art Gallery, Kreisler said "Having lived with myself as a Foreigner, an outsider to most cultures, I know what I like in my work, and try to shape it accordingly." (*Not a Dogs Show, W.C.A.G. 1986 Fiona Clark*).

Mark Adams Pakeha-Maori – A conjuncture Maori-Pakeha – He Waerenga Ururoa Preview: Wednesday 21 March 1990, 5 p.m. Until 24 April 1990.

Pakeha-Maori – A conjuncture, Maori-Pakeha – He Waerenga Ururoa is an exhibition of sixty documentary photographs by Mark Adams taken in the 1978-1986 Rotorua region.

Mark Adam writes: "The photographs represent a subjective response to the region, its geomorphology and the conjuncture formed of the cultures inhabiting it; the Polynesian and the colonial European. The evolving power

The paintings produced during Kreisler's Christchurch residency are notable, among other things, for the diversity of their subject matter. Subjects range from abstracted, weaving-like 'figure patterns' to two figure confrontational and expressive works, from works based on interiors to a series of squabbling bird paintings.

Kreisler feels that the artist in residency programme has given him the opportunity to initiate and develop ideas he wouldn't have touched upon in his old environment. In his works he has been able to "look at myself from another angle" and "do what I felt like doing – quite spontaneous, really".

Artist in Residence 1990:
The Artist in Residence for 1990 will be Di Ffrench.

relationship between these two is encapsulated in artifacts which convey in an ironical and metaphorical sense, the historicity of the place and by inference, of the country as a whole. Abstracting personalities and events from history for contemporary analysis and criticism is risky if one respects veracity. However, the intention has been to view some of the resultant artifacts that have argued for monocultural political control and from this develop a general criticism of the European relationship to the Maori culture within the context of the region. Adopting an elitist analytical stance or citing individual instances of apparent chauvism can also be risky. A labyrinth of relationships of various forms can be revealed, so the intention has also been to account for and to try to unravel and comprehend some of this complexity." (*Rotorua Art Gallery catalogue*).



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



Speaker of the Month October 18

On this occasion a group of the Friends was hosted by Alison Holcroft at the Classics Department of Canterbury University. The object of the visit was to see the James Logie Collection of Greek and Roman antiquities, which was brought together in memory of James Logie, a former Registrar of the University of Canterbury. To this collection has been added articles on loan from the Otago and Canterbury Museums, private individuals, and more recently, from the Robert McDougall Art Gallery. A most interesting feature is that one of the South Italian Greek vases given by the McDougall Art Gallery, namely a Campanium Bail Amphora by the Apulianizing painter, has been reunited with a similar vase by the same painter already held in the collection.

The talk by Alison Holcroft was, yes, spell-binding, as not only the story of the articles on view, but also the history of the peoples of those times, came to life in a most fascinating way. Thank you Alison for a memorable morning.

November

Alison Ryde organised a superb day's outing for the Friends for our November meeting. The weather was perfect, and nearly ninety members followed a fascinating trail to Ashburton and environs, leaving by bus from the Museum, first stopping at the Macaulay's Stud Farm where we viewed Bev's fine and intricate work at the Weaving Studio and enjoyed delicious muffins and coffee.

Next we drove on to the Fusion Gallery, then the Eastside Gallery and the Mill House, all these presenting a multiplicity of wonderful arts and crafts – great to look at and excellent buying. Quite a number settled their Christmas present problems here.

After a relaxing stop for lunch, the next destination was Warren and Liz Scott's extensive and colourful garden at Ruapuna. Here again we found paintings and plants for sale in the welcoming surroundings, and found much pleasure in wandering round the grounds, or just 'sitting in the sun'.

And that wasn't all. We returned to Ashburton to visit Kath Von Tunzelmann's home where she made us very welcome with a cuppa and delicious "eats", with generous permission to stroll through her rooms and look at her wide ranging collection of paintings – both her own and

other artists. Or sit in her lovely garden and just relax.

It was a heartwarming, happy and friendly day, made possible by Alison's hard work and excellent organisation, and it was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone.

Art Gallery of Western Australia

Last July your Secretary was in Perth, Western Australia, where she visited the Art Gallery of Western Australia which is situated in a convenient complex of Museum, Library and Art Gallery adjacent to the Parking Building over the Railway Station, and connected to the City shops by an elevated walkway. The Art Gallery itself is attractively designed to exhibit a varied and interesting collection of paintings, murals, sculptures, ceramics

and porcelain. There is also a suite of rooms for special showings – this time it housed a collection of ancient Chinese military and Court dress, jade and ivory ornaments and vessels. As you left you were presented with a lucky Chinese fortune cookie!

The Administration is housed in a separate building nearby, not as modern in design as the Gallery, and includes a most attractive and comfortable Friends' meeting room which visitors are welcome to use – coffee and tea making facilities are available at no cost. The Friends' Secretary gave me a warm welcome. She was most informative and invited me to participate in any of their activities.

If you are in Perth a visit to this Gallery is most worthwhile. Do make use of the Friends' facilities there, and don't forget to take your member's card away with you!

Photos from the Ashburton Friends Trip.



Group of friends under the trees viewing the paintings at Warren and Liz Scott's garden at Ruapuna.



Doris and other friends arriving at Ruapuna.

Mistletoe Party

Friends of the Robert McDougall Art Gallery were well entertained at the annual Christmas Mistletoe Party. Greeted at the door, with colourful helium filled balloons, guests moved further into the gallery where a large jazz ensemble, 'Fifty-second Street', confirmed the high spirited tone of the evening.

It was delightful to see so many party goers up and dancing. An impressive amount of thought and work went into the success of the evening which featured live poetry, individually wrapped Christmas cake, and a well-supported raffle won by Mrs B. Collins whose prize was a framed poster of 'A Canterbury Perspective' signed by the artist and patron of the friends, Bill Sutton. The evening capped a year of successful and original functions organised by the executive committee who are determined to continue this trend into the New Year.

Outstanding Subscriptions

There are approximately 80 outstanding subscriptions, and it would be most appreciated if these could be brought up to date before the 1990 subscription becomes due next March. If there are any untoward circumstances causing non-payment please let the Secretary know. We would like to help if we can.

Coming Events

- February**
- 7 **Tom Kreisler**, Artist in Residence at the Art Centre, preview 5 p.m. Art Annex.
 - 8 **Tom Kreisler**, exhibition opens at Art Annex.
 - 21 **Friends Coffee Morning** 10.30 a.m. Tom Kreisler will speak. He is the Artist in Residence at the Art Centre and teaches Art in New Plymouth. Born in Argentine, he came to New Zealand in his teens, and later studied at the University of Canterbury School of Fine Arts. He has held successful one man shows in Christchurch, Wellington and New Plymouth.
 - 23 **Official Opening of 'A Canterbury Perspective'**.
 - 24 **'A Canterbury Perspective'** opens to the public.
- March**
- 3 **Saturday Club** 10.30 a.m. Art appreciation club for adults. All welcome.
 - 7 **Wednesday Club** 10.30 a.m. Art appreciation club for adults. All welcome.
 - 7 **Friends special viewing of 'A Canterbury Perspective'** preceded by **Annual General Meeting**, 7.30 p.m. at the Gallery.
 - 9 **Volunteers Group** 10.30 a.m.
 - 10 **Kilmarnock Club** 10.30 a.m. Gallery club for disabled visitors.
 - 13 **Tom Kreisler** exhibition closes.
 - 21 **Mark Adams - Maori/Pakeha: A Conjunction**. An exhibition of photographs. Preview 5 p.m. Art Annex.
 - 22 **Mark Adams - Maori/Pakeha: A Conjunction**. Opens to the public, Art Annex.
 - 21 **Friends Coffee Morning**: Dorothea Brown, Libraries Manager, will talk on the relationship between Art and Literature. A very interesting speaker. 10.30 a.m.
- April**
- 4 **Wednesday Club** 10.30 a.m. Art appreciation club for adults.
 - 7 **Saturday Club** 10.30 a.m. Art appreciation for adults. All welcome.
 - 17 **Kilmarnock Club** 10.30 a.m. Gallery club for disabled visitors.
 - 18 **Friends Coffee Morning** 10.30 a.m. Janice Dunlop, Trainee Archivist, will speak on Russell Clark.

Exhibition dates and programmes could vary slightly.

Somebody ordered a photo of a barn from Alison Ryde on the Ashburton trip. It has been printed and could the owner please contact Penelope Jackson to collect it.

Honorary Life Memberships

In October the Executive of the Friends of the Robert McDougall Art Gallery voted unanimously to give honorary life membership to three of the Gallery's voluntary helpers. There is a great deal of assistance, largely unsung, given by a group of enthusiastic volunteers whose time and efforts add immeasurably to the smooth running of the Gallery, and we are very appreciative of their work.

Mary McAlpine, Jenny Shadwell and Marion McCullough have devoted many, many hours over the last approximately ten years to guiding various groups around the Gallery exhibitions, and also helping in many other ways. The guiding involves not only guiding time, but also an intelligent study of each particular exhibition being shown to the public, before the exhibition opens.

Thank you Mary, Jenny and Marion for your sterling efforts.

New Membership:

D. V. and J. Blackgrove
Philip King and Sarah Ayton
Jill M. Scott
Caroline White
Ann Betts - Life
P. D. Lees-Jeffries
John Burt
Amanda Floyd
Mrs C. J. Nolan
Lexino Van der Hoek
Fleur Lester
J. A. Bulfin
Susan Jerard
Matthew A. Simmonds

Corporate:
The Press

Application for Membership of the Friends of the Robert McDougall Art Gallery

I/we wish to join the Friends of the Robert McDougall Art Gallery in the following category:

Single Member	.....	\$20.00
Joint Membership	.....	\$30.00
Student Member	.....	\$10.00
Corporate Member	.....	\$250.00
Life Member	.....	\$250.00
		GST Exempt

Gift Subscription

I enclose \$ subscription
\$ subscription

Name _____

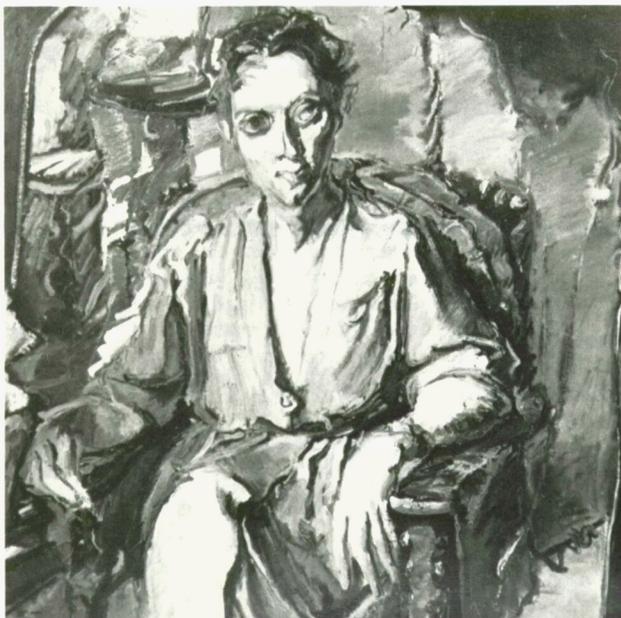
Address _____

Telephone _____

Signature _____

Forward to:
The Treasurer
Friends of the
Robert McDougall Art Gallery Inc
P.O. Box 2626
Christchurch





Alan Pearson 'Portrait of Mrs Oliver'



Margaret O. Stoddart 'Old House, Diamond Harbour'



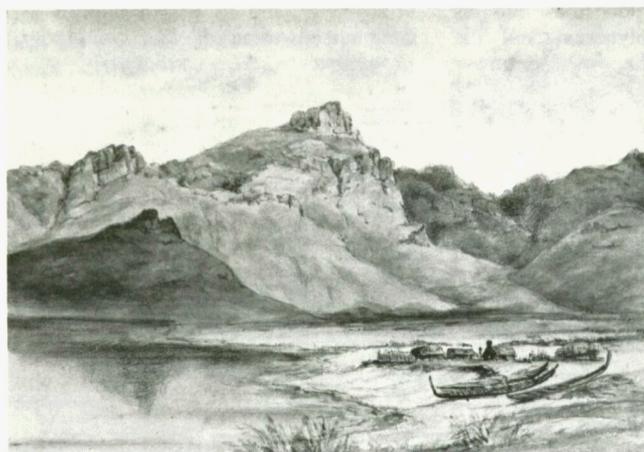
George D. Leslie 'The Wizard's Garden'



Frances Hodgkins 'The Pleasure Garden'



Bing Dawe 'Still keeping his balance he used the umbrella as a safety net - Image of a Man with a Missile'



William A. Oliver 'Purau'



Rita Angus 'Cass'