



Christchurch City Council



The Robert McDougall Art Gallery

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Robert McDougall Art Gallery
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William Strutt, Hare Pomare and family, 1863, oil on canvas.

ENCOUNTER WITH EDEN THE REX NAN KIVELL COLLECTION

July 4-August 22, 1991

Encounter with Eden: New Zealand 1770-1870 is an exhibition of 74 oil paintings and watercolours showing New Zealand in its first century after European contact. The earliest works are by William Hodges, one of Captain Cook's artists, and the latest is a watercolour of the sailing ship **Otago** which brought immigrants to the South Island between 1869 and 1889.

Other work in the exhibition includes landscapes and portraits by well-known colonial artists such as Heaphy, Gully and Barraud. **Encounter with Eden** explores the first colonial artists' vision of New Zealand and their records of the development of Pakeha and Maori society during the 19th century.

The works in the exhibition were selected from the Rex Nan Kivell Collection in the National Library of Australia.

Rex Nan Kivell was born in Christchurch in 1898, but lived most of his life out of New Zealand. He became a very successful art dealer in the 1920s running the influential Redfern Gallery in London. New Zealanders hoped that this large personal collection of colonial paintings would find its final home here, but Nan Kivell decided to sell it to Australia in 1959, for the very reasonable sum of 70,000 pounds. The collection was added to after this date until Nan Kivell's death in 1977. He was awarded the CMG in 1966, and a knighthood for 'services to the arts' in 1976.

Some of the collection toured New Zealand in the 1950s but it is little known to most New Zealanders. **Encounters with Eden** will tour to Dunedin, Christchurch, Hamilton and Auckland during 1991 and has been organised by the National Library Gallery.

Robert McDougall



Patrick Reynolds, *Heart of Leaves* 1987, gelatin silver print, selenium toned. Courtesy the artist and Real Pictures Gallery, Auckland.

Imposing Narratives

May 30-July 7

Beyond the Documentary in Recent New Zealand Photography.

Imposing Narratives is a major exhibition of recent photography to tour nationally during 1990-1991.

Over 100 works are featured from leading photographers Laurence Aberhart, Rhondda Bosworth, Margaret Dawson, Megan Jenkinson, Fiona Pardington, Peter Peryer, Patrick Reynolds, Marie Shannon and Christine Webster.

The photographs in this exhibition do not merely show you the world (or fragments of it) in a frozen moment of time. They invite you to think about this world. They offer readings. They convey philosophic, ironic and personal views of the world, the artist and the viewer.

The photographs entice us to become aware that our ways of looking and thinking are conditioned by images around us, by styles of image making, by our assumptions and expectations and by the setting in which photographs are viewed.

Imposing Narratives is a national exhibition being toured by the Wellington City Art Gallery and supported by the Queen Elizabeth II Arts Council of New Zealand.

Postal Impressions

July 13-August 22

Drawn primarily from the Archive of New Zealand Post **Postal Impressions** is intended to explore the design context and content of the postage stamp.

Given the public nature of the postage stamp in the first instance and its subsequent status as a collectible it is not surprising that this predominantly small and prosaic object has on many occasions been accorded an art status of its own. Even the earliest designers and printers strove to produce an article which embodied the elements of fine art — sensitive portraiture and delicate engraving.

The history of stamp design is however full of highs and lows and this exhibition is not intended to elevate the works to any high art status. Rather it is intended to connect the fine arts, popular and applied arts, to reveal the imagery and symbols and their application in our everyday lives.

The exhibition includes original art and design work from 1855 to the 1980's, printing plates and associated materials, relevant documentation and a variety of design submissions for many of the design competitions held since 1898.

The installation is designed in such a way as to allow a thematic journey through the exhibition including extensive

sections on specific issues like the 1935 Pictorials or the designs of artists like H. Linley Richardson, Eileen Mayo and many others.

Postal Impressions has been jointly organised by New Zealand Post and The Sarjeant Gallery, Wanganui. Luit Bieringa, Curator of **Postal Impressions** will give a **Sunday Lecture** about the exhibition. See **Sunday Lectures** for details.

KIDZART

July 18-September 8

KIDZART is an exhibition of artwork by Canterbury children. Just over 40 schools are contributing work to this exciting exhibition. The design for **KIDZART** will take the form of a maze and works will be hung at a child's eye level. This exhibition is essentially by children and for children and it runs concurrently with **Gavin Bishop — Picture Book Artist**.

GAVIN BISHOP — PICTURE BOOK ARTIST

July 18-September 8

Gavin Bishop is one of Canterbury's most successful picture book artists and authors. He has won many awards including the Russell Clark Medal, Picturebook of the Year, and the Grand Prix of the Noma Concours (Asian Section).

This exhibition will display the complete artwork of four of Gavin Bishop's books. These are: *Mr Fox* (1982), *Chicken Licken* (1984), *The Horror of Hickory Bay* (1984) and *Katarina* (1990).

Gavin Bishop will give a floor talk about his work in this exhibition on Sunday August 18 at 2.30 p.m.

Recent Acquisitions

The following works have been acquired for the collection:

Doris Lusk
Untitled Mask
Earthenware

Di ffrench
The Hunter Warrior
Cibachrome

The Life Drawing Class
Cibachrome

The following work has been generously gifted to the gallery.

Michael Armstrong
Untitled, 1978
Oil on board
Presented by the artist

Stairway into the Sun: Paintings by Wilhelmus Ruifrok

Until June 11

Stairway into the Sun, an exhibition of paintings by Christchurch artist Wilhelmus Ruifrok, closes at the Annex on June 11.

This is an intriguing exhibition by an artist of great idiosyncrasy. Drawing on sources as diverse as Renaissance painting, Surrealism, and psychedelic graphic art of the 1960's Ruifrok creates impressively grotesque images which deal with matters spiritual, psychological and political.

Ruifrok's paintings are bounded by ornately crafted sculptural plaster frames which continue the thematic concerns of the work. These frames, populated by anonymous human and animal forms and decorated with motifs from classical architecture, are reminiscent, in style, of Rodin's **Gates of Hell**, and stand almost as sculptural works in their own right.

Admission is free to this exhibition — come and see it at the Annex, in the old Centre Gallery/University Library of the Arts Centre.

Exposure: Contemporary Photographs from the Collection

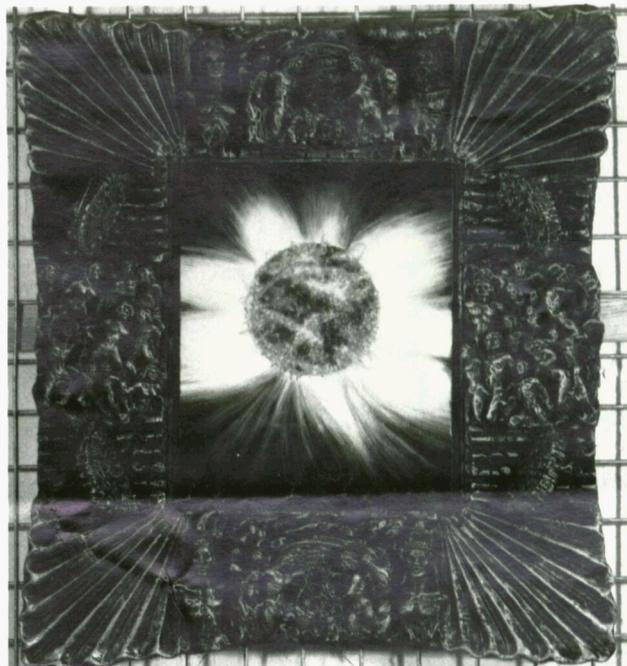
June 15-July 2

From June 15 until July 2, the McDougall Art Annex will provide an opportunity to view photographs from the Robert McDougall Art Gallery's Contemporary Collection.

The photographs selected from **Exposure** represent the diversity of the Photographic Collection, highlighting its individual strengths. Included in the exhibition of images by contemporary New Zealand photographers/artists are portraits and self-portraits, views, photographs composed within a studio setting, and others which utilize techniques of photomontage.

The late Doris Lusk, a familiar figure in both local and national art circles, features in two photographic portraits; one by Kevin Capon and another by a Dunedin photographer who exhibited at the Annex last year, Adrienne Martyn. Two large cibachrome photographs by Di ffrench **Hunter Warrior** and **The Life Drawing Class** have been recently acquired for the permanent collection, following an exhibition held at the Annex in February to mark the close of Ffrench's year as Trust Bank Canterbury/Arts Council Artist in Residence.

Art Annex



Wilhelmus Ruifrok, *Solra*, 1991, oil on canvas. Collection: the artist.

Monochrome photographs by Laurence Aberhart from the early 1980s and early photocollages by Merylyn Tweedie will also be included in the exhibition. Other works dating from this time are images selected from Glenn Busch's popular **Christchurch Gas Workers** series.

Photographs by local artists Margaret Dawson and Richard Reddaway will also be on display at the Annex.

This selection of works from the Gallery's permanent collection at the Annex will be the first of an occasional series of exhibitions at this venue which aim to provide access to the Gallery's collection of contemporary New Zealand art. Friends of the Robert McDougall Art Gallery are warmly encouraged to visit the Annex and view the highlights of our contemporary collection of photographic images.

Ralph Hotere July 18-August 20

From July 18 until August 20 the Annex will be showing recent work in mixed media by Ralph Hotere.

Works included in the exhibition contain a commentary on war frequently seen in Hotere's work. His concern this time is for the events of, and attitudes occasioned by, the Gulf War.

The exhibition also features a suite of lithographs produced as a collaboration between Hotere and expatriate New Zealand artist Bill Culbert. The lithographs, printed by Christchurch's

Limeworks, were produced on Culbert's recent visit to New Zealand, during which time he and Hotere worked together on a sculptural installation for the Auckland City Art Gallery. The lithographs extend many of the themes and motifs of the collaborative installation.

The staff of the Annex, Lara Strongman, Martin Young and Lisa Manson, and Meredith Hart look forward to welcoming Friends of the McDougall Art Gallery to this exciting exhibition of recent work by a New Zealand artist of considerable stature.

Unbuilt Christchurch

July 5-12

This exhibition will feature architectural drawings of buildings planned for the city but never built. They include plans from as early as 1857, with Benjamin Mountfort's first proposal for Bishopscourt, through to the 1980s. Highlights will be Cecil Wood's Entrance Tower to Christ's College, R.S.D. Harman's competition design for the Robert McDougall Art Gallery, Mountford's design for Holy Trinity Church Avonside, Peter Beaven's Town Hall, 1966, Warren and Mahoney's design for the City Administration Building where the Park Royal now stands, and Gilbert Scott's first design for the Christchurch Cathedral.

If you have any queries about **Unbuilt Christchurch** please ring Anna Crighton at the Gallery.



A group of our very enthusiastic volunteer Gallery Guides at Easter Time.



A group of 'Friends' viewing the sculptures at the Aigantighe Art Gallery during March. Photo courtesy of the Timaru Herald.

Friends of the Robert McDougall Art Gallery Inc.

President – Hilary Langer 348-3982
Vice-President – Margaret Ann Tan 348-6769
Treasurer – Chris Brocket 557-133
Secretary – Gwen Wilton 663-675



April

A record crowd of Friends (and friends) gathered on 17 April to hear Professor H. J. Simpson talk on "The Art and Architecture of Turkey". For millennia, Turkey has been at the crossroads of human traffic, east and west, north and south. In the period covered by Prof. Simpson's talk, it was the meeting place of Hellenistic and Christian civilizations. With misleading modesty, he claimed for his illustrated talk that it was only like having a peep at the inside of the dust jacket of a book.

Our imaginary journey started very appropriately with a gateway — Hadrian's Gate at Antalya, built hurriedly in 72 days for an Imperial visitation, and still standing 72 quarter-centuries later. Turkish antiquities, according to Prof. Simpson, are to be seen in the same state today as in eighteenth century Greece, before the European collectors came and took away anything portable. We saw pictures of the splendid first century theatres at Aspendos and Perge, the best surviving examples of their kind anywhere.

We next followed our speaker underground, into some of the hundreds of dwellings and churches carved out of the limestone at Goreme, and marvelled at the fresh appearance of the decorations, many dating back to the sixth century. Attention was drawn to the deforestation of the Mediterranean region in ancient times. The resulting deserts and silted harbours point a lesson for today. In architectural terms, this process led to an absence of timber, not only for buildings themselves, but even for the scaffolding and formwork usually needed for erecting buildings of stone or brick. The ingenuity with which this difficulty was overcome is seen most highly developed in the "beehive" houses at Harran, in which the arch cross-section was achieved without any timber support.

And so, finally, to Istanbul, where, as Prof. Simpson told us, the remains of the classical period lie about like litter. For us, time only to briefly visit the Suleymanye mosque (studied by Wren before designing St Paul's) and the well-hidden Archaeological Museum, to stand dizzily beneath the dome of S. Sophia, and to admire the decoration in the Topkapi Palace and in the Church-turned-mosque, the Kariye Cammi.

Once again the Friends are indebted to Professor Simpson, who delighted us with his erudition, enthusiasm and, not least, his photographic skills.

Friend's Viewing of Cartoons

On 11 April there was a Friends' evening at the Gallery for a special viewing of **Trace Hodgson's Cartoons and Comic Strips** and also a special exhibition called the **Public Conscience** — Selected Cartoons 1897-1925.

Refreshments were served, and Mary Ruston provided pleasant background music on the piano.

During a break in the proceedings the Director, John Coley, welcomed guests and told them how relieved he was the funding problems that seemed likely to close the Art Annex had been averted. He paid tribute to the co-operative efforts of the staff of the Gallery.

March Speaker of the Month

On 20 March Lynn Campbell, the Conservator at the Gallery, gave a talk about the conservation of artefacts in Antarctica where she worked for a time during her annual leave last year. She explained that although some things brought into the region remain well preserved simply because of the low temperatures, many items large and small are deteriorating rapidly. The huts and their contents at both Cape Royds and Cape Evans need urgent care and attention. Some items such as the labels on tins are difficult to restore because of the variety of factors at work — the original glue, soot from the oil lamps, the salt air, and the tendency for visitors to handle them. Lynn illustrated her talk with many fine slides showing outdoor scenery and wildlife, as well as the artefacts she was working on.

June Speaker of the Month

On 19 June Lara Strongman will give a talk on Tony Fomison the talented artist who died an early death last year. Lara, who is the Assistant Curator of the McDougall Art Annex has made a special study of Tony Fomison and his work.

Coffee will be served at 10.30 a.m., \$2.50 at the McDougall Art Annex.

July

On 17 July Val Breen will give a talk about the choosing and assembling of the Heritage Series of postage stamps. Val is the sales manager of the Philatelic Section of New Zealand Post in Christchurch.

Coffee will be served at 10.30 a.m. \$2.50 at the McDougall Art Annex.

Aigantighe Adventure

Early on the morning of 14 March, forty five Friends set off for South Canterbury, on a lightning tour of some of that region's art treasures.

Our first stop was at Coldstream, where we were welcomed by Mr Studholme and his family. Crossing the threshold of this almost 100 year old house offered an astonishing contrast; an unpretentious, almost humble exterior hides a large church-like room containing several oil paintings from the 18th century or earlier, and the walls of a (mercifully dimly-lit) passage-way are lined with water colours by Gully, Hoyte, Barraud and other scarcely less well-known 19th century New Zealand artists.

After a pleasant lunch in Timaru, we were welcomed at the Aigantighe Gallery by Meg Parkin, Director. Not a few of us were grateful for an explanation of this curious title, and for guidance on an approximately authentic Gaelic pronunciation. The grounds of this handsome gallery contain a striking collection of sculptures in Mount Somers stone, executed at a gathering of Zimbabwean, Japanese and New Zealand artists in 1990.

Indoors, Gayle Forster demonstrated her technique for making woodcuts, in the room where many exhibitions then at the Aigantighe Gallery — the international paperweight collection, the Japanese prints, early Sydney L. Thompson paintings and works by local artists.

On the homeward journey, we stopped at the Short Street Studio of the Ashburton Society of Arts, to enjoy a lavish afternoon tea organised by Mrs M. Trolove, and to examine the work of Society members.

The Friends are grateful to our hosts mentioned above, to Alison Ryde who planned the trip, to Reinhart and Hilary Langer who arranged the practical details, and to Penelope Jackson our artistic liaison, for an enjoyable and instructive visit.

Sunday Lectures

As well as a very interesting Winter Lecture Programme during June and July there will also be two Sunday afternoon lectures.

On July 14 at 2.30 p.m. Luit Bieringa, the Curator of **Postal Impressions** which will be on exhibition, will talk about the history of stamp design as well as taking a closer look at the contents of **Postal Impressions**.

Only July 28 at 2.30 p.m. Marion Minson, of the National Library, Wellington, will give a tour and talk on the Rex Nan Kivell Collection which will be on display.

Admission is free to both of these lectures and they will be held at the McDougall Art Gallery.

Janis Churchill

In the last Bulletin it was mentioned that Zena Cooper was the new Administration Assistant at the Gallery, replacing Janis Churchill.

Janis left us to travel overseas and we have recently heard that she is happy and working in London. She has a couple of European trips planned for later in the year. We all wish her well in her 'Overseas Experience'.

New Members

Since December 1990

Sarah-Jane Barr
Glenis Birch
Ted Bracey
Mary and Peter Brett
Barbara Byers
Nola Caird
Mrs D.M. Carey
N. Carrara
Robin Christie
Melissa Collow
Ailsa Dodge
Mary-Jane Duffy
Gayle Forster
Frames Art Group (Ashburton)
Barbara Geddes
I. & S. Gilbert
D. R. Goodwin
Michelle Harper
Sarah Hunter (life)
Taeko Knight
Daniel W. Knowles
Mr and Mrs J. MacDonald
Jenny May
Jill and Jim Nicholls
Mrs G. F. Phillips
Sarah E. Priday
Mrs A. M. Priest
Marilyn Reddington
Alice Reynolds
Carole Sandford
John and Marjorie Simcock
Prof. H. J. Simpson
Mrs J. H. Studholme
J. S. & D. P. Trevella
Margaret Trolove
Charmaine Vincent
Noel Waite
Richard J. Whyte
Marjorie Wood

Coming Events

- June**
- 1 **Saturday Club** 10.30 a.m.
 - 5* **Winter Lecture 1:** Jenny Harper will speak on 'C. F. Goldie'
 - 8 **Continuing Club** 10.30 a.m.
 - 11 **Stairway into the Sun**, Paintings by Wilhelmus Ruifrok, closes at the Annex
 - 12* **Winter Lecture 2:** Neil Roberts will speak on 'Evelyn Page'
 - 14 **Volunteers Club** 10.30 a.m.
 - 15 **Exposure: Contemporary Photographs from the Collection**, opens at the Annex
 - 19* **Winter Lecture 3:** Julie King will speak on 'Sydney Lough Thompson'
 - 19 **Speaker of the Month:** Tony Fomison by Lara Strongman at the Annex 10.30 a.m.
 - 20 **Kilmarnock Club** 10.30 a.m.
 - 23 **Mau Mahara — Our Stories in Craft** closes
 - 26* **Winter Lecture 4:** Dr Pamela Gerrish Nunn will speak on 'Frances Hodgkins'
- July**
- 2 **Exposures: Contemporary Photographs from the Collection**, closes at the Annex
 - 3* **Winter Lecture 5:** Dr T. L. Rodney Wilson will speak on 'Petrus van der Velden'
 - 4 **Rex Nan Kivell** Opens to the public
 - 5 **S.A.H.A.N.Z. Architectural Exhibition** at the Annex until July 12
 - 6 **Saturday Club** 10.30 a.m.
 - 7 **Imposing Narratives** closes
 - 10* **Winter Lecture 6:** Cheryl Sotheran will speak on 'Colin McCahon'
 - 12 **Volunteers Club** 10.30 a.m.
 - 13 **Continuing club** 10.30 a.m.
 - 13 **Postal Impressions** opens to the public
 - 14 **Sunday Lecture:** Luit Bieringa will talk about the exhibition Postal Impressions, 2.30 p.m. McDougall Art Gallery
 - 17 **Speaker of the Month:** Val Breen from the Philatelic Section of N.Z. Post, Annex 10.30 a.m.
 - 18 **Kilmarnock Club** 10.30 a.m.
 - 18 **Ralph Hotere** opens at the Annex, 5.00 p.m. All Welcome
 - 18 **Gavin Bishop — Picture Book Artist** opens to the public
 - 18 **Kidzart** opens to the public
 - 28 **Sunday Lecture:** Marion Minson will talk about the Rex Nan Kivell Exhibition, 2.30 p.m., McDougall Gallery

*Please see separate brochure for details and enrolment for Winter Lecture Programme