

Bulletin



THE ROBERT McDOUGALL ART GALLERY

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Zita Waldron **Mother Love** 1992 oil on paper
Collection: Aigantighe Art Gallery, Timaru.

Off Centre

Contemporary Art by Regional South Island Women

7 April - 22 May 1994

Off Centre was organised in 1993 for the Centennial of Suffrage in New Zealand, which was a time to reflect on the work and success of women in our society. As part of the celebrations for this anniversary, **Off Centre** brings together the work of 27 artists from regional areas in the lower South Island. Contemporary art works from emerging and established women from different age groups and backgrounds have been included, with a selection which encompasses painting, drawing, printmaking and sculpture.

The exhibition has a regional emphasis focusing on the work of women who generally work independently of main centres. The show concentrates on women producing work as an expression of self identity and whose work serves as a personal response to their regional background and/or present circumstances. While there is a considerable variety of styles in the show, there is a strongly expressive quality in the work.

This exhibition has been jointly curated by the Aigantighe Art Gallery, and the Eastern Southland Gallery, Gore and is being toured and promoted by these galleries with the assistance of the Southern Regional Arts Council and Pope Print, Timaru.

Elizabeth Caldwell will give a floortalk about **Off Centre** on 15 May in the main gallery.

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 Hault, Exhibitions: Spencer Pullon, Information and Shop: Meryllynne Evans, Alexandra Ott, Maintenance: Denise Paulger, Registrar: Anna Crighton, Technician: Martin Young, Weekend Custodians: Gordon Duckler, Meryllynne Evans, Susan Leckie, Justine McLisky, John Mottram, Tony Webster and Dominic Feuchs.

Christchurch City Council



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

Contemporary N.Z. Sculpture from the Collection

22 April - 17 July 1994

Of all the collection areas, sculpture has had the slowest growth, and remains relatively small in comparison with painting and works on paper. Since the 1970s considerable building has occurred, particularly the last decade where there has been a conscious effort not only to acquire non specific works of sculpture but also works that have been commissioned for specific space locations within the Gallery.

This exhibition reflects 27 representative works something of the range of the contemporary New Zealand Sculpture collection.

It also reveals the diversity of materials and techniques, both traditional and experimental, used by contemporary sculptors, whether they be concerned with floor, wall or aerial space. The sculpture of 21 New Zealand artists has been selected. Included is work by Derek Ball, Chris Booth, Graham Bennett, Stephen Clarke, Bill Culbert, Judy Darragh, Bing Dawe, Neil Dawson, Paul Dibble, Simon Endres, Morgan Jones, Peter Nicholls, Denis O'Connor, Anton Parsons, Matt Pine, Anthony Stones, Terry Stringer, Llewelyn Summers, Bronwyn Taylor, Tom Taylor and Greer Twiss.

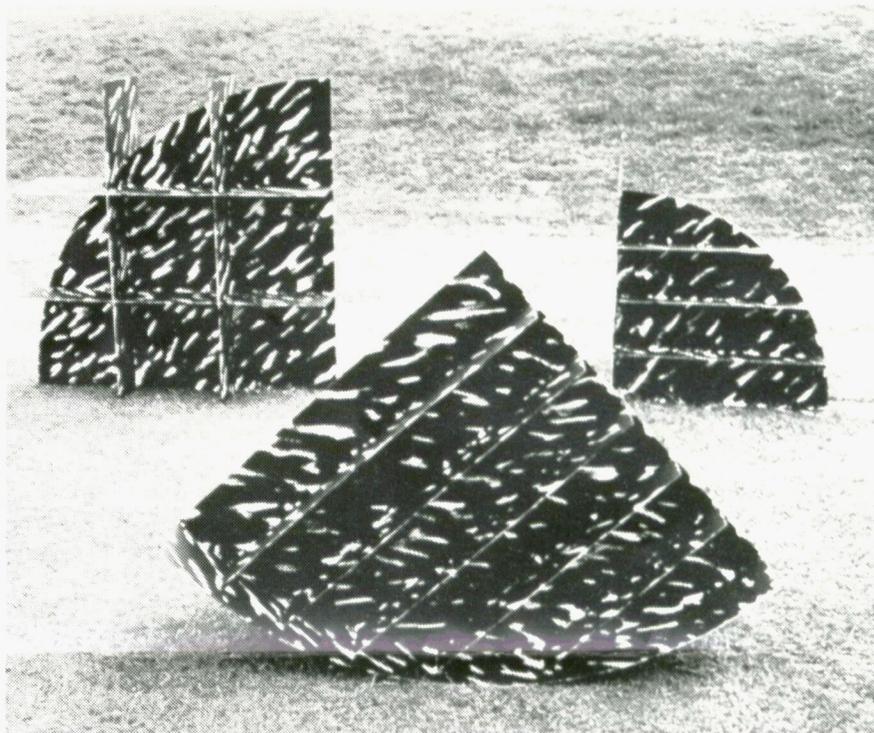
Four Decades of Architecture: Warren and Mahoney Retrospective

14 May - 19 June 1994

McDougall Art Annex

Sir Miles Warren retires in 1994. This exhibition honours his work and the work of Warren and Mahoney, Architects over the last 35 years.

It will include watercolours, photographs, drawings, plans and models. The exhibition design itself will have a strongly



Matt Pine **Circle Segments No 1** 1985 aluminium and acrylic
Collection: Robert McDougall Art Gallery

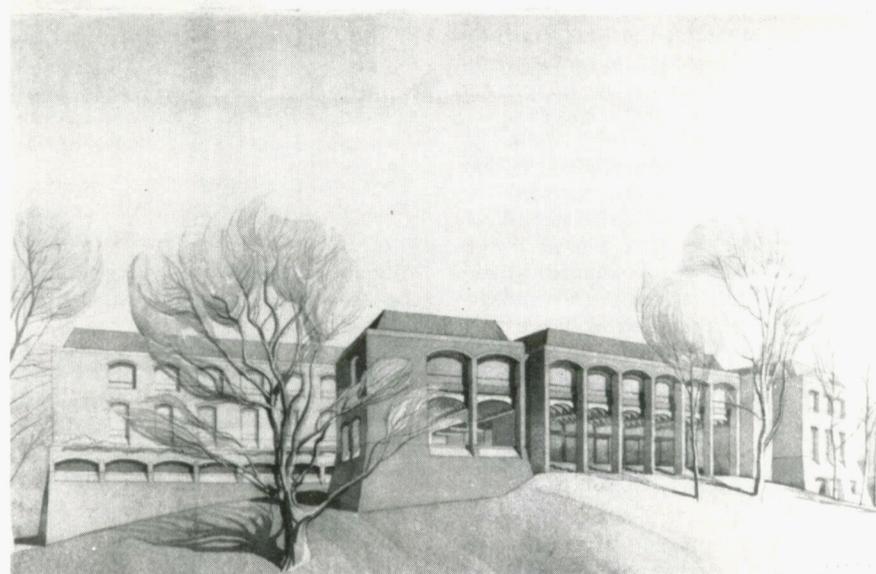
architectural flavour achieved through a collaboration between the Art Annex and Warren and Mahoney.

The exhibition encompasses building projects undertaken by the practice throughout the country and further afield. Included are accounts of the development of the new Tamaki University, and Television New Zealand buildings in Auckland; the Rotorua District Council facilities; the reconstruction of Parliament, the Parliamentary Library, and Bowen House in Wellington; the New Zealand Chancery in Washington, and the New Zealand High Commission in New Delhi.

Aside from their contribution to public architecture, Warren and Mahoney's work

as designers of domestic, commercial, and church buildings is also addressed.

Their work as architects spans the post-war period to the postmodern movement. As an exhibition, the collected work illustrates the remarkable change in architectural styles from the 1950s to the present day. Included also is work in progress and work currently on the drawing boards.

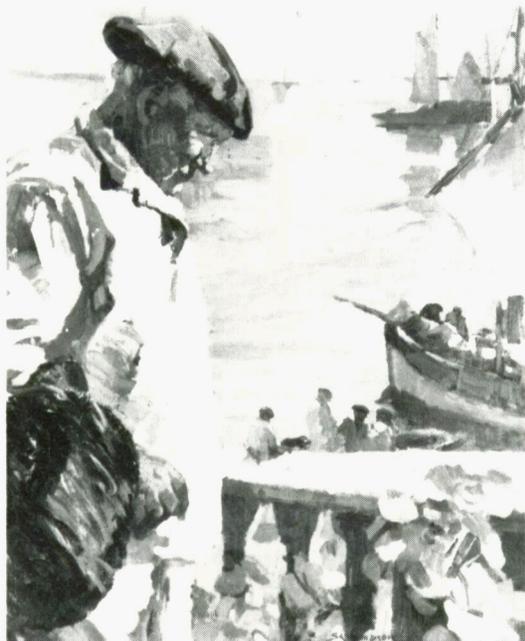


Miles Warren Chancery Building, New Zealand Embassy, Washington D.C.

Dame Eileen Mayo

Early in January 1994 well-known artist, designer, and printmaker, Dame Eileen Mayo, died in Christchurch. Her contribution to the art world, both nationally and internationally, was profound. Many will remember the wonderful retrospective exhibition initiated and toured by the National Library of New Zealand that displayed her ability as an artist and her commitment to art and design. Eileen Mayo was honoured in the New Years Honours List just prior to her death.

In the next issue of Bulletin there will be a supplement about Dame Eileen Mayo written by Jillian Cassidy.



Sydney Lough Thompson
The Breton Fisherman and the Balcony
 oil on canvas
 Collection: Robert McDougall Art Gallery

Recent Acquisitions

The Breton Fisherman and the Balcony (above)

Sydney Lough Thompson

Gifted by Mr H.J.L. and Mrs Beatrice G. Harris (nee Bassett)

The work dates from the late 1920s and shows the view from Thompson's studio La Digue Concarneau. It was exhibited at the S. L. Thompson Exhibition held at Fisher's Gallery, Colombo Street during June 1948, catalogue number 42.

Floortalk

Margaret Dawson will give a floortalk at the Annex on Friday 15 April at 1pm about her exhibition **Amusements**, which is currently on display at the Annex. **Amusements** runs until 1 May. Free Admission

Public Lecture

Professor Lloyd Geering will give a public lecture titled: **Colin McCahon and the Twilight of Christendom** on Sunday 1 May at 3pm. The lecture will take place in the Arts Centre Film Theatre. Free admission.

Floortalk

Elizabeth Caldwell will give a floortalk at the Main Gallery on Sunday 15 May at 2 p.m. about the exhibition **Off Centre**. Free admission.

Public Lecture

Keith Arnatt, British photographer, will talk about his forthcoming exhibition, **One foot has not yet reached the next street**, on Friday 22 April at 2 p.m. Main gallery. Free admission. Generously supported by the British Council.



Takumi Sato and Mr Yuji Ooka (left), Consul for the Embassy of Japan at the 'Beyond Vessel' opening.

COMING EVENTS

APRIL

- 1 Good Friday: Gallery closed
- 2 Saturday Club 10.30 a.m.
- 6 Wednesday Club meet at the Limeworks at 10.30 a.m.
- 7 **Off Centre** opens to the public
- 10 **Artwatch**: Turner at the Tate Main Gallery 11 a.m.
- 15 Margaret Dawson floortalk at the Annex 1 p.m.
- 16 Continuing Club 10.30 a.m.
- 17 **Beyond Vessel** closes
- 20 Speaker of the Month: Elizabeth Caldwell will speak at the Main Gallery 10.30 a.m.
- 21 Kilmarnock Club 10.30 a.m.
- 22 **Contemporary Sculpture from the Collection** opens to the public
- 22 Public Lecture: Keith Arnatt, Main Gallery, 2 p.m.

MAY

- 1 **Amusements** closes at the Annex
- 1 Public Lecture: Professor Lloyd Geering, Arts Centre Film Theatre 3.00 p.m.
- 4 Wednesday Club 10.30 a.m.
- 7 Saturday Club 10.30 a.m.
- 14 **Four Decades of Architecture: Warren and Mahoney Retrospective** exhibition opens at the Annex
- 14 Continuing Club 10.30 a.m.
- 15 Floortalk by Elizabeth Caldwell about **Off Centre**, Main Gallery 2 p.m.
- 18 Speaker of the Month: Cath Brown will speak at the Annex 10.30 a.m.
- 19 Kilmarnock Club 10.30 a.m.
- 22 **Off Centre** closes

Friends of the Robert McDougall Art Gallery

President—Chris Brocket 355 7133
Vice President—Mark Stocker 365 3895
Treasurer—Robin Hogg 365 4646
Secretary—Anne Watt 379 4055



Annual General Meeting

At the AGM on Friday 4 March Chris Brocket, formerly the treasurer of the executive, was elected president for the coming year. Hilary Langer, the retiring president, thanked her executive and the retiring members for their work. She also referred to the serious physical limitations of the Gallery and the vital importance of planning now for an up-to-date gallery for the city. Dorothee Pauli, an Art History student at the University of Canterbury, was presented with the Friends Scholarship. After a short social break for drinks and nibbles, the Gallery theme was continued when Sir Miles Warren gave a most interesting illustrated address on The Gallery and the City.

Executive Committee

The Executive Committee for 1994-95 comprises Chris Brocket, Mark Stocker, Anne Watt, Robin Hogg, Victoria Clark, Barry Cleavin, Philippa Dobson, June Goldstein, Dick Lucas, Russell Skinner, Kerry Sullivan and Robyn Ussher. While this list seems almost as vast as Mr Bolger's Cabinet, we need a further member willing to co-ordinate Artwatch! (See below for details.)

LocArt

Reports on the visits to College House (20 February) and to the collection of Dr and Mrs Buchan (9 March) will appear in a future Bulletin.

Speaker of the Month

These functions take place on the third Wednesday of each month, commencing at 10.30am with the serving of tea and coffee. The charge is \$1.50 for members, \$2.50 for non-members.

April: On April 20, **Elizabeth Caldwell**, Contemporary Curator at the McDougall, will give an illustrated talk on the recent exhibition she co-curated, **Off Centre**. Venue: Main Gallery at 10:30 a.m.

May: On May 18, **Cath Brown**, the distinguished Ngai Tahu artist and craftsperson, will present an illustrated personal statement from a Maori woman artist's perspective. Venue: Main Gallery at 10:30 a.m.

Theatre Design

Over seventy people came to hear Elric Hooper on 15 September, and none were disappointed. The interesting content and his enthusiastic manner made the talk an enjoyable theatrical performance. His comprehensive understanding of his subject was evident both in his survey of significant people, events and technology in the history of the theatre and in his classification of its four essential elements - music, words, ambience, and gesture. One sensed that Elric agreed with Wagner who wanted theatre to be an arena where all the arts found expression together. Whereas Shakespeare presented verbal and aural stimuli, we cope better with rapid visual stimuli as in TV ads. Through electric light and abstract design, scenes have become part of the performance. Elric pointed to the contributions to the ambience of modern theatre made early this century by Appia, Diaghilev and Bakst.

Text and Image

What is the key to understanding Dame Eileen Mayo's work? According to Jillian Cassidy, who addressed over sixty Friends on 20 October, it is economy of line and a satisfying balance between text and image. There was no conflict between Eileen's fascination with the natural world and her spiritual and religious beliefs. Lettering and an unfaltering line were inspired by Eric Gill, while David Jones influenced her perception of shapes in nature. Her sympathies with William Blake also emerged. The impressive range of Eileen's accomplishments was evident in the recent exhibition of her work at the McDougall.

Olivia Spencer Bower

In 1993 the Friends presented to the Gallery Olivia Spencer Bower's **Ngaio Marsh painting out of doors**. On 16 February 1994 a large gathering was reminded of this during Julie King's survey of Olivia Spencer Bower's art, especially since that work illustrated well the three features for which her work is known: watercolour as a medium, and landscape and women as subjects. Julie stressed that much needs to be done for a full appreciation of this artist. She pointed to such features as Olivia Spencer Bower's early experimental approach to landscape, her increasing attention to a human presence

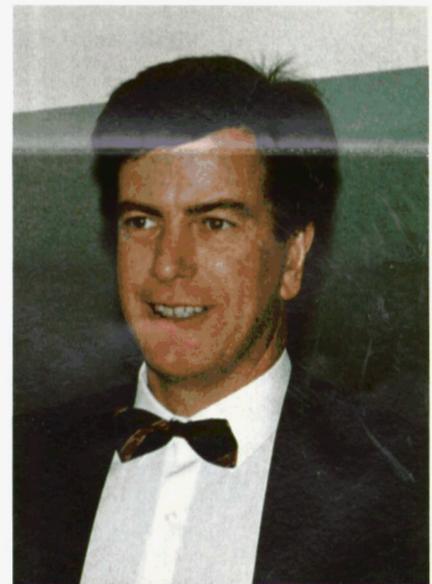
and later to her interest in depicting women engaged in child care, reading and spinning. Malcolm Ott then spoke about the Olivia Spencer Bower Foundation of which he is a trustee, noting its significance as a model for accomplished artists to preserve their personal works and as a means of assisting younger artists. He also acknowledged the generous help of the Gallery in making storage available for the artist's works.

New Members

Alison Barwick
Lynne Cobine
Mrs Helen Heddell
Mrs Louise Franken
Caroline Poplewell

Artwatch: volunteer wanted

The video of **Turner at the Tate** will be shown at the new time of Sunday 10 April at 11am. The Executive Committee wishes to maintain the programme thereafter. To do so, we urgently need a volunteer to help co-ordinate it. Would anyone interested please contact Ann Watt on the Friends answerphone (379 4055) or any committee member.



The new Friends President, Chris Brocket.
