

Bulletin

THE ROBERT McDOUGALL ART GALLERY

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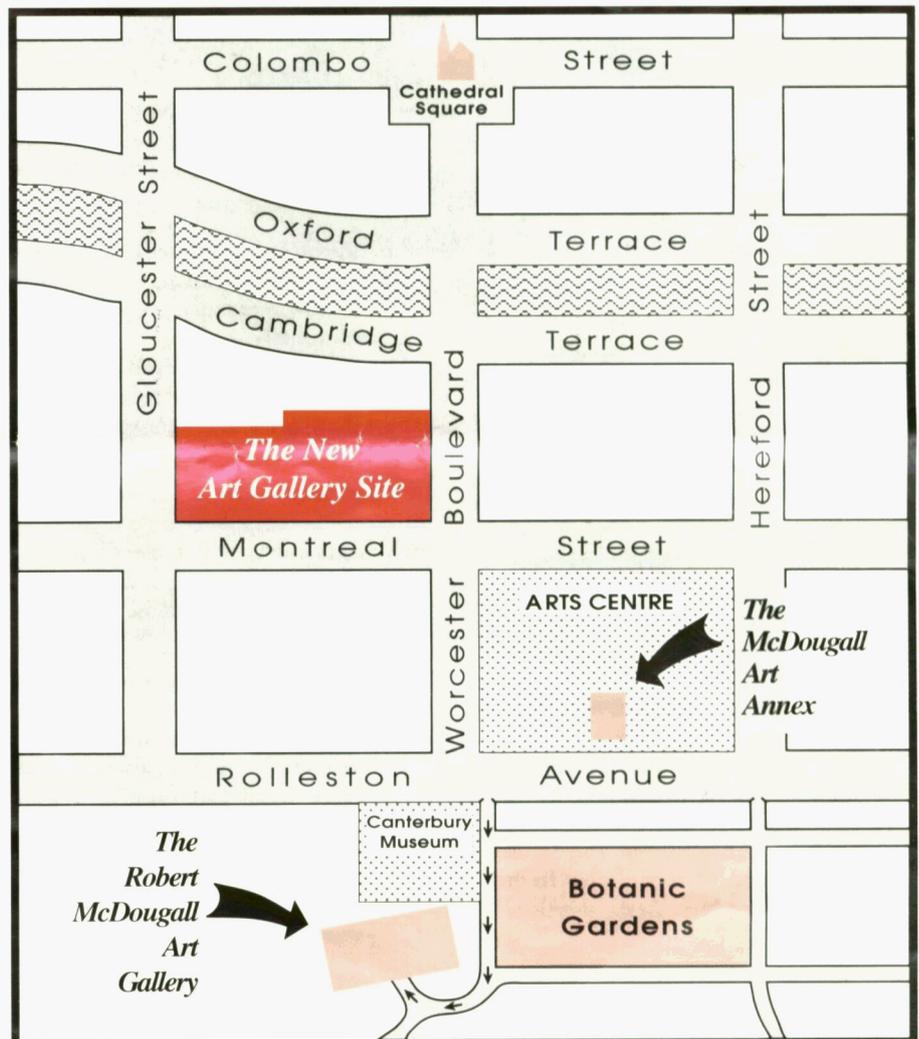
A Site for the New Gallery is Purchased!

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Christchurch City Council



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A Site for the New Gallery is Purchased!

After a 27 year struggle, the City of Christchurch has a designated site for a new art gallery, and it's the best in town! Bounded by Worcester Boulevard, Gloucester Street and Montreal Street, the large block of vacant land (currently used by the City as car parking) was purchased for \$9.6 million for a new, purpose-built art museum.

Many sites were proposed and considered, but after long and careful investigations it was obvious that this site on the Boulevard was by far the most suitable within the heart of the cultural and historical centre of the city, and on the cultural axis that stretches from the Cathedral to the Canterbury Museum and Botanic Gardens.

Exciting, too, is the fact that this is a vacant site with sufficient space to create an elegant and timeless piece of contemporary architecture. Such a building will be a perfect foil and counterpoint to the fine historical buildings, and is a feature currently lacking in the precinct.

That we have been able to purchase the whole site is also a cause for great celebration. Funds put aside by the Christchurch City Council towards an art gallery site were not sufficient to

purchase the entire block, and for some time the possibility of a commercial partnership was explored. However, in the course of these negotiations the Trust Bank Canterbury Community Trust decided to grant \$3.8 million so the entire site could be purchased for the project. Not only have we a prestigious site, but there will also be the space for a sculpture park. For too long our present space restrictions have impacted badly on the acquisition and display of Canterbury sculpture in our collection.

The new building on this site is an exciting concept and one on which planning and development of a brief are already proceeding. Gallery professionals, aware of the facilities required and artistic needs of a modern community, are working on the spaces, interactions and special features required for each of the gallery functions. Only when this brief is completely resolved can architects and engineers begin their part of the project.

What will happen to the old McDougall building? As a registered category 1 historical building, the life of the McDougall as a public space is assured. We will leave behind an extremely well-appointed exhibition space. Splitting our function between the two sites is not

desirable, so it is likely neighbouring institutions like the Canterbury Museum or the Botanic Gardens will be the occupants.

Robert McDougall's generosity will continue to be remembered and acknowledged, but Christchurch will at last get a space adequate for its needs, properly appointed to international art museum standards and well-positioned to display Canterbury art along with exciting exhibitions on the international touring circuit.

There is no doubt that everyone sees the opening of the new gallery as the ideal project with which to celebrate the sesquicentenary, the new millennium and Christchurch as the thriving cultural capital.

This is also the time to acknowledge the remarkable support of the Mayor, Vicki Buck; the City Manager, Mike Richardson; and the efforts of the Property Projects Manager, Gilbert van Schaijik; Sir Miles Warren (who assisted with presentations and design concepts); Chris Brocket, President of the Friends of the McDougall; and our Director, Tony Preston in this great achievement.

Our congratulations and heartfelt thanks to all concerned.

East and West

10 August - 15 September

During the twentieth century the art of the east and the west has become strongly intertwined.

This exhibition of over 40 prints by European and non-European artists from the Gallery's collection aims to explore and compare these similarities and differences. Works from Japan, USA, Britain, Australia and New Zealand will feature.

The selection will include mostly works made with traditional techniques such as the woodcut, etching, engraving, screenprinting and lithography. Although the majority of these works were made during the past three decades, some works from earlier centuries will also be on display, as will some pieces from such well-known artists like James Abbott McNeill Whistler, Barbara Hepworth, Bridget Riley, Arthur Boyd, and Sydney Nolan. East and West will also feature works by leading New Zealand artists.

Canterbury Places and Faces

10 August - 13 October

This exhibition of works from the Gallery's photographic collection illustrates how a sense of place and identity has traditionally been a fundamental concern for the New Zealand artist over the generations. In photography this aspect has been given even greater emphasis.

In this selection of 20 images from 10 different photographers we can see how each makes a unique statement but have all at one time or another found a common source for their imagery in the places and people of Canterbury.

Among the artists represented are Laurence Aberhart, Larry Bell, Glenn Busch, Kevin Capon, Margaret Dawson, Bruce Foster, Murray Hedwig, Marti Friedlander, Euan Sarginson, and Gail Wright. The familiar Canterbury places and faces will be left for you to discover and enjoy.

New members

C & P A M Albers

Judi & Daniel Bagust

Jane Batchelor

Joan & Tom Burrows

Mrs June Cook

Julie Dale

Mrs Antonia Hill

Julie Jamieson

Mrs Dora M McKenzie

C A & W M Pilbrow

Pip & Ian Robertson

Mr & Mrs B G Solomons

Prof G & Mrs M Sweet

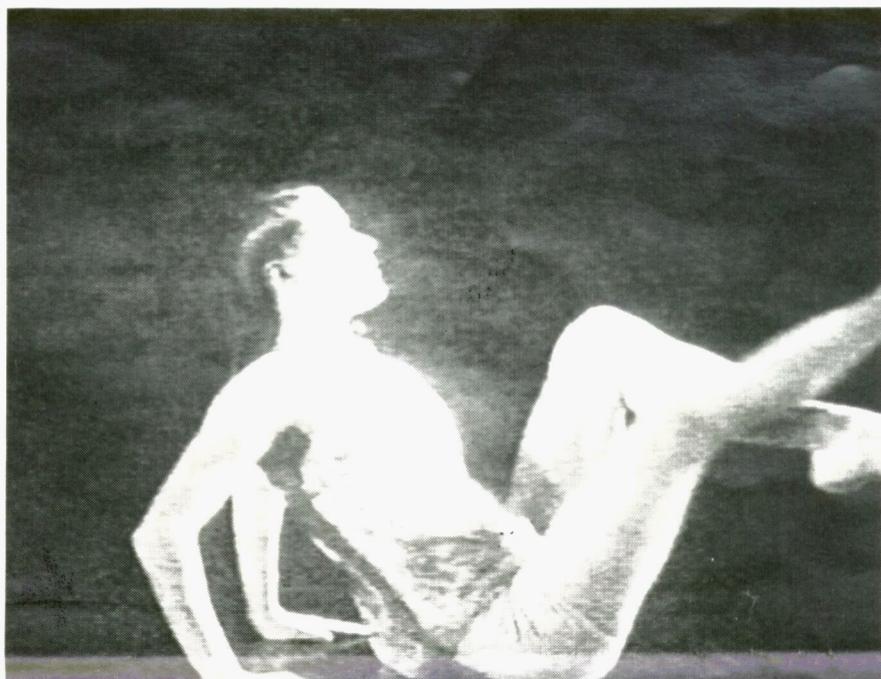
A E M Taylor

Penni Tilson

F K & P J A Wardell

Margaret Wardle

Mrs Diane Wilson



Ears to the Ground (detail), Nancy de Freitas 1996.

Ears to the Ground: a dance in three movements

An installation by Nancy de Freitas
10 August - 15 September

The artistic concept for **Ears to the Ground** evolved from Nancy de Freitas' on-going interest in dance, particularly contemporary dance theatre, a passion which originated with de Freitas' own involvement in dance as a young woman. In this new work she has collaborated with Mary Jane O'Reilly, choreographer; Maggie Burke, dance teacher; and Raewyn White, dance commentator; with contributions from Lyz Kirk, dancer; and Katherine Neil, composer.

The ideas which culminated in this installation were inspired by the dance production **Dust in the Air**, first performed in 1994 at the now-closed Galaxy Theatre, Old Customs House, Auckland. It was choreographed by Mary Jane O'Reilly to an original score by Jonathon Besser and was re-worked for a series of performances at the Maidment Theatre Auckland, in 1996. With permission from the choreographer, de Freitas has selected small fragments of the

dance sequences and used them to create an entirely new event, a different picture of the experience of the dance.

The installation consists of three parts or movements/translations. The first movement is a series of sequenced still images which present aspects of movement barely perceptible in real time. The second movement is a ten minute audio track which contains the actual voices of the choreographer, one of the dancers, the critic/commentator and the artist as audience. The third movement consists of drawings made to human scale which are based on accurate labanotations of the selected choreographed fragments that are projected on the centre wall of the gallery.

This audio-visual installation explores the structural interrelationships which exist in the creation, performance and appreciation of the dance. The artist says, "*In all art forms there is a relationship between the observer and the artefact, but nowhere is this relationship so complex and so potentially symbiotic as in the observation of performance*". De Freitas has unravelled the smooth surface of the performance to search for the structure, the asymmetry and the moments of clarity. She is working to pull out the essence beneath the dance or to find something frequently unobserved within.

Nancy de Freitas is an Auckland artist whose work has consistently involved investigations of the human form and the nature of human existence. She did her undergraduate studies at the Ontario College of Art and completed her MFA at the University of Auckland. She is currently a senior lecturer at the School of Art and Design at the Auckland Institute of Technology.

Art Annex

Lauren Lysaght - Emovere

30 August - 29 September

Including works with titles like *Happily Ever After*, *Sweet Love Suite*, *Wall of Denial* and *That Old Familiar Feeling*, Lauren Lysaght's exhibition takes its name from the Latin word meaning to move or disturb. Far removed from the intellectualised and dispassionate art which seems to dominate the contemporary art scene, **Emovere** deliberately seeks to bring emotion back into the gallery space. By immersing the viewer in an arena charged with sorrow, rage, joy, and despair, Lysaght rejects the current trend towards dealing with strong feelings by channelling them into socially acceptable forms: "*I am fascinated with the way people 'manage' anger now - having Italian and Irish blood in me, I learned to 'free-range' with anger - and I am convinced it is another 'plot' by the middle classes to keep anger 'nice'.*"

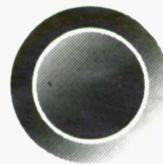
The exhibition consists of variously sized multi-media pieces, on

both the floor and the walls, which utilise such diverse materials as lace, faux snakeskin and candyfloss. The emotional content of the work confronts the viewer, even as the eye is seduced by the delicious trashiness of colour and texture. Lysaght's love of melodrama and humour does not diminish the intensity of her art, rather it creates an environment which sets the viewer up for ultimate impact.

Compassionate Leave, a multi-media floor piece, is a Louis Vuitton-like luggage set which looks reassuringly ready for the owner's escape, but closer inspection reveals that the cases are forbiddingly coffin-shaped. Lysaght's scenarios may appear sugar-sweet, but they drip acid: "*I like to produce friendly little pieces that invite the curious to stop and look more closely. I lure them in and then I go 'bang' and the observer has to react.*"

Friends of the Robert McDougall Art Gallery

President—Chris Brocket 355 7133
Vice-President—Mark Stocker 365 3895
Treasurer—Helen-Mary Black 332 7290
Secretary—Ann Watt 379 4055



Speaker of the Month

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

On 21 August Angela Gorton, General Manager of the Canterbury Opera, will talk about the concepts of "The Magic Flute" with particular emphasis on the set and designs.

On 18 September artist Alan Pearson will give an illustrated talk on his work.

Recent Speakers of the Month

Grant Banbury - Doris Lusk: Regionalism Reconstructed.

As a former pupil and friend of Doris Lusk and co-curator of *Landmarks - The Landscape Paintings of Doris*

Lusk, Grant Banbury showed an intimate knowledge of his subject. His lecture was supported by well-chosen slides which allowed us to compare the works of Lusk with those of her contemporaries. We saw her preoccupation with structures within the landscape, the built environment and peopled landscape as distinct from the viewpoints presented by other artists of her time such as her friend Colin McCahon. These comparisons added an extra dimension to Lusk's works.

This informative morning was enjoyed by a large audience. How lucky Christchurch was to have experienced this impressive exhibition at which there were over 41,000 visits.

Robin Bond - The Place of Theatre in 5th Century BC Athenian Society.

The senior lecturer in classics and drama at the University of Canterbury,

Robin Bond, gave a stimulating insight into Greek Theatre. He discussed the transformation of early theatre from the 6th century BC tragedy hymns to honour Dionysus to the dramas of the 5th century BC with their individual performers and social and political subjects. Greek drama, we learned, developed from a ritual to a dramatic art form. Theatre was central to the lives of Athenians, and being state controlled, was used as a vehicle for political power. State finances funded a competition among the poets for works for state performances so it was not surprising that their views were in tune with those of the men in power.

Using the overhead projector and a set of excellent slides, Robin Bond compared the early theatre plans with the ruins visible on Greek sites today. Peter Dunbar gave a well-considered vote of thanks on behalf of an appreciative audience.

LocArt Visit to the van Rangelrooy Studio

Bianca van Rangelrooy treated the May LocArt visitors to a mini-retrospective of her work. The most current, and yet to be exhibited work entitled *Memorial Series*, successfully combines her drawing strengths with evocative symbolism.

Over the past five years Bianca has been exploring themes of multiculturalism using discarded New Zealand symbols, organic forms, and strong composition and colour. Other works show her versatility through the wide range of media. She works with: brass rods with tissue, painted copper (one commissioned sculpture hangs in the new Law Courts), pastels as in the drawing *Phoenix II*, and with acrylic and oil paint as in *The Yellow Wallpaper* and *The Sublimation of Guilt I and II* which echo her feminist influences.

For Bianca, working on her art overlaps with lecturing in sculptural design at Lincoln University, and we were all most appreciative of a very interesting visit.

LocArt Visit in August

On Tuesday August 6 Robyn Cliffe, couturier, will show *Fashion in a Working Environment* at 98 Victoria Street. This building was originally a Lutheran Church. There will be two sessions at 11 am and at 4.30 pm, each for a maximum of 15 people.

Please meet June Goldstein outside the showroom at 10.50am or 4.20 pm. To book or cancel please ring the answerphone on 379 4055.

LocArt Visit in October

On Thursday October 3 Stephen Gleeson will outline the historical and contemporary practice of *Sculptural Casting in Bronze* at Limeworks Sculpture and Art Rentals in Moorhouse Avenue.

June Goldstein will meet a maximum of 30 Friends at 2.20 pm outside the studio at 249 Moorhouse Avenue. To book or cancel please ring the answerphone on 379 4055.



Bianca van Rangelrooy and Esther Archdall during the LocArt visit in May.

Our thanks to Belle Melzer who contributed to this issue

Recent Acquisitions

The following works have been acquired for the collection:

William Dunning

Timetable, Christchurch City
acrylic, charcoal and pencil on paper

Archibald Nicoll

Becordel, AD 1916
oil on canvas board

Eva G Lucas

Self Portrait
oil on board

Rhona Haszard

Oxford Terrace
etching

Arthur Hipwell

Bank of New Zealand Corner
etching

Jude Rae

Clerambault's Dream
oil on canvas

Wilhelm Ruifrok

Liberation
oil on aluminium

Martin Whitworth

Forced Work: Burnham to Bosnia and Back
oil crayon on canvas and customboard
Tui
oil on canvas
Presented by the artist

Christopher Braddock

Untitled: continuum
customwood, paint and mirror

Pauline Rhodes

Flux
ink and stains on paper
Presented by the artist

Carl Sydow

Untitled Drawing
ink and pencil
Presented by Alan Pearson



Timetable, Christchurch City, William Dunning 1996.



Friends Mary McAlpine, Judy Macfarlane, Joy and John Boyd at Bianca van Rangelrooy's studio.

Ruth Maud Lumsden Dean

Untitled (Pukeko)
tapestry
Bequest of the artist

Gretchen Albrecht

Emperer 2, from Nomadic Geometrics'
oil on canvas

Bill Hammond

The Fall of Icarus
oil on canvas

William Menzies Gibb

Untitled (River Scene)
oil on board
Untitled (Bottle Lake)
watercolour
Untitled (Harvest Scene)
watercolour

John Gibb

Amuri Bluff
oil on board
Dorothy Elizabeth Feaver Bequest



Coming Events

AUGUST

Exhibitions

- 1 **Shared Visions - Native American Art from the Heard Museum** - until 4 August
- Works from the Collection** - until 23 February 1997
- Pat Unger Passport Issue** - until 4 August
- Aftermath** - at the Annex - until 25 August
- 10 **Canterbury Faces and Places** - until 13 October
- Nancy de Freitas - Ears to The Ground** - until 15 September
- East & West - Prints from the Collection** - until 15 September
- 12 **Off the Wall - Sculpture from the Collection** - until 15 September
- 30 **Emovere - Lauren Lysaght** - At the Annex - until 29 September

Events

Gallery Clubs and Art Appreciation programmes

- 1 **Mac Club** - 10.30am. An art appreciation club for the disabled or differently abled. New members welcome
- 2 **Friday Club** - 10.30am. An art appreciation club meeting
- 3 **Saturday 1 Club** - 10.30 am. An art appreciation club meeting
- Children's Club** - 1.30pm. An art appreciation club meeting for children

Lectures & Concerts

- 6 **LocArt Visit** - Robyn Cliffe, 98 Victoria Street. 10.50 am or 4.20 pm
- 21 **Speaker of the Month** - Angela Gorton will speak on *The Magic Flute* 10.30 am

SEPTEMBER

Exhibitions

- 1 **Works from the Collection** - until 23 February 1997
- Canterbury Faces and Places** - until 13 October
- Nancy de Freitas Installation** - until 15 September
- East & West - Prints from the Collection** - until 15 September
- Off the Wall - Sculpture from the Collection** - until 15 September
- 30 **Emovere - Lauren Lysaght** - At the Annex - until 29 September

Events

Gallery Clubs & Art Appreciation Programmes

- 4 **Wednesday 1 Club** - 10.30am. An art appreciation club meeting.
- Wednesday 2 Club** - 1.30pm. An art appreciation club meeting.
- 5 **Mac Club** - 10.30am. An art appreciation club for the disabled or differently abled. New members welcome
- 6 **Friday Club** - 10.30am. An art appreciation club meeting
- 7 **Saturday 1 Club** - 10.30 am. An art appreciation club meeting.
- Children's Club** - 1.30pm. An art appreciation club meeting for children
- 14 **Saturday 2 Club** - 10.30am. An art appreciation club meeting

Lectures & Concerts

- 11 **Lecture** - Professor Colin Seymour-Ure will speak on *David Low and the Role of the Newspaper Cartoon*. 11 am at the Christ's College, Assembly Hall, Hornsby Lecture Theatre
- 18 **Speaker of the Month** - Alan Pearson, artist, will give an illustrated lecture on his works. 10.30am



Clockwise from top left - 1. Kaikaranga Cath Brown leads the manubiri into the gallery for the opening of **Shared Visions**. 2. Visiting Native American artist Rick Bartow addresses the Ngai Tabu. 3. Riki Pitama welcomes the guests on behalf of the Ngai Tabu. 4. Rick Bartow prepares to speak for the manubiri.