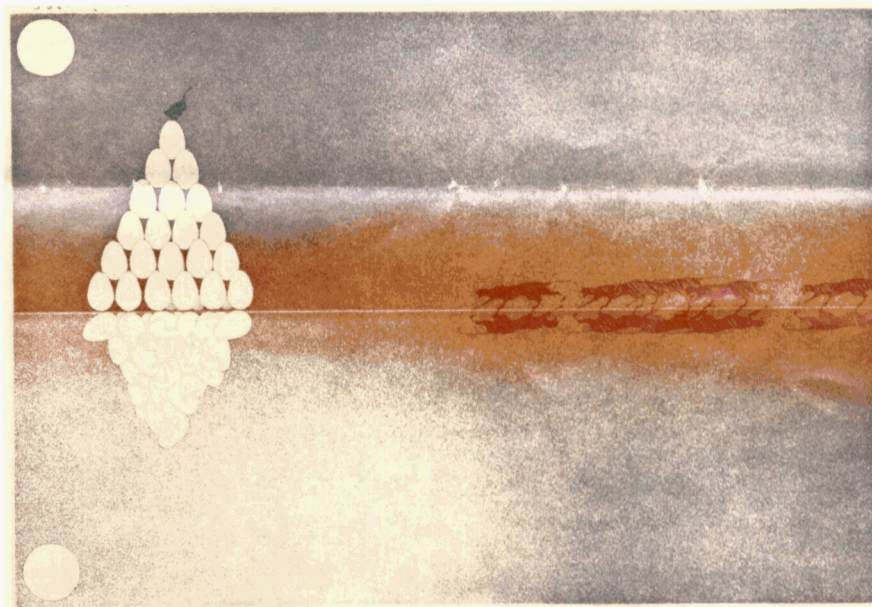


# Bulletin

THE ROBERT McDOUGALL ART GALLERY

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*There's two sides - to every story. 1996. Barry Cleavin.*

## Barry Cleavin Printmaker

### The Elements of Doubt

29 May - 13 July

For some time, Cleavin has observed the polarities of human identity. These observations have in turn often given rise to prints where sardonic images challenge the absurdities of humankind and our interaction with other species.

It is Cleavin's contemplation of human destruction of other species, particularly New Zealand fauna, and the temporary nature of existence, that forms the important focus for many of the works in 'The Elements of Doubt'.

Comprising 110 prints, mostly made during the past 3 years, this exhibition includes eight sets, titled: 'In the Past Tense', 'Paradoxes, Parodies and Palindromes', 'Gander Issues', 'The Elements of Doubt-Avian', 'The Elements of Doubt-Simian', 'The Hungry Sheep Look Up', 'Of Traps and Snares' and 'The Negotiating Tables'.

Barry Cleavin, like other artists, has taken the impetus for his imagery from

a variety of sources known but rarely seen. But **The Elements of Doubt** adds an extra dimension through the inclusion of several skeletons, juxtaposing source and image. This show allows the meeting of objects from two museum worlds that normally would not have any exhibition association yet they can exist in the collections of both, although sometimes only as images.

**The Elements of Doubt** is the first major showing of Cleavin's work in this gallery since the touring retrospective 'Ewe & Eye' organised by the Auckland Art Gallery in 1982.

We are most grateful to the Auckland, Canterbury and Otago Museums for the loan of skeletons which enable **The Elements of Doubt** to be not only an exhibition with a purpose, but also one with a difference.

Watch for 'Essential Elements', a special Cleavin quiz starting at the Gallery on 8 June, open to all ages and with a special prize for the lucky winner. More details on Coming Events page.

Director: Tony Preston, Senior Curator: Neil Roberts, Administration: Margaret Grijns, Jenny Barber, Pamela Jarman, Art Annex Curator: Elizabeth Caldwell, Art Annex Supervisor: Simon Mulligan, Conservator: Lynn Campbell, Custodians: Harry Ipenburg, Tiresa Ah-Wong, Education: Ann Betts, Judith Hoult, Exhibitions: Spencer Pullon, Gary Collins, Information and Shop: Merilynne Evans, Alexandra Ott, Maintenance: Denise Paulger, Registration: Anna Crighton, Technician: Martin Young, Promotions: Amanda Grogan, Weekend Custodians: Merilynne Evans, Rebecca Jellie, Susan Leckie, John Mottram, Tony Webster, Gwen Searle and Hugh Campbell.

Christchurch City Council



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Botanic Gardens Christchurch

## Treasures in Trust

12 June - 3 August

Organised to coincide with the 75th anniversary of the Alexander Turnbull Library, **Treasures in Trust** is a major touring exhibition of almost 100 significant historical works, objects and artifacts from the Library's collection. Featured are oil and watercolour paintings, illuminated manuscripts and rare books, maps and photographs representing several major events in the history of this nation.

The earliest image of the Pacific dated 1603, is a beautiful hand-coloured journal illustrating the South American Spanish territories. This is joined by a number of 19th century Maori portraits and landscape paintings by early explorers and colonial artists such as James Barry, Augustus Earle, William Fox, Claus Edward Fristrom, Charles Heaphy and William Strutt. Cyprian Bridge's watercolours of pas and fortifications sketched during the 1860 Land Wars and vintage photographs of the Rotomahana district taken soon after the eruption of Mount Tarawera also give a fascinating insight into earlier times.

**Treasures in Trust** also includes some of the finest examples from the Turnbull Library's collection of illuminated manuscripts and rare books. The oldest complete manuscript in New Zealand *Boethius' De Musica*, with its exquisite diagrams decorated with whimsical animal motifs, and the 1500 *Dijon Book of Hours* are included in this group.

There are also a number of fascinating curiosities such as a knife and fork from Cook's ship Endeavour and Katherine Mansfield's typewriter.

In 1918, when Alexander Turnbull died, his collection of some 55,000 items: books, pamphlets, periodicals, newspapers, maps, photographs, paintings, drawings, prints and manuscripts were bequeathed to the nation. This gift remains one of the most significant acts of philanthropy in New Zealand history and the basis for **Treasures in Trust**, which promises to be a stunning and intriguing show.

The **supporting programme for Treasures in Trust** features a series of lectures focusing on the heritage aspect

of this show. On 3 July at 11.00 am our Conservator Lynn Campbell will give an illustrated lecture "Caring for Old Books, Letters and Manuscripts" at the Hurst Seager Room, Christchurch Arts Centre. On 27 July at 2.00pm Neil Roberts, Senior Curator, will give a public lecture "Alexander Turnbull and early New Zealand Art Treasures" at the Hurst Seager Room, Christchurch Arts Centre, and on 3 August a speaker from the Canterbury Library will speak on early New Zealand books. (You will be advised of the venue for the last programme in the next Bulletin.) Ann Betts will also give three Floortalks on the works in **Treasures and Trust** on 20 July at 2.00 pm, 23 July at 11.00 am and on 3 August at 2.00 pm.



*Meeting of the Artist and Hongi at the Bay of Islands, November 1827, Augustus Earle.*

## Youth Make Their Mark

18 July - 24 August

A major exhibition of some of the best art works produced by senior art students in Canterbury secondary schools, this show will present an overview of art work being created today. **Youth Make Their Mark** will display the full range of art media including examples of current painting, sculpture, drawing, printmaking and photography.

Imagery selected and manipulated by the young artists, and the manner in which they tackle the deployment of line, shape and colour, will generate a very interesting and challenging exhibition. Art students will be able to see some fine examples of work by fellow youthful

artists. Teachers will have the opportunity to see works by other schools and the general public will see that teenagers today can often reach heights of excellence unexpected from the young. They will also see how today's art curriculum draws amazing work from senior students performing at high intellectual and technical levels. **Youth Make Their Mark** promises to be quite an eye-opener!

Participating schools cover the full spectrum from single sex private colleges to co-educational schools from widely different suburbs. Rural schools and those as far away as Greymouth and

Timaru will also be contributing to **Youth Make Their Mark** making it an exciting and stimulating show.

The supporting programme will include a short symposium, or discussion panel, at the Gallery on Saturday 26 July at 2 pm. In this programme 'Youth on Art' young artists will discuss their thoughts and ideas on the role of art in today's world and in the world they envision for the future.

# Art Annex

## Redeye

Ann Shelton  
6 June - 6 July

A carnival of colour, **Redeye**, by Auckland photographer Ann Shelton, will expose Annex visitors to "an ongoing social diary in photographs".

Shelton finds her accomplices within the Auckland art scene - at gallery openings, performances and underground events. Capturing raw, gritty snapshot images, her work explores the voyeuristic nature of the relationship between the photographic subject and the viewer. **Redeye** is an unflinching, unwashed surveillance, homing in on what critic Justin Paton has described as the "tribal rites of the young and restless".

Shelton's images are organised on a visual, rather than a narrative basis, and

reveal the formal concerns of colour, shape, texture and content in several large, variously sized blocks. She exhibits her work in the form of A1 sized lazer copies, and would prefer her photographs to be seen en masse, with each image building upon and vying with the next, rather than as a series of isolated, self-contained statements.

Relentlessly defying the assumed veracity of the photograph, Shelton does not believe that a single picture can claim to reveal concrete truths about its subject. Described by the Senior Curator of Photography at the Auckland City Art Gallery, Ron Brownson, as "some of the most inventive and risk taking in recent art in New Zealand", this is work which celebrates the perversity of the photographic medium, with all of its imagined intimacies and studied spontaneity.



David at 23A Gallery opening.  
Anne Shelton

## Simon Biggs

11 July - 10 August

As contemporary art practice moves ceaselessly into the vast and infinitely complex field of video and computer technology, the McDougall Art Annex takes pleasure in presenting the work of a leading artist in this area, British-based Simon Biggs. Born in Adelaide in 1957, but currently living and working in London, Biggs' exhibition has been made possible with the generous assistance of *The Link*, a programme put in place by the British Council to celebrate fifty years of association with New Zealand. It is designed to encourage culturally rewarding relationships between the two countries, exploring a diversity of endeavours which include science, education and the arts. Biggs is undertaking a Creative New Zealand funded Artist in Residency at the University of Canterbury, and will stay in New Zealand for about eight weeks. The Art Annex exhibition will be a result of the developments made in his work during his time here.

Biggs became involved with art from a young age, holding his first solo exhibition at the age of 21. He initially began to use computers to assist with painting in 1978, and, with his father (a computer scientist), developed an early graphics dedicated computer system in

the following year. In 1983, Biggs ceased painting altogether in order to work solely with computer-based interactive installations. He left Australia for Europe in 1986, where the theme and appearance of his work shifted away from earlier conceptual and formal concerns with language and control towards more metaphorical, symbolic and poetic works, often revolving around texts. Biggs continues to use computers and related media as his primary medium, seeing his work as "occupying a space somewhere between installation, interactive theatre, video art and traditional animation, but not belonging to any single genre".

Biggs' current research involves the development of multi-user interactive systems, with a focus on the viewer's relationship with both the work itself (which is programmed to react to any human presence) and with the other visitors in the exhibition space. By throwing the emphasis back onto the viewer, Biggs creates works that examine identity and its relationship to the moment. He achieves the 'visual sensing' in his installations by using a live video-feed into a computer, which then generates images and sounds in relation to what the computer sees. In the

Art Annex exhibition, each computer-facilitated 'performance' will be totally subject to the diverse and continually changing conditions within the gallery space, leaving each new visitor to wonder just what difference their arrival has made.



New Zealand and Britain - modern and evolving relationships

## Recent Acquisitions

The following works have been added to the collection:

### Sue Cooke

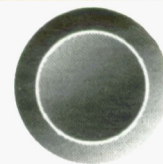
*Classical Facade in Canterbury*  
Cardboard engraving 5/40  
*Triptych*  
Hand coloured etching 2/40

### Denise Copland

*Survival 1996*  
Woodcut 1/3

# Friends of the Robert McDougall Art Gallery

President—Dr Mark Stocker 365 3895  
Vice-President—Robyn Ussher 332 0385  
Treasurer—Chris Brocket 355 7133  
Secretary—Ann Watt 379 4055



## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The outgoing President Chris Brocket gave a glowing report on our activities over the past year. Membership has been slightly expanded, our financial position is healthy and our activities have been well-supported. Particular mention was made of Ann Betts' role in coordinating the immensely successful 'Enthusiasms' public lecture programme last year. This raised substantial funds for the Gallery and filled many people with new 'enthusiasms' in the process. The current Committee is busy working out how to follow the act.

There have been a few changes in your Committee. After three excellent years, during which one of his key achievements was in assisting in the negotiations for the purchase of the new Art Gallery site, Chris Brocket has stepped down. Helen-Mary Black has resigned from the treasurer's position, and we thank her very much for her services. The new President is Mark Stocker who was the Vice-President. He has been succeeded by Robyn Ussher. There are two new faces on the Committee as well: Marianne Hargreaves and Johnny Jones. We all look forward to working with you and for you!

Our Scholarship winners, past and present, continue to thrive. Elizabeth

C'Ailceta, last year's FORMAG Scholarship winner from the University of Canterbury was awarded First Class Honours in Art History, the fourth scholarship student in consecutive years to do so since the Scholarship's foundation. This year the winners from the University were David Hatcher, a fourth year student in film who was awarded the Scholarship, and Robyn Pickens, an Honours student in Art History who won the book prize. The winner of the Farina Thompson Trust Scholarship which is now in its final year, was Andy White who is a third-year Student in Visual Communications.

Guest speaker at the AGM was Elizabeth Stevens, a painter who is based in the relatively isolated settlement of

Alexandra, but who has a national reputation and is a particularly popular exhibitor at the New Zealand Academy of Art. Despite battling a cold, Elizabeth gave one of the most intelligent talks I had heard from a practising artist. Her work is of great technical accomplishment and I believe stands as a rebuke to more sensational artists who rely on cheaper and more shocking effects, or else depressing grunge! She shares some similarities with the stylish latter-day Cubism of the late Dame Louise Henderson, but Elizabeth Stevens gives her own, distinctive, Central Otago inflection. Thank you, Elizabeth, for your contribution to an excellent evening.

*Mark Stocker*



*1997 Scholarship winners Andy White, Robyn Pickens and David Hatcher.*

## SPEAKER OF THE MONTH

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

**On 18 June** Colin McLauchlan, Chairman of the Ngaio Marsh Trust, will speak on Ngaio Marsh House. This session will be held in the Hurst Seager Room, Christchurch Arts Centre.

**On 16 July** John Robinson, Dunedin painter and jeweller, will give an illustrated lecture titled "Keeping the Faith - Four Dunedin Painters". He will

discuss his own work and that of Eion Stevens, Angela Burns and Jo L'Estrange. This session will be held in the Hurst Seager Room, Christchurch Arts Centre.

## RECENT SPEAKERS OF THE MONTH

**Robyn Maxwell - Dragon and Phoenix: realistic and mythical creatures in the arts of Southeast Asia's Chinese communities.**

While in Christchurch assisting with the **Dragon and Phoenix** exhibition, Robyn Maxwell the exhibition's curator and lecturer in Asian Studies at the Australian National University, Canberra, gave a

slide presentation to the Friends. For over a thousand years as the Chinese traders moved into the southeast Asian communities they brought with them the Chinese mythological motifs. These were used on traditional textiles and clothing whether Malay, Indonesian or Javanese in style. Embroidery and batik was used, and fanciful mythological beasts like the dragon, phoenix, the qilin (two horned Chinese unicorn) or the dog-lion (symbolising peace), or realistic creatures like birds, deer or fish like the Chinese carp, which was used to symbolise joy, were combined with floral emblems and Chinese symbols.

The Chinese motifs were depicted in

different media depending on the country they were made in and the ceremonial or everyday use of the piece. Ceremonials provided the vehicle for the display of spectacular textiles incorporating these imported elements.

We were grateful to Robyn for sharing her knowledge with us, making a visit to the exhibition a more rewarding experience. Marion McCullough presented the vote of thanks on behalf of the Friends.

### William Fairbank - The Forest Stations of the Cross

Over the past five years William Fairbank has undertaken the demanding

project of building a set of stations of the cross. As a sculptor, carpenter and joiner living in Norfolk, England, he wished to highlight the present well known worldwide shortage of quality timbers. Telling the age old story of the Stations of the Cross, he aimed for works which would appeal to everyone regardless of age, race or creed.

Working towards this set has taken William around the world in search of timbers. Woods used include African ebony, Brazilian rosewood, Irish bog oak, English chestnut, Canadian maple and New Zealand totara to name just a few. The Forest Stations of the Cross are not made for sale but for exhibition and to support a series of lectures.

William hopes this will bring people's attentions to the importance of tree replanting programmes to provide quality timbers for future generations.

A series of slides showed us the completed which were beautifully crafted, finely polished and using the different woodgrains to perfection. We were also lucky to be able to see the latest work completed here in New Zealand while William has been staying with Canterbury relations. A vote of thanks by Ann Betts on behalf of the Friends expressed our appreciation of the morning.

### LOCART VISIT IN FEBRUARY

On a very wet day Susan Rodgers, model milliner, entertained two groups (morning and evening) of Friends. Aged 15, she commenced a three year apprenticeship. Some 30 years later she designs and makes hats only for special occasions such as weddings, race meetings and diplomatic functions. Her creations may be carefully packed in traditional hatboxes and sent overseas.

Susan considers it important to style a hat to suit a person and her total outfit. Therefore every little detail from hairstyle to shoes, gloves and bag must be taken into consideration. While talking to us Susan worked on commissions. After shaping damp buckram on a wooden block, she covered it with fabric before adding the trim which was made separately. Wiring is



*Susan Rodgers in her studio.*

Susan Rodgers' nimble fingers made light of what must be a very difficult task. We all enjoyed the experience of watching and listening to her explanations enormously.

### COMING LOCART VISITS

On Friday morning **20 June** a maximum of 20 Friends are invited to visit the Faculty of Media Arts, Photographic Department at the Christchurch Polytechnic where Murray Hedwig will show them around the studios and explain the teaching of art photography. Please meet at 1.50 pm on the ground floor of D Block, Madras Street, opposite the Big Fresh carpark. To book (or cancel) please ring the answerphone on 379 4055.

necessary at various stages and all the trimmings such as the flowers are handmade by Susan. The basic hat is decorated with tulle, ribbon, flowers or whatever is appropriate and each trim is handstitched into place.



*Friends on the April tour to the Masterpieces from the Guggenheim.*

### NEW MEMBERS

Mrs Ellen Atkinson  
Judy Begg  
Hazel Cameron  
Wendy Carey  
John Coleman-Doscas  
Mrs Gillian Field  
Mrs Anne Fountain (Life)  
Miss G M Gibbs  
Svetlana Garthwaite  
Rosemary Greenwood (Life)  
Marianne Hargreaves  
Shirley Harrison  
Mrs Kate Hudson M A Jamieson  
Mrs Jan Leitch Ms Isla Lewis  
Mrs M J Newton  
Mr & Mrs M C Mahon  
Felicity McArthur  
Mrs P E McMillan Jill Scott (Life)  
Mrs W P Spencer

# COMING EVENTS

## JUNE

### Exhibitions

- 1 **The Elements of Doubt.** Barry Cleavin: Printmaker - *until 13 July*  
**Works from the Collection.** The 1997 selection - *until 31 December*
- 6 **Redeye - Ann Shelton.** At the Annex - *until 6 July*
- 12 **Treasures in Trust** - *until 3 August*

### Events

- 4 **Wednesday 1 Club** 10.30am. Art appreciation club meeting  
**Wednesday 2 Club** 1.30pm. Art appreciation club meeting
- 5 **Mac Club** 10.30am. Art appreciation club for the disabled or differently abled. New members welcome
- 6 **Friday Club** 10.30am. Art appreciation club meeting
- 7 **Saturday 1 Club** 10.30 am. Art appreciation club meeting
- 8 **Cleavin Quiz** - starts today. Open to all ages - *until 13 July*
- 14 **Saturday 2 Club** 10.30am. Art appreciation club meeting
- 17 **Teachers' Evening** focusing on **Treasures in Trust**. 4.30 - 6.00pm  
Speaker - Neil Roberts, Senior Curator. \$5, refreshments provided. Bookings essential phone 372 2973
- 18 **Speaker of the Month** - Colin McLauchlan will speak on the Ngaio Marsh Trust. 10.30 am in the Hurst Seager Room, Christchurch Arts Centre
- 20 **LocArt visit** to Faculty of Media Arts or Photography Department, Christchurch Polytechnic, D Block, Madras St. at 1.50 pm. To book or cancel phone 379 4055

## JULY

### Exhibitions

- 1 **The Elements of Doubt.** Barry Cleavin: Printmaker - *until 13 July*  
**Treasures in Trust** - *until 3 August*  
**Redeye - Ann Shelton** At the Annex - *until 6 July*  
**Works from the Collection.** The 1997 selection. - *until 31 December*
- 11 **Simon Briggs** - At the Annex - *until 10 August*
- 18 **Youth Make Their Mark** - *until 24 August*

### Events

- 2 **Wednesday 1 Club** 10.30am. Art appreciation club meeting  
**Wednesday 2 Club** 1.30pm. Art appreciation club meeting
- 3 **Mac Club** 10.30am. Art appreciation club for the disabled or differently abled. New members welcome
- 3 **Lecture** - Lynn Campbell Gallery Conservator - "Caring for Old Books, Letters and Manuscripts" - 5.30 pm at the Hurst Seager Room, Christchurch Arts Centre.
- 4 **Friday Club** - 10.30am. Art appreciation club meeting
- 5 **Saturday 1 Club** 10.30 am. Art appreciation club meeting
- 7 **Kidsfest - Making Our Mark** - Children's workshop 1 - \$3.50. Bookings essential phone 372 2973
- 9 **Kidsfest - Making Our Mark** - Children's workshop 2 - \$3.50. Bookings essential phone 372 2973
- 11 **Kidsfest - Making Our Mark** - Children's workshop 3 - \$3.50. Bookings essential phone 372 2973

### July Events Continued

- 12 **Saturday 2 Club** 10.30 am. Art appreciation club meeting
- 16 **Speaker of the Month** John Robinson "Keeping the Faith - Four Dunedin Painters." 10.30 am at the Hurst Seager Room, Christchurch Arts Centre.
- 20 **Floortalk - Treasures in Trust** - Ann Betts, Senior Education Officer, - 2.00 pm
- 23 **Floortalk - Treasures in Trust** - Ann Betts, Senior Education Officer - 11.00am
- 26 **Youth on Art** - Discussion panel - 2pm
- 27 **Lecture** - Neil Roberts, Senior Curator, "Introducing Alexander Turnbull and early New Zealand Art Treasures". At 2.00 pm in the Hurst Seager Room, Christchurch Arts Centre.

### Essential Elements

A special Cleavin quiz 'Decoding the Elements of Doubt' will also run at the Gallery from 8 June to the end of the exhibition. This will be open to ages 13-19 and all correct entries will go into a draw for a copy of the Cleavin print 'There's two sides - to every story', 1996, generously donated by the artist. Entry forms will be available at the Gallery reception desk and the lucky winner announced in the Christchurch Press on 25 July.



Christchurch Youth Symphonic Band during the 4 May concert at the front entrance to the Gallery.