



Bulletin

The Robert McDougall Art Gallery

A bi-monthly publication containing news, views, and reviews of activities at the Robert McDougall Art Gallery.

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Artfull November 11–January 31

A strange phenomenon occurred at the Tate Gallery in 1975. To clear the decks for additions to their storage and exhibition spaces, a major part of the Tate's permanent collection was taken out of storage and placed on massed display, the works hung edge to edge, four high on the gallery walls.

The phenomenon was the amazing public response to this method of presentation. The crowds flocked. The exhibition seemed to have touched some fundamental impulse humans have to browse, sort and sift through mountains of material.

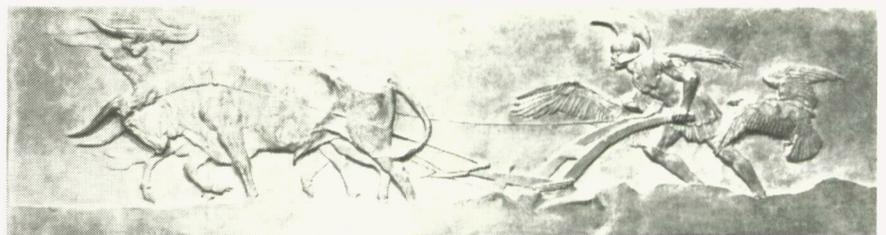
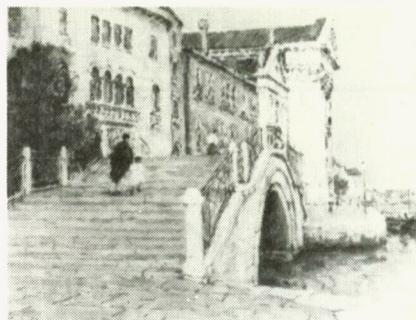
Those who had visited the Auckland City Art Gallery over the years certainly had an experience of coming across old, almost forgotten friends when that gallery mounted its *Artichoke* show last year, a similar massed display.

At the McDougall, seeking an opportunity to reorganise our painting storage, we realised that a massed summer showing would not only give us the opportunity to do this but allow Christchurch to see works which had not been shown for many years.

Unlike other galleries with the space to show their collection in permanent installations, we must circulate ours in changing groups of images. The gallery occasionally receives complaints that some favourite painting is not displayed. *Artfull* will provide a chance to see the familiar and the less familiar works the city owns.

It will also be an exercise in discrimination, an opportunity to assess the acquisitions made over the years. There will be surprising paintings, sculpture, craft objects, large works and small, crowded together on every wall.

Installation will begin in October so that the gallery will gradually fill with works until November 11 when the Friends are planning a special champagne occasion to celebrate the hanging of the last work in the *Artfull* summer show. All gallery friends and supporters are urged to attend this function which will be the last major gallery event of 1984.



We are anticipating a strong public response to this exhibition which will perhaps take the 1984 visitor attendance figures to a new record high.

The most important aspect of *Artfull*, however, is that it will give Christchurch a chance to become well acquainted with its art collection.

What's in a name

We racked our brains to think of a catchy title for the summer show which would suggest a gallery crowded with paintings. Learning of our difficulty, Liz Grant of the Mainland Touch asked if she could ask the people of the region to suggest names. We settled on the title devised by Bruce Scott, a retired journalist who writes the Christchurch Star's My Word column and who

maintains a lively interest in language and the gallery's activities. His nomination — *ARTFULL*.

Volunteer Guides in the Gallery: Welcome to the new Recruits

This winter the Gallery was delighted to welcome twenty new volunteers to the Gallery Guide team. During the year you may have seen the Guides working with visiting groups in the Gallery.

Last year almost 9,000 visitors were assisted with their enjoyment of works on exhibition during 574 specially guided tours in the Gallery and all reports were most favourable and enthusiastic.

To operate a 5 day programme we need a large and dedicated team and we are most fortunate to be able to welcome these new volunteers to the group. The new Guides are:
Mesdames Christine Brosnahan, Judy



A group of the McDougall's Gallery Guides at a recent luncheon.

Brooks, Elizabeth Cargo, Gillie Deans, Erina Fon, Alison Helm, Kate Howard, Betty Morrow, Doreen Owers, Mary Parker, Jan Pluck, Mavis Scott, Shona Tannock, Wendy Watson and Judy Young.

At any time the Gallery Guides will be

delighted to conduct a small private group around the works on exhibition in the Gallery. All you need to do is arrange a group of at least 5 persons and make a booking about 10 days prior to your visit. They will be pleased to spend some time with you. Just phone the Gallery 791-660

Welcome to the new Exhibitions Technician

In August this year we were very pleased to welcome Hubert Klaassens as the first appointee to a new position on the gallery staff. Hubert joins us as the Exhibitions Technician with responsibilities chiefly in exhibitions preparation, installation and matting.

After training as a graphic designer at the Christchurch Polytechnic in 1983 Hubert toured Western Europe visiting many galleries and extending his interest in design and photography. We are sure these interests will be of considerable advantage to the Gallery and we welcome him to the team.



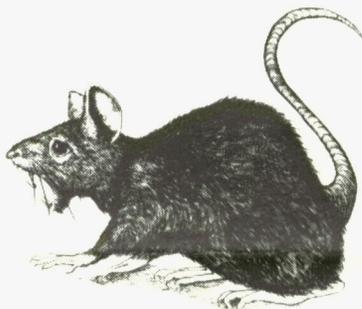
Hubert Klaassens

The Year of the Rat September 5 — October 28

These are works by James S. Koga a Hawaiian born artist currently teaching printmaking at the Honolulu Academy of Arts and included in prestigious international print exhibitions. Christchurch last saw his works in the 1978 Christchurch Arts Festival International Exhibition of Drawings.

The Year of the Rat or Jahre Der Ratte is the tale by the old sage S. James translated from the original old Schwäbisch text and illustrated with the wry humour and cutting satire of the artist. It is a tale or ribaldry in the Year of the Rat when Schwärza Peterle having maliciously killed the rat Tunni is brought to justice by the rat pack and finally sentenced by Schwärza Peterle to the dungeon at Aspergle.

Powerful imagery and a masterly control of the printing mediums, engraving, etching and lithography make this a particularly powerful suite of images. Concurrent with the exhibition at the McDougall Barry Cleavin has arranged a display of other works by James Koga at the School of Fine Arts, Ilam.



Engraving from the exhibition by James S. Koga.

Acquisitions

The following works have been recently purchased

William Powell Frith
Girl with a Mask 1846
Oil on Panel

Archibald Nicoll
Auckland Waterfront at Sunset 1909
Oil on Canvas/Board

Simon Ogden
Mama Tembus
Screenprint

Sylvia Siddell
After Breakfast
Pencil

Giovanni Battista Piranesi
Carceri VII with Numerous Wooden Galleries and a Drawbridge
Etching (Second State)

Evelyn Page
Portrait of Winstone Rhodes
Lino Block

The following works have been presented to the gallery

Tony Fomison
Captain Ahab peg legged hunter of the White Whale
Oil on Canvas Board
Presented by Mr Peter Wells, Auckland

Shona Cowan
Two Girls in an Interior 1965
Etching
Presented by Mrs Papprell, Christchurch

William A. Sutton
Portrait of Professor Dr Vernon Griffiths 1984
Oil on Canvas
Commissioned by the Civic Music Council and Presented to the City

Arthur Merric Boyd
Autumn at Mooroolbark 1888
Oil on Canvas. Presented by Mrs B. Pearce of Melbourne in memory of her late brother Mr Desmond A. McCaskey.

Boyd was born in Dunedin in 1860 where he gained his formative

training as an artist. In 1884 he moved to Melbourne and soon after married Emma a'Beckett a prominent colonial woman artist.

In 1889 when the Victorian Society of Artists held its first exhibition Arthur Boyd contributed several works including 'Autumn Afternoon Mooroolbark'. Although he gained some distinction as a watercolourist, Arthur Boyd's activity as an artist has been largely eclipsed by his sons and his more celebrated grandson Arthur Merric Boyd II.

Arthur Boyd died 1940.

The acquisition of the painting 'Autumn afternoon at Mooroolbark' was made recently in a manner both unusual and unexpected by the gallery. Originally the work was purchased at a local Christchurch auction as one suitable for the New Zealand expatriate collection. When however the curator made the purchase he was unaware that the person with whom he was competing would eventually decide to donate funds to meet the total purchase.



Autumn at Mooroolbark 1888 by Arthur M. Boyd.

At the conclusion of the sale Mrs Pearce, a Melbourne Antique and Fine Art Dealer made the decision that the painting would be an appropriate work to commemorate her late brother, Mr Desmond A.

McCasky who died in Christchurch during 1983. The gallery acknowledges here its gratitude to Mrs Pearce in the generosity of her gesture.



Friends of the Robert McDougall Art Gallery Inc

Coffee Mornings

Our speaker at the July coffee morning was Stuart Page, a photographer who last year spent six months working in the United States and whose exhibition of photographs is at present touring New Zealand galleries. Stuart showed us an explosive and kaleidoscopic series of slides taken in New York and Los Angeles, juxtaposing buildings and people, trashcans and graffiti, shop fronts and sign boards. The photographs were accompanied by a tape which brilliantly complemented the images: a collage of traffic noise, overhead conversations, street bands, ships' sirens, machinery — all the sounds of a city. A few people among a very large audience were bewildered, but there can be no doubt that everyone present was provoked and stimulated.

On Wednesday 19 September at 10.30 the well-known potter Frederika Ernster will talk to us about her work, and on Wednesday 17 October our guest will be Dr Denis Duton who has recently been appointed a lecturer in Art History at the University. Dr Duton has recently published a book on forged artworks and he has called his talk "The art of forgery."

Greeting Cards

We have now sold well over half our printing of the series of four cards we issued last year and have begun work on another set of four which will be ready for sale in October. We have also decided to produce a poster featuring one of the Gallery's most popular paintings, and we feel sure that people will be as pleased with this year's choice as they so evidently were with last year's.

The Mid-Winter Party

It was a great disappointment to your Executive that, because of lack of support, we were forced to cancel the mid-winter party. We needed a minimum of 150 for the party to be successful, but in the event we sold barely 50 tickets. A great deal of work had been put in to prepare for the occasion and we were saddened that it all went for nothing. We can only regretfully conclude that this isn't the sort of function a part of our membership wants; we should be very pleased to have your suggestions for other occasions when many of you might come to meet your fellow Friends socially. A luncheon party at the Gallery one weekend perhaps? Do let us know.

New Members

M. Hardie Boys
K.C. Couling
A.M. Dobbie
Caroline Drewitt
Glenda Fraser
Alison Helm
Mr & Mrs D.M. Inkster
Rosemary L. James
Mrs R.E. Lever
J.P. Quince
Shelley C. Reid
Carole van Grondelle
Peter R. Wilkinson
Mrs Mary Plunkett
Philippa Mills
A.M. Macdonald
M.A. Hewlett
Barbara Coop
Hilary Schrafft

P.O. Box 237, Christchurch
Botanic Gardens, Rolleston Ave.,
President — Robert Erwin, 558-675
Secretary — Rat Unger, 487-482
Treasurer — Anne Crighton



Coming Events

The Robert McDougall Art Gallery

September/October

- September 1** **The Grid** until 30 September.
Gordon Walters until 4 September.
Canterbury Review, Quentin MacFarlane until 9 September.
Judith Rugg 'Someones Backyard...?' until 23 September.
- 5** **The Year of the Rat** until 28 October.
- 7** **Art Forum** Lecture by Dr Stephen Bann 'Art into Landscape — the development of land art in Britain' 7.30 p.m Adults \$2 Students 50 cents.
- 12** **Don Driver** recent works until 21 October.
- 15-23** **A McDougall Art Gallery mini-exhibition** in Botanic Gardens near the Hospital in conjunction with Spring's Here.
- 19** **Friends Coffee Morning** Frederika Ernsten, a well known potter will speak on her work, 10.30 a.m.
- October 9** **Olivia Spencer Bower** until 18 November.
- 12** **Strings Attached** presents special adult puppet performance of the Medieval Play. Tillaulenspiegel 8 p.m.
- 14** **Gallery Concert** Peter Lowe, harpischord and Dinah Allison soprano, present a song recital 3 p.m.
- 17** **Friends Coffee Morning** Dr Denis Dutton 'The Art of Forgery' 10.30 a.m.
- 28** **Gallery Concert** Amici Chamber Orchestra, Leader Lambert Scott, Conductor John Pattinson, 3 p.m.

Exhibition dates could vary slightly.



**Friends of the Robert McDougall Art
Gallery Inc**