

Bulletin

THE ROBERT McDOUGALL ART GALLERY



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Christchurch City Council



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Detail from 'Cabbage Trees, Clarence Valley, Kaikoura', Margaret Stoddart.

Flowers into Landscape Margaret Stoddart 1865 - 1934

19 November - 8 February

Margaret Stoddart was probably New Zealand's best known flower painter. The considerable success she achieved

during her lifetime and which her work enjoys with private collectors bears witness to her widespread popularity.

Flowers into Landscape - Margaret Stoddart, is the first major exhibition of her work to have taken place since 1935. It charts her development, highlights the

relation between her flower and landscape paintings and enables us to make a revaluation of her special achievements.

Born in 1865 in Diamond Harbour, Margaret Stoddart belonged to the first generation of colonial born artists. She enrolled at the Canterbury College School of Art in 1882 as a foundation student and became one of New Zealand's first professional women artists. Typically for young women painters at the time she began as a flower painter. The theme suited her interest in native plants and it provided an opportunity for her to travel into the Canterbury back country and in 1886 and 1891 to the Chatham Islands.

Margaret Stoddart also met with the Australian flower painter Ellis Rowan and in 1894 followed this meeting with a trip to Melbourne where she had a solo exhibition which gained glowing reviews in the press. It was as a leading and successful flower painter that, four years later, Margaret Stoddart travelled to Europe and made her base at the

artists' colony at St Ives, Cornwall where Frances Hodgkins and D.K. Richmond visited her in 1902. Working at St Ives, the centre for contemporary English impressionists and landscape painters, encouraged Margaret Stoddart to add landscape painting to her own oeuvre and she introduced a theme that she was to develop into the impressionist gardens, spring blossoms and seasonal studies which became a major feature of her later work.

Around 1907, having exhibited at the Baillie Gallery, London, and with her works accepted for the Paris Salon and the Royal Academy, Margaret Stoddart returned to Christchurch. As her later works illustrate, she returned with a widened landscape perception and a renewed appreciation of the vividness and variety of nature which she expressed in paintings around her home at Diamond Harbour. Her paintings of Christchurch gardens and parks and of the seaside resorts at Sumner and New Brighton expressed her experience of developing European settlement. From the 1920s Margaret Stoddart

concentrated increasingly on defining the distinctive native vegetation and character of the Canterbury and South Island landscape - scrub, tussock, mountain and plain.

Flowers into Landscape illustrates how Margaret Stoddart's development was related to her time. Co-curated by Julie King of the Art History Department, University of Canterbury and Neil Roberts our Senior Curator and with many works drawn from private collections throughout New Zealand, this exhibition charts the principal stages in Stoddart's career and displays her continuous extension and development as an artist. It also illustrates the significant cultural shift in her perception and depiction of the New Zealand landscape during a long and illustrious career as one of New Zealand's first professional woman artists.

There are a number of public programmes planned to extend your enjoyment of this exhibition. Check the Coming Events section for the series of lectures, floortalks and demonstrations.

Caroline Williams - There

30 October - 18 January

As Caroline Williams is an expatriate New Zealand artist based in Melbourne this exhibition will be an interesting opportunity to see a range of her recent works. Toured by Exhibitour New Zealand, **Caroline Williams - There** consists of 31 works dating from 1987 to 1996. Described as depicting the artist's experience of time and space, the paintings include works ranging from the 'Bunkers' and 'Disasters' series of the late 1980s through to the more recent 'Chamber' paintings.

Williams' works are often characterised by vast and brooding landscapes in which alien fortress-like structures seem to belong in some unknown, but enigmatic, drama. Although seemingly set in the physical world the solid bunkers and chambers are often placed in brooding landscapes of craggy



From the 'Bunkers Series', Caroline Williams

mountainous terrain under threatening and portentous skies.

The chilling atmosphere of alienation in these images is intended to arouse sensations of fear, anger, loss and emptiness. Williams suggests that

"being forced to face the concept of the void we will experience the interrelation of time place and space, of absence and presence and of personal versus public." This exhibition it is suggested *"represents the determined look - the level gaze at the un-level playing field."*

Cranleigh Barton Drawing Award

31 October - 30 November

Artists from around the country have been invited to put pen, pencil, charcoal (or any other graphic medium) to paper for the biennial **Cranleigh Barton Drawing Award**. The competition, which is designed to recognise excellence in drawing and to raise the profile and status of the skill in contemporary visual arts practice, offers a \$3,000 cash prize to the winning entry and two merit prizes of materials valued at \$500 each. Drawings selected by a panel of three judges will be exhibited at the McDougall Art Annex from 31 October until 30 November. The award winners will be announced on Thursday 30 October. This year will be the third time this competition has been held, with the winners of the last two Awards being Michael Dell and Nigel Buxton respectively.

The **Cranleigh Barton Drawing Award** has been made possible through the legacy of Canterbury watercolourist Cranleigh H. Barton and is jointly presented by the Robert McDougall Art Gallery, the Canterbury Museum and the executors of the Cranleigh Barton Estate, the Guardian Trust. The exhibition of finalists is supported by The Drawing Room in association with Staedtler.

Cranleigh H. Barton (1890-1975) was born in Fielding and attended Victoria University where he received three Turnbull scholarships and graduated with a Bachelor of Law degree in 1912. His interest in art began early, and in 1906, before beginning his university studies, he attended classes as a pupil of Maud Kimbell (Sherwood) at Wellington Technical College. Barton worked as a solicitor but continued part-time activity as an artist, becoming a working member of the New Zealand

Academy of Fine Arts in 1919 and joining the Canterbury Society of Arts in the following year.

In 1924 Barton commenced four years of studies at the Slade School of Art in London, during which time he held two successful solo exhibitions of his work, with Queen Mary among his patrons. Barton also participated in exhibitions of the Royal Institute of Painters in Watercolours, the Royal Society of British Artists and the New English Art Club in London. In 1925 his work was included in the Dominion Artists Court at the Wembley British Empire Exhibition. Upon his death Barton bequeathed a substantial number of his watercolours to the Canterbury Museum which today has the largest holding of his work. He is also represented in the collections of the Hocken Library, Dunedin and the Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington.

TOUR TO MAJOR REMBRANDT EXHIBITION IN MELBOURNE

13 - 16 NOVEMBER

Rembrandt - A Genius and His Impact is a literally priceless exhibition of works by this towering figure in Western art. Drawn from galleries in London, Berlin, and New York this exhibition will only be in Melbourne and Canberra. Why not join Ann Betts and a party of Friends from the McDougall on their trip and enjoy a collection of 30 signed paintings, 26 master drawings and 25 etchings from one of the world's major artists plus 40 other paintings from artists of the 'Rembrandt School.'

\$810 covers your airfares, airport taxes, exhibition admission costs, guided trips to local sites and exhibitions, 3 nights accommodation (twin share) and two preliminary lectures. Information and bookings phone 372 2973.

NEW STAFF

We are pleased to welcome **Claire Gittings** who has joined the Robert McDougall Art Gallery Staff as Co-Registrar. She was previously employed in the Registration Department at the National Gallery of Victoria in Melbourne. Graduating from the University of Canterbury in 1989 - 90, Claire is familiar with Christchurch and the space limitations of this Gallery as we work towards the eventual shift of the McDougall's collection into a new and more adequate building.

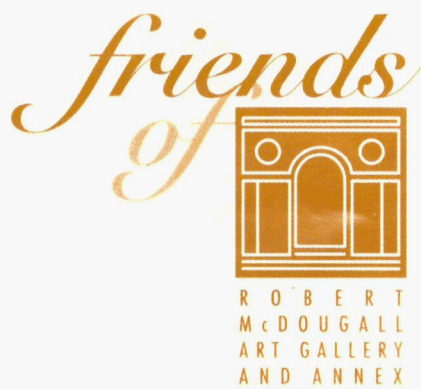
We welcome **Maria Blythen** the new Administrative Assistant at the McDougall. Maria has transferred to the McDougall from the Christchurch City Council and is now enjoying the Gallery's unique work environment as the continual flow of new exhibitions adds an exciting aspect to her work.



Claire Gittings



Maria Blythen



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

SPEAKER OF THE MONTH

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

On 15 October Professor John Simpson, former head of the University of Canterbury, School of Fine Arts will give an illustrated lecture, "What makes the Tate Different?" Venue Hurst Seager Room, Christchurch Arts Centre.

On 19 November Julie King, Senior Lecturer in Art History at the University of Canterbury and co-curator of the **Flowers into Landscape - Margaret Stoddart** exhibition will join Neil Roberts, Senior Curator of the Robert McDougall Art Gallery to discuss the issues and activities behind the scenes in the preparation for the Margaret Stoddart exhibition.

RECENT SPEAKERS OF THE MONTH

John Robinson - Keeping the Faith: Four Dunedin Painters

We were fortunate to have the Dunedin painter and jeweller, John Robinson, visiting Christchurch. Having a Dip. F.A. Hons from Dunedin, he has been actively involved in the Dunedin art scene over the past 20 years. Dunedin

was the early hub of New Zealand's visual arts, however in later years most artists tended to drift northward. John discussed artists he studied with in the 70s and who had remained true to Dunedin. Slides shown of the artists' works, showed their diversity of style from Lindsay Crooks soft but lively pastels of family scenes, to Angela Burns abstract, expressive waterfalls in monochromes. Joe L'Estrange's works showed strength and character in portraits and Eion Stevens' works demonstrated strong colours and forms. John Robinson's own works showed a transition from lino cuts done while living in Robin White's house to painted compositions of simplified forms often incorporating collage.

While Dunedin may not be the hub of the present day arts scene, these artists' works showed great life and originality.

Anthony Wright - Director of the Canterbury Museum

The August speaker of the Month, Anthony Wright, drew a good attendance in the Hurst Seager Room for his presentation on the future of the Canterbury Museum. The Museum has almost two million items in its collections and has yearly visitor numbers reaching 460,000.

With the help of overhead projection, Anthony discussed the changes implemented and planned since his appointment as director in March last year. Changes have been made to the organisational structure of the museum, and staff involved in project planning teams are producing innovative ideas to make the Canterbury Museum a leader in outstanding museum experiences. The aim is to create an interactive experiential journey for visitors which will tell the outstanding stories of Canterbury and New Zealand and reach out to children of all ages offering whole of life experiences. This will be backed by an

intensive programme to properly care for and manage the Museum's heritage collections which are held in trust for Cantabrians.

Peter Dunbar thanked Anthony for sharing his plans and innovative ideas with us.

ERRATUM!!

A point of clarification is needed following Anthony Wright's talk to the Friends on 20 August.

Despite what my illustrious museum colleague may have said, I am delighted to say that Council analysis of the figures for the 1996/1997 budget year show the cost per visitor to the McDougall Art Gallery is not \$18 per head as he reported, but \$7.15! This correct figure makes our Gallery, in comparison with other public museums and galleries of similar size and visitation arguably the best value for the ratepayer's dollar in New Zealand!

Tony Preston,
Director.

COMING LOCART VISITS.

On Thursday 23 October Don Peebles invites a maximum of ten (10) Friends to view his studio. Please meet June Goldstein outside 28 Tuirau Place, Ilam at 2.50pm. To book (or cancel) please ring the answerphone on 379 4055.

On Thursday 27 November Marion Maguire, painter and printmaker, will show her studio and working methods to a maximum of ten (10) Friends. Please meet June Goldstein outside 101 Edwards Avenue, St Albans at 1.50 pm. To book (or cancel) please ring the answerphone on 379 4055.

LOCART VISIT IN AUGUST.

On 13 August Noeline Brokenshire, an Old Girl and former staff member of Avonside Girls' High School, conducted a group of 12 Friends of the McDougall on a private viewing of the art collection of the school. The collection comprising works by contemporary New Zealand artists, ceramicists and sculptors was established with donations from staff and friends. Telecom and Clear also contributed through the Schools Connection programme.

The school Principal Teresa Shaughnessy addressed the group informally and stressed the strong multi-cultural life of the school and how the students worked well in an art enhanced environment.

Some of the works we viewed were by Ralph Hotere, Barry Cleavin, John Pule, Marilyn Webb and the ebullient Michael Tuffery. Afternoon tea was kindly served in the staff room at the conclusion of a most successful visit.

**Mark in your Diary now:
Sunday 23 November, 6.00pm
is the date for the 1997
Friends' Xmas Party.**

Goldie Lecture 23 October

As the Goldie exhibition will be visiting the McDougall later next year, Friends will be interested in the W S Baverstock lecture at the Canterbury Museum on Thursday 23 October at 7.30 pm. Roger Blackley, senior curator of Historical

New Zealand Art at the Auckland Art Gallery and curator of the Goldie exhibition will give a public lecture "Mrs Goldie's Garage Sale." Admission by donation. For more information phone 366 5000.

New Members

Raymond C Aires
Alison Dalley
Dr G T Day
Pamela Englefield
Vivienne C Hancock
P R Jarman
I R & M M Marriott
Mary Josephine Murphy
Sara & Vic Newman
Cushla Ogilvie
Heather Sibley
Dorothea Uttley

COMING EVENTS

OCTOBER

Exhibitions

- 1 **Angels and Roses - Frederick Gurnsey** - until 19 October.
Ellis Rowan - A Flower-Hunter in Queensland - until 2 November.
Part of the Furniture - At The Annex - until 26 October.
Works from the Collection the 1997 selection - until 31 December.
- 30 **Caroline Williams - There** - until 18 January.
- 31 **Cranleigh Barton Drawing Award** - At the McDougall Art Annex - until 30 November.

Events

- 1 **Wednesday 1 Club** 10.30am. Art appreciation club meeting.
Wednesday 2 Club 1.30pm. Art appreciation club meeting.
- 2 **Mac Club** 10.30am. Art appreciation club for the disabled or differently abled. New members welcome.
- 3 **Friday Club** 10.30am. Art appreciation club meeting.

- 4 **Saturday 1 Club** 10.30 am. Art appreciation club meeting.
- 5 **Floortalk - Part of the Furniture.** The Artists discuss their works at the McDougall Art Annex 11.00 am.
- 6 **Enthusiasms 97 - Contemporary Jewellery Design** - Frances Allison at the McDougall 6.00 pm. Tickets Friends \$6. Public \$8. Please use the Night Entrance.
- 11 **Saturday 2 Club** 10.30am. Art appreciation club meeting.
- 13 **Enthusiasms 97 - Handbuilt.** A trip to Burrelli and de Spa 1013 Ferry Road 6.00 pm. Tickets Friends \$6. Public \$8.
- 14 **Eye Spy 1997** - A second round of the popular 1997 Art Appreciation programme running Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturday mornings at 10.30 am, begins today. Enrolments essential phone 372 2973.
- 15 **Speaker of the Month** - Prof John Simpson "What Makes the Tate Different?" 10.30 am in the Hurst Seager Room, Christchurch Arts Centre.
- 16 **Forum** - a panel of guest artists from **Part of the Furniture** will discuss aspects of design. Followed by wine

and cheese and a chance to see the exhibition- 5.30 pm at the Hurst Seager Room, Christchurch Arts Centre.

- 18 **Heritage Week Tours.** An in-depth look at the Neo-classical architecture of the McDougall. Daily 11.00am - 3pm. - until Friday 24 October.
- 18 **Guided Walk** with young designer **Callum Pankhurst** - meet at the McDougall Art Annex 10.30 am.
- 19 **Lecture** - Mark Stocker, Senior Lecturer University of Canterbury, Art History Department will speak on **Frederick Gurnsey - Angels and Roses.** 11.00 am in the Hurst Seager Room, Christchurch Arts Centre.
- 20 **Enthusiasms 97 - Landscape Design** - Di Lucas at the McDougall 6.00 pm. Tickets Friends \$6. Public \$8. Please use the Night Entrance.
- 23 **LocArt visit** to studio of Don Peebles, 28 Tuirau Place, at 2.50pm. To book or cancel phone 379 4055.
- 31 **Lecture** -Preliminary lecture - **Rembrandt - A Genius and His Impact** - Part 1 - 6.00pm. McDougall Art Gallery. Please use the Night Entrance.

COMING EVENTS

NOVEMBER

Exhibitions

- 1 **Ellis Rowan - A Flower-Hunter in Queensland** - until 2 November.
Cranleigh Barton Drawing Award
- At the McDougall Art Annex - until 30 November.
Caroline Williams - There - until 18 January.
Works from the Collection the 1997 selection - until 31 December.
- 19 **Flowers into Landscape - Margaret Stoddart** - until 8 February.
- 22 **Frances Hodgkins** - until 25 January.

Events

- 1 **Enthusiasms 97 - The Digital Image** - Dave Wethey, The Press Building, Cathedral Square, 10.00am
Tickets Friends \$6. Public \$8.
- 1 **Saturday 1 Club** 10.30 am. Art appreciation club meeting.
- 5 **Wednesday 1 Club** 10.30am. Art appreciation club meeting.
Wednesday 2 Club 1.30pm. Art appreciation club meeting.
- 6 **Mac Club** 10.30am. Art appreciation club for the disabled or differently abled. New members welcome.
- 7 **Friday Club** - 10.30am. Art appreciation club meeting.
- 7 **Lecture** -Preliminary lecture - **Rembrandt - A Genius and His Impact** - Part 2 - 6.00pm.
McDougall Art Gallery -Please use the Night Entrance.
- 8 **Saturday 2 Club** 10.30 am. Art appreciation club meeting.
- 9 **Line Dancing demonstration - Cathedral City Dancers**, 2.00pm.
- 10 **Enthusiasms 97 - Food Art** - Michael's Restaurant Cooking School 178A High Street. 7.30 pm
Tickets Friends \$25. Public \$30.
- 13 - 16 **McDougall Tour to Rembrandt - A Genius and His Impact**. Information 372 2973.
- 19 **Speaker of the Month - Julie King and Neil Roberts** 'Behind the

scenes in the organisation of the exhibition **Flowers into Landscape - Margaret Stoddart** 10.30 am at the McDougall.

- 27 **LocArt visit - Marion Maguire** 101 Edward Avenue, at 1.50 pm. To book (or cancel) 379 4055.

- 28 **Lecture - Floortalk - Nancy Tichborne** will discuss Margaret Stoddart's techniques and use of the watercolour medium in **Flowers into Landscape - Margaret Stoddart**. 6.00pm at the McDougall.



Mayor Vicki Buck talks with one of the young artists and her parents at the opening of 'Youth Make Their Mark'.



New volunteers join the Gallery Guide Team: (from left) Mary Meecham, Wendy Fitzgerald, Heather Sibley, Sara Newman, Beryl Bunce, Mary Jo Murphy, Margaret Styche, Jackie Hickman, Vivienne Hancock.



Pupils from Year 3/4 Kaiapoi Borough School enjoying a lesson at the Gallery