MUKA STUDIO NEWSLETTER

MUKA STUDIO 17 CHAMBERLAIN STREET GREY LYNN PH.765 323



MUKA STUDIO PRESENTS
NEW LITHOGRAPHS BY

RICHARD MC WHANNELL

JULY 16 - AUGUST 5

PREVIEW SATURDAY JULY 16, 4-6 pm.

Hours Monday - Friday 11 am -6 pm

'My High Times at Muka'

Stones 'The Agony and the Ecstacy' might well be the epithet for my relationship with the lithographic stones at Muka. Now my time is nearly done and it's time to start thinking about the 'Wayzgoose' or in local terms the beer up at the end.

Major domestic events have been the birth of our daughter Ruth, Kia ora! and Magda's trip to Belgium. Maternity leave et al we've been at it for 8 weeks. It's been good to have a few friends call in, good hospitality from Muka and especially good counsel with Bob and Winky (building at Back)

In response to Dominick's desire to elicit an art critical response from Muka's Newsletter readers Dangerous territory for the artist who must be their own first. Since the amount of 'art' that artists have varies widely then consider the difficulties of the art critic who must know better than what they criticize.

We scratched and Spat our way at Muka and amongst it's product have done a small series of erotic drawings which will be part of the exhibition. These are small but active thoughts They do no intend to be sensational any more than the subject is. I realize that tastes differ on this subject, so, if you are likely to be upset by such intimacies of sexual love, please don't



Wayzgoose (wā'zgōōs). 1731. [Alteration of WAYGOOSE.] orig. An entertainment given by a master-printer to his workmen in August, marking the beginning of the season of working by candle-light. Later, an annual festivity held in summer by the employees of a printing establishment, consisting of a dinner and (usu.) an excursion into the country.

Wayzgoose. An entertainment given to journeymen, or provided by the journeymen themselves. It is mainly a printers' affair, which literary men and commercial staffs may attend by invitation or sufferance. The word *wayz* means a "bundle of straw," and *wayz-goose* a "stubble goose," properly the crowning dish of the entertainment. The Dutch *wassen* means "to wax fat." The Latin *anser sigatum*. (*See* BEANFEAST, HARVEST GOOSE.)

"In the midlands and north of England, every newspaper has its wayzgoose."—*The Pall Mall Gazette*, June 26th, 1894.



AN INSIDE VIEW

Once again I have the honourable task of writing this. As you will know mama has just come back from an expedition in Europe where she helped open an exhibition of 42 different lithographs printed at yours sincerely Muka. Whilst in Europe she received a lot of media coverage, did 3 radio and several newspaper interviews.
Anyway to cut a long story short and to relieve my penhand and pen (which has by now, just about run out of ink) here is the translation of the press release.....

Dominiek Baetens-Van Gils.



PRESS RELEASE.

New Zealand art in the Frans Masereel Centre of Kasterlee.

KIWIS AND ART.

Kiwi and other prime fruits, lamb's meat and butter are the export products of a far away country on the other side of the world. A country which bravely takes a stand as a nuclear-free nation in the Pacific, New Zealand.
This country now presents, proudly, another just as exclusive product: its very own art.
For Europeans this may ring unbelievable. The art centre of the world is still Europe is it not? Yet things are happening in other places too, for instance in a young country like New Zealand, which on one hand can not rely on a long tradition, but on the other does not have to carry the weight of tradition with it.

A HEADSTRONG QUALITY.

Whilst this country is ridding itself of a disdainful colonising preponderance a rightful feeling of selfesteem and individuality is winning over, also and at least in the visual arts.
Like the eternal seawind keeps the country open and free so the freshness of Polynesian influence is apparent here. An unfailing feeling for strong colour, a typical exotic South Sea element and risky will surely intrigue and convince the European art lovers.
So there is for instance Tony Fomison whose expressiveness is very much determined by his dreamimages. Underlying themes in his work are real presence of ancient Polynesian forces, concern for the poor and destitute and a constant questioning of society's conventional ideas.
Jenny Dolezel, the youngest of the group, can be described as a comic counterpart of the German Expressionist, this shows in a series which she herself described as "Entertaining Company" humour for sure but with wry undertone.
Extremely distinct are the -for lithography exceptionally large- works of Paul Radford, Dick Frizzell and Rodney Fumpston as well as a 12 colour print by Patrick Hanly.
For the first time the Muka Studio from Auckland presents a selection of this contemporary artwork in Europe. Mr Hamish Keith, chairman of the National Art Gallery Council in Wellington comes over here especially to open the exhibition.

A FLEMISH INITIATIVE.

Five years ago Frans Baetens and Magda van Gils emigrated to New Zealand. Bit by bit their dream to build a lithographic studio which would serve as a meeting place for artists and art lovers became reality. "Muka", the name of the studio, emphasizes the intention, for it is a maori word which, translated, loosely means the way through which the spirit or even an idea or technique reaches the people. The word also points to the fibre of a native plant from which a special paper is made. Finally it also means everything which brings people together. In the Muka Studio these meanings become reality and that accounts for the obvious success in such a short time. The owners of the studio saw in their first lustrum a unique possibility to present the result of their work to the European public. Their origin and the good relations with the Frans Masereel Centre ensured that the exhibition opens there first.