



Exhibitions at MRAG

Currently on show at Maitland Regional Art Gallery is *Romancing the Landscape: Leo Robba and Max Watters*. *Milestones* will be the next exhibition at the gallery showcasing works from the Maitland Regional Art Gallery Collection.



top left: Max Watters *Slab Buildings Powers Road, Cold Creek* 2006 oil on board 60.5 x 78cm
top right: Max Watters *Building No 2 KIA-ORA* 2006 oil on board 60.5 x 78cm
bottom: Leo Robba *Broken, Blown, Lost and Blue* 2006 oil on canvas 138 x 360cm



Margaret Olley *Bedroom Still Life* oil on board
61 x 91cm 1997

Margaret Olley to become a Patron of Maitland Regional Art Gallery

In November 2004 Council supported the appointment of patrons for the Maitland Regional Art Gallery (MRAG) with distinguished art collectors James Agapitos OAM and Ray Wilson OAM being appointed founding patrons.

Mr Agapitos and Mr Wilson achieved international renown for putting together the most comprehensive collection of Australian Surrealist art ever assembled. Their generosity of spirit saw a number donations including 285 works to the National Gallery of Australia and great assistance and gifts to regional galleries including our own MRAG. Sadly Mr Agapitos passed away in January 2007.

Our City is fortunate that one of Australia's most distinguished living artists and philanthropists, Margaret Olley AC AO, has agreed to become a patron of our gallery to serve alongside Mr Wilson.

Born in Lismore in 1923, Margaret Olley is one of Australia's most prized interior and still life painters. Demonstrating a fierce disregard for trends and fashions, Olley's exquisite arrangements of flowers, fruit and objects seduce the viewer with their technical virtuosity and inherent grace. Her arrangements are always elegant, the objects always beautiful. Complexities of space and light are rendered with consummate skill.

Olley's subjects are almost always from her own home - itself famous as an exquisite work of art. She first came to public attention as the beguiling subject of Dobell's winning Archibald portrait in 1948, and these days is regarded as a national treasure as an artist and for her philanthropic work and assistance to emerging artists. In 1997 her work was the subject of a major retrospective organised by the Art Gallery of New South Wales.

In the short history of MRAG Margaret Olley has favoured our gallery with her encouragement and through the donation of works by a number artists including Judy Cassab. It is a great honour that we can now claim her formally as Patron.

Maitland City Council Media Release
4 April 2008

MRAGM featured artist Cressida Goddard

Cressida has been working at Maitland Regional Art Gallery (MRAG) for the past four years. In that time her role has evolved from gallery attendant to designer (or web mistress which she is affectionately known as) for MRAG.

Cressida has been part of the Newcastle art scene for over 10 years. She began her studies in fine art at the University of Newcastle in 1995 and graduated from a Master of Fine Art (MFA) in April this year.

Her work is digitally based and looks at the body and technology and how they interact. *Beneath the Skin* was the title of her MFA thesis and exhibition shown at Newcastle's John Paynter Gallery in July/August 2007. The exhibition consisted of a wall projection of images of the body, technology and a fusion of the two.

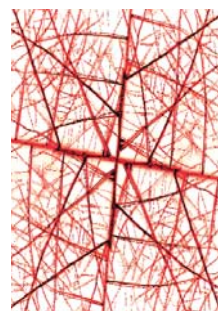
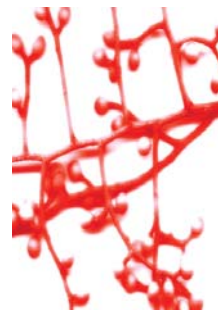
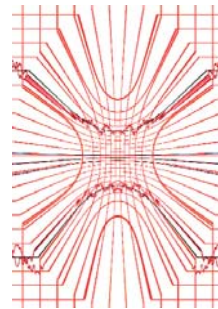
Cressida wrote in the exhibition catalogue; *"Beneath the skin lies the extraordinary workings of the human body. Flesh, bones, and organs collaborate to sustain life. The complexity of the inner body is echoed within technology, as programming code seamlessly maintains the existence of the interface."*

Beyond the surface of the body is a world we rarely see. It is a world always with us, but remains mysterious and intangible. Beyond the surface of the screen, or the skin of software, is another world seldom seen. This world is enclosed by the user interface and is mostly hidden from view.

Beneath the skin takes us on an imaginary journey inside the layers of the body and technology."

The imagery was accompanied by a disturbing soundtrack of the human breath coupled with industrial sounds.

Cressida plans to exhibit new work in late 2008.



images from *beneath the skin*
by Cressida Goddard

Art Gallery Receives Promotions Boost

Maitland Regional Art Gallery (MRAG) will now be able to further support local talent and boost its promotions effort with the appointment of a graphic designer. The position, filled by local graduate Cressida Goddard, was made possible by a generous \$20,000 donation from the Donaldson Job Creation Trust.

According to Executive Director of Donaldson, Leigh McPherson, Donaldson Coal established the Donaldson Job Creation Trust with the intention of assisting the local community and to encourage investment in the regional area. He said, "Donaldson Job Creation Trust made a commitment to support the local community. It's important that qualified and trained individuals remain in the Hunter Valley employment pool".

Cressida Goddard has recently graduated from the University of Newcastle with a Masters Degree. She will be responsible for redesigning the corporate branding

for MRAG which includes a new web site, an all new corporate look including new banners, flyers and the designing of specific catalogues and publications for MRAG.

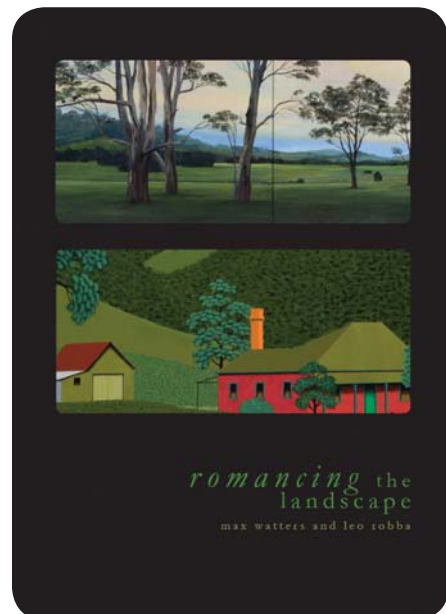
Whilst this position is a temporary one over the next twelve months, the Art Gallery is hoping this will affirm the need for a graphic designer on staff with the appropriate skill who will allow MRAG to make its mark in the cultural world in the Hunter Valley and indeed in NSW, further cementing the profile and importance of MRAG as a cultural asset.

"Support from the organisations, like the Donaldson Job Creation Trust, allows the Gallery to support the local community in a holistic way. We are excited to have the opportunity to retain artistic talents in the Hunter Region," said Director of Maitland Regional Art Gallery, Joe Eisenberg.

Maitland City Council Media Release
19 March 2008



Cressida Goddard



cover of *romancing the landscape*
catalogue designed by Cressida

Members' Diary May - June 2008

MRAGM meetings are held monthly on the second Wednesday of the month starting at 4.00pm in the art gallery workshop with afternoon tea at 3.45pm. Your input, ideas and suggestions are much appreciated.

President/Secretary Louise Middlebrook
Vice President Bev Tindall
Treasurer Helen Lowe

MRAGM tee-shirts available in The Gallery shop!!

Cost Members \$20.00 (inclusive of 10% discount) Non members \$25.00

Styles

black shirt with silver logo or white shirt with silver logo. available in small, medium, large and x-large

- 18 May** **Wangi Queen Cruise** Lake Macquarie Art Gallery Society has invited mragm to their luncheon on the *Wangi Queen*. Departs 11am from Speers Point Jetty \$45 per person for a 4 hour cruise, morning tea, buffet lunch, dessert plus tea/coffee
- 20 June** **Trivia Night** venue to be confirmed
- 26 July** **Christmas in July** at Maddies of Bolwarra
- 4 November** **Mad Hatters Tea Party** A Melbourne Cup Day function.
N.B The film entry from MRAGM movie makers has been sent to the Dungog Film Festival

MRAGM Coach Trips

- 10 May** Archibald Prize AGNSW & MCA \$65 members / \$75 non members/guests. phone mrag to make a booking.
- 9 August** Murrurundi Galleries and Studios.more info soon.
- Oct/Nov** Sculpture by the Sea Bondi Beach

Contests, Grants, Art Prizes and Exhibitions

NAVA | Janet Holmes à Court Artist's Grants

Closing dates 15 May, 15 August, 15 November 2008

Provides assistance towards the costs of public presentation of visual arts, craft and design. Amounts available are: \$500 for individuals / \$1000 for groups. for more info go to www.visualarts.net.au/grantsprizes

Maitland Region Society of Artists

Dealing With Acrylics

classes commencing 8 May 2008

New series of lessons for beginners **Dealing With Acrylics** – will begin in May, these lessons are orientated towards introducing beginners to various art media. **Cost \$32.00** which covers four lessons commencing Thursday 8 May 2008. Phone Marie on 4934 1353 for further information.

Education

- **Art Tuesdays Term 2 dates** | 13 May – July 2008
- **Free Kids activities in The Gallery** For more information call MRAG on 02 4934 9859.

Gwendoline Lewis will also be running **Adult Art Classes** for enquiries please call Gwendoline on 02 4960 9193.

Events

Felting Workshop with Giselle Penn

Saturday 31 May 2008 10.00am - 4.00pm

\$45.00 members \$55.00 non members (to be paid at time of booking) plus UP TO \$30 for wool to be paid to the tutor on the day of the workshop. tea and coffee will be provided



felt bracelet by
Giselle Penn

Harry Manx in concert 4 June

Harry Manx has been called an "essential link" between the music of East and West, creating musical short stories that wed the tradition of the Blues with the depth of classical Indian ragas. He has created a unique sound that is hard to forget and deliciously addictive to listen to.

Harry Manx in concert Wednesday 4 June

7.30pm for 8.00pm at Maitland Town Hall.

members \$36.00 / non members \$40.00

phone the art gallery to book.

don't miss out!!



Harry Manx

sale time @ the gallery shop

We have an up to **50% discount** on stock in the foyer of the art gallery plus all other stock is reduced by a huge **20%** until mothers day 11 may 2008. Get in quick!!

clockwise from top left:
detail of handcrafted reproduction of an Emile Galle vase
glass vase by Julio Santos
ceramic vase by Sandra Lee Brown
detail of silk scarves by Brilliant Silk



Wollombi Valley Arts Council Arts News

May/June 08

Winter Exhibition by Kaye Lovie & Mary Francis | Opening Saturday 7th June

You are invited to the opening, at the Wollombi Cultural Centre, of a combined exhibition of paintings by Kaye Lovie and mosaics by Mary Francis on **Saturday 7th June**, at 4pm, for drinks & nibbles.

Over 40 works are in this exhibition which will be open on the weekends of June 7, 8 & 9 (June Long Weekend) and June 14 & 15, from 10am-4pm. Kaye is very enthusiastic about presenting her new range of paintings this year for her third exhibition at the WCC. Her subject matters, this year, are Landscapes, Seascapes and Floral works, and represents a wide variety of paintings and styles from the Sydney Harbour Bridge to bush and flowers. Her love and appreciation of the environment is demonstrated in a style that reflects the beauty and vibrant colours that surround us and, surely, will be appreciated by many.

Mary, after many years of doing lead lighting, discovered mosaics nine years ago and has not stopped since. She loves using recycled materials and works with a lot of slate, broken tiles, or discarded pieces other people have grown tired of – anything she can breathe new life into. This is Mary's second exhibition at the WCC, plus she has done numerous commissions and has taught mosaics over the past few years. She is very keen to have mosaics recognised as a great art form. Enquiries contact Mary on 02 4998 1093.

Emerging Artists Awards | Awards Presentation Friday 3 October 2008

The Wollombi Valley Arts Council is busy planning this year's awards to be held in October 2008. The WVAC is inviting entries from all emerging artists of any age in any medium. This award is open to all artists who haven't had a solo exhibition in a commercial gallery (not for profit galleries including artist run spaces are not includ-

ed). The entry fee is \$10 which also entitles each artist to membership of the WVAC for 2008. Presentation of awards: Friday night **3 October 2008**. The exhibition, with all works for sale, will run to 19th October, 10am to 4pm. For more information visit our website and download an entry form at www.wollombi.org or contact Rebecca on 02 65791418 or email artscouncil@wollombi.org

Opportunities to exhibit at the WCC

The WVAC has a vacancy in MAY at the WCC for a local exhibition. Next vacancy is not until December 2008. Please phone or email if this is of interest to you.

also.....A Website Maintenance person is required by the WVAC (voluntary). Training will be provided if you are interested and have broadband access. Please email Claude, with your details, at artscouncil@wollombi.org

Booking Enquiries for 2008 to Bronnie (4998 8347) or Fi Fi (4998 3339).

Next WVAC Meeting 2pm Sunday 6 July at the WCC email: artscouncil@wollombi.org web: www.wollombi.org

Maitland Repertory Society news

The children's timeless classic "Treasure Island" by Robert Louis Stevenson has been adapted for the children and those young at heart to enjoy as a pantomime. The Maitland Junior Repertory Members under the direction of Daniel Clements, are going to delight and entertain audiences. The play is recommended for children aged 5 - 15 years.

Performance Dates

3 & 4 May @ 2.00pm at the Repertory Playhouse Maitland.

Bookings can be made by phoning the Tourist Information Centre or by purchasing tickets at the door just prior to the performance.

MRAG enquiries

Maitland Regional Art Gallery
230 High St Maitland NSW 2320
PO Box 220 Maitland NSW 2320

ph 02 4934 9859
fax 02 4933 1657
email artgallery@maitland.nsw.gov.au
web www.mrag.org.au

Art Gallery Hours

Tuesday - Sunday 10.00am - 5.00pm
Closed Mondays and Public Holidays

Maitland Regional Art Gallery Members' (MRAGM) primary role is to promote public awareness of Maitland Regional Art Gallery (MRAG) and its activities. MRAGM is recognised by the art gallery as a vital ingredient to the growth of the Cultural Precinct.

Submissions

For submissions to the the next MRAGM Newsletter email your contribution or suggestions to mmi29959@bigpond.net.au or drop it into the front office addressed to MRAGM Newsletter.



MRAGM PATRON - Mr Frank Terenzini
Member for Maitland in the NSW Legislative Assembly